

# Resource Center Recycling

5 to 10 Households per Block—2005

**Our guarantee: We will deliver at least 99% of your recyclables to facilities for re-use!**

Dear Recycler,

The Resource Center appreciates the cleaning and sorting you do that helps us carry out our guarantee. We look forward to working with you during the coming year.

**Cost of Service for Year for 5 to 10 households (hh) per block:**

Basic recyclables (news, mixed paper, glass, cans) = \$7/ month, basic rate, per hh

**Service Option: Include plastic bottles.....** = add \$6/ month to basic rate per hh  
Milk, water, beverage and soap bottles only. Sorry, no other kinds or shapes of plastic. No yogurt or cottage cheese shapes, no clamshells, no plastic bags. No styrofoam.

**Service Option: Include FLATTENED corrugated cardboard.....** = add \$4/ month to basic rate per hh  
(Please note: Just a few flattened corrugated boxes can take up more volume than a week's worth of newspapers. Our costs to transport recyclables vary largely by volume and time.)

**Service:** Once a week pickup at your curb (please set out by 7:00 AM of your pickup day.) **Grocery bags may be used instead of a blue bin.** We may have blue bins available for purchase.

**Quantity:** The basic rate covers the equivalent of 1 level-full blue bin per week, or about 3 full grocery bags per week.

## Recyclables Collected

**Newspaper:** Keep separate from mixed paper.

**Mixed Paper:** Mail, magazines and catalogs, office paper, school paper, phone books, brown paper, and FLATTENED cereal boxes. *(Pack separately in grocery bags.)*

**Glass Bottles and Jars:** Rinse, no lids.  
*(Separate from cans.)*

**Food & Beverage Cans:** Rinse, labels OK.  
Foil & alum. plates OK. *(Separate from glass.)*

**OPTIONAL:**  
**Plastic Bottles: SEE ABOVE**  
**Corrugated Cardboard: SEE ABOVE**

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*Detach and mail back with payment.*

**Sign Up for Recycling Service On Your Block >> through December 2005**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** Chicago **ST** IL **Zipcode** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to sign up as part of a block group of 5 to 10 hh @ \$7 per mon. = \$ / year  
Yes, I want to include plastic bottles and/or corrugated cardboard. = +\$ / year  
First time sign-up please add \$15. = +\$ 15 / one time  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send Payment to: **RESOURCE CENTER, 222 East 135th Place, Chicago, IL 60627 773-821-1351**  
*Over 25 years of non-profit recycling and reuse.*



...we're getting the job done. It's hard work. Every body knows it's hard work, because there's a determined enemy that's trying to defeat us.

...was that what Kerry said? In so many words. A lot of words, in fact. But I thought Kerry's best comeback to the charge that he's a flip-flopper

Clarence Page is a member of the Tribune's editorial board. E-mail: [optime@aol.com](mailto:optime@aol.com)

Steve Chapman is a member of the Tribune's editorial board. E-mail: [chapman@tribune.com](mailto:chapman@tribune.com)

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# It's time for Chicago to dump its blue bag charade

By Betsy Vandercook

Recycling most often gets press coverage when the news is bad: collection rates dropping, programs in the red, cities cutting services. So it's a shame that the latest good recycling news out of New York City didn't make it onto the local media radar.

In case you missed it too, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg recently reversed course and firmly recommitted his city to comprehensive recycling. New York plans to sign a 20-year contract with a major recycling company, as well as co-fund the construction of a \$45 million plant to process the city's recycled plastic, glass and metals.

For the past few years, environmentalists nationwide cringed whenever recycling news came out of New York. In 1996 Mayor Rudolph Giuliani publicly bashed recycling

Chicago City Council alike. Its recycling rate for commodities such as paper, metal and glass remains so low (about 10 percent), that the city admits (without blushing) that its sorting facilities press loose waste through screens, pour it around landfills, and use that to double the recycling totals. So what can we learn from New York's program? First of all, New Yorkers somehow manage to keep their recyclable materials separate from the garbage.

That's right, NYC Department of Sanitation trucks don't smash bags of recyclables together with bags of trash. They collect and haul the recyclables separately, sometimes in different trucks, sometimes in trucks with separated compartments.

They don't do this just because they like things neat. The materials collected retain a much higher value than Chicago's blue-bagged materials, as they are not being contami-

nated with food and liquid. They can be sold at higher prices and remanufactured more efficiently into new products.

Then there's the education. New York activists are always asking for more, but that's because they haven't lived in Chicago. Besides initiatives like informational mailings to 3.5 million households, New York's DOS has created not one, but two waste-reduction Web sites, one for basic recycling information (what to recycle, how to bundle it, fines for not recycling), and a second called NYCWasteLess, full of ideas to help people, government, and business to better conserve resources.

But perhaps the most important difference is New York's understanding that recycling must be linked with economic development, and that markets are needed for the materials collected. Back in 1997, New York shored up its paper recycling by offering a contract to

deliver 50 percent of the city's paper for processing. In response, the Australian Vysis Industries built a \$250 million plant on Staten Island, which now handles more than 1,000 tons of paper a day.

The new plant announced by Bloomberg will be built on Brooklyn's waterfront in conjunction with Hugo Neu Corp., one of the nation's largest scrap metal companies. Nothing remotely similar has happened in Chicago, in spite of the number of jobs and tax dollars that would result.

Change isn't easy. Millions have been poured into the city's mixed-waste processing centers. Egos are on the line. People get defensive.

Perhaps the best news out of New York is Bloomberg's attitude. Back in July, The New York Times reported that Bloomberg "gave himself an 'F' in waste management." After his latest announcement, a spokesperson for the Natural Resources De-

partment said, "Bloomberg is not a waste management expert. He is a politician. He is a politician who is not a waste management expert."

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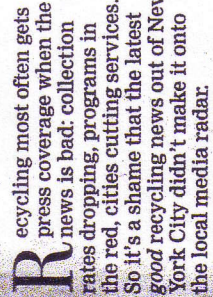
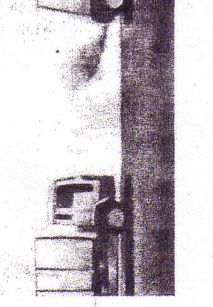
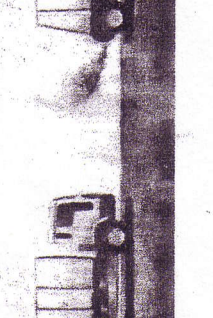
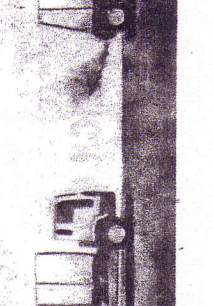
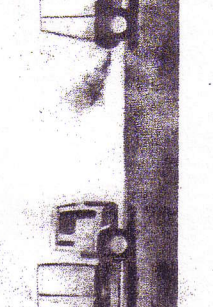
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Illustration by Jon Kra



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**COMMENTARY:** Manuscripts may be submitted to the Op-Ed Page by mail, e-mail ([ctc-COMMENT@tribune.com](mailto:ctc-COMMENT@tribune.com)), or fax (312-222-2598). Because of the volume of submissions, we acknowledge only those that we intend to use. Manuscripts sent by mail will be returned only if they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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