



Communications Office

# The City of Morgantown

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## **City of Morgantown and Allied Waste Introduce Clean Community Concept's Upcoming Recycling Efforts**

*New, larger recycling bins and expanded recycling services are expected to turn around City recycling numbers.*

MORGANTOWN – In part one of a two-part presentation by the Solid Waste Advisory Board and Allied Waste Public Services at the February 28, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting, the Clean Community Concept and upcoming widespread recycling efforts were outlined to City Council and the public.

Solid Waste Advisory Board Director Tom Arnold said the Clean Community Concept is a movement to change Morgantown's culture, how the city looks, and how it appears to the visitors who come in. Allied Waste, the city's trash and recycling contract carrier, has been working with the Solid Waste Advisory Board over the last five years, looking at waste reductions and litter debris elimination.

"We're starting with an aggressive residential and commercial recycling plan," Arnold said, "And also, we want to improve our collections and customer service."

It's taking big steps to improve the trash situation in the city, including a new Transfer Station, improved customer service, and, long-awaited, an overhauled curbside recycling program, meant to motivate Morgantown's citizens to achieve an 80/20 recycling-to-trash ratio.

In order to do this, Allied Waste Public Services General Manager Tom Harvey outlined the three-fold expansion of its recycling acceptance list. Instead of just six basic items that had to be separated, Allied Waste will be able to pick up 17 different kinds of materials, including four more kinds of plastic, glass of all colors and shapes, and junk mail. Recycling also will no longer have to be sorted, as it will be shipped to a recycling sorting plant in Pittsburgh.

In late summer, Morgantown residents will also be seeing something new on their curbs: larger recycling bins. Current blue bins are only 18 gallons, and have no lid, and therefore no way to keep recycling inside. Citizens will have their choice of green bins: a 95-gallon toter for those who want recycling picked up every other week, a 65-gallon toter for those who prefer weekly recycling pickup, and a manageable 35-gallon cart for seniors.

"Our big effort is very progressive, and it's something many cities are doing to greatly increase the amount of recyclable material that actually gets recycled," Harvey said.

(con't.)

It's not just for homes, though.

"The city also has to deal with issues involving commercial service in the downtown areas. We have to create some ordinances that will give them their times that toters have to get off the streets so they don't sit on the sidewalk all day long. It's a follow-up issue to support the main objective of the Clean Community Concept," said Arnold.

As part of its improved customer service efforts, it recently installed a new phone system from a new phone service provider, and is training more of its employees in customer service. The expanded recycling program will also bring a new website and a customer service email address, where a real live person will respond to your inquiries.

Some big moves for the Clean Community Concept have already happened. Council is awaiting the Open House Initiation for the new Morgantown Transfer Station, built near the industrial park. There, trash is dumped from the trash collection trucks and put into a semi to take to a landfill, instead of sending the trucks directly to the landfill. It has been open for about four months.

Tom Arnold will give the second presentation on the solid waste side of the Clean Community Concept at the March 27, 2012 Committee of the Whole meeting.

***If you have questions, please contact Solid Waste Advisory Board Director Tom Arnold in his office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The number there is (304) 284-7438.***

