



Communications Office

# The City of Morgantown

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## Committee of the Whole, February 28, 2012 - Clean Community Concept Presentation: Recycling

by Susan Sullivan, Public Communications Manager

...con't from meeting notes...

Tom Arnold next addressed the meeting with an announcement that a day five years in the making was finally on the horizon. (He's been the director of the Solid Waste Advisory Board since 2007.)

"This is the start of the Clean Communities Concept, where we want to change our culture, how our town looks, and how it appears to the visitors who come in. It does take the entire community to get involved, whether you work, go to school, visit Morgantown, we want everybody to be involved in this."

Allied Waste, our contract carrier, has been working with the Solid Waste Advisory Board over the last five years, looking at waste reductions and litter derbis 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."

John Harvey, General Manager of Allied Waste Public Services, says the Clean Community Concept is a way to reduce waste and enable recycling in the community.

### Continuing Program Services:

- Annual College Area Spring Clean up - dumpsters when kids move out
- Bulk Item Each Month
- Seperate electronic collections
- Unlimited residential refuse collection
- special commercial and residential collections during college events
- college area cart service for refuse collection
- financial support compliance officer

Included is a picture of the Morgantown Transfer Station near the Industrial Park. It's been open about 4 months. Here, trash is dumped from the collection trucks and put in a semi to take to a landfill instead of sending trucks to landfill - saves time and makes pick up quicker. We'll be sending out invitations to the Transfer Station Open House soon

But 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.

### First Part

- Increased curbside recycling

We previously only took six kinds of items. 1 and 2 plastic, newspaper, etc  
studying for 5 years, have an advisory board on how to clean up and recycle more, reduce waste, litter, etc.

Neighborhoods wanted a MUCH LARGER way to recycle  
was first doing only 6 basic items: 1 and 2 plastic, newspaper, etc

We will be stepping up acceptance list to:

cans  
corrugated cardboard  
glass all colors and shapes  
office paper  
newsprint  
plastics #1-6  
steel cans  
phone books  
paperback books  
junk mail and envelopes  
dry food boxes and tissue boxes  
lid only of pizza boxes  
magazines and cardboard

In the past we couldn't recycle junk mail - now you can.

We've been using 18 gallon bins in the past, and that's been successful...however, there are limitations.

Size - only 18 gallons

Then when they're full, all residual recycling heads straight to the trash can

Allied Waste brought three different sized bins or totes to show council. He said all three are in use in the college areas.  
The larger receptacle would hold more items.

Also, when you set recycling out and wind comes through, it creates a litter problem. These larger bins are more stable,  
and the lid helps reduce litter.

A town in Pennsylvania converted to single-stream recycling (everything in one bin) and more than doubled their recycling.  
recycling facility in Pittsburgh

15% loss margin - that's waste

and 85% will be recycled

We're also tripling the amount of things we're accepting, so an increase in recycling will occur.

And if the Recycling bin is bigger, more people are likely to recycle more than throw away.

Allied Waste wants to implement this process in four steps.

- 1.) Send a letter to the resident introducing Republic (recycling company)
- 2.) Send out selection letter describing the two types of carts they can get: regular large size, and a smaller, easier to carry/maneuver cart for seniors. If they don't want a big cart, they return the selection letter. If they do, then they don't do anything.
- 3.) Postcard with Pending Delivery of these carts
- 4.) Information Packet to go with carts, mailed after delivery

They can choose to have pickup each week, or every other week.  
They can also change the size of their bin, if they like.

"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 Cleaner community concept," - Tom Arnold

Small businesses can get these, and if they recycle, they're going to really cut back on their trash bills.

Cardboard and office paper recycling efforts will continue for larger businesses

95 gallon cart every other week

65 gallon cart every week

32 gallon cart for seniors

We're going to have an email address,  
disposal.com

They can email us directly about billing, etc.

Question: Regarding commercial, is this just recycling piece?

Yes, a lot currently set them out at night, and we'll continue collection that way, but right now, we're just focusing on getting them more excited about recycling.

There will be additional info and direction regarding solid waste collection aspects later. - Moore.

Question: Will you trade out the small containers that we have now for the bigger ones?

We'll trade them out

The blue bins will be suggested to keep in your homes for easy collection and transport. If you don't want them, we can have a pickup day. They'd be recycled as well.

Question: How old is a senior citizen? (to qualify for a smaller bin)

To be determined.

Question: I have strong interest in the bins being green to differentiate because they're out a lot, and it would blend in with nature.

We'll work with the city to decide what bin color best suits the city of Morgantown.

Question: Do the bins have locks?

No. But a lid is a big improvement over the open bins we have now.

Question: Where we have toters, I've been contacted about concerns that everything won't fit. They'll put it aside it, but it won't get picked up. Does this CCC address that?

Absolutely. This larger bin should be sufficient, but we will collect ALL recycling, not just what fits in the toter.

Question: You knew you had customer service problems.

We just spent money on a new phone system, and we have a new phone provider, additional training for service reps should all help.

Councilor: Our densely populated student areas are the bad parts, and we think your idea is moving in the right direction.  
Councilor: Areas around dumpsters are a pretty bad place.

If there are two or more residents in a single building, it'll be categorized as a commercial business and no longer residential. We try to get a contract with each resident and that's hard, so we just deal with the landlord.

If we have four people and the landlord isn't responsible, we have trash outside the bin because people are too lazy to lift the lid.

Tom Arnold will give a Council Presentation on the Solid Waste side of this in March.

In two months, we're gonna have to move out, and we didn't have a very good move-out last year.

We had a meeting, police, fire, and Reublic, this afternoon, to go over issues from last year

New transfer station should help with that

Allied Waste is additionally supporting the Morgantown Marketplace Project.

It has given a donation for a clock for the Marketplace.

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