

New Recycling Carts Replace Recycle Bins

By Lorenzo Daetz, Senior Solid Waste Program Manager for Charlotte County

The new recycling carts are currently being delivered to the residents of unincorporated Charlotte County. The new recycling cart replaces the recycle bins as the container to use for your recyclables—the old recycle bins can be kept and put to other uses around your household. The recycle carts have a yellow lid and are similar to the garbage carts, and take up less floor space than the old recycle bins. There is no increase in the sanitation rates as the carts are a part of the contract extension agreement recently reached with Waste Management.

The cart delivery schedule is based on the curbside collection service days and it is estimated to take approximately one week to distribute the carts per service day area. The process began on Nov. 4, 2013 for those households that have curbside collection service on Mondays. Completion of delivery of the recycle carts to all households in the Monday service area is estimated to be complete on Nov. 8. The following week's delivery will be for those households with Tuesday services, and so on. The only exceptions are for households in manufactured home parks and certain gated communities that can expect delivery to begin on Nov. 4 and be completed in approximately three weeks—these communities are being handled by a different contractor. County-wide delivery is expected to be completed in approximately six weeks.

Each cart will have informative literature attached to it—please take the time to review the literature. We encourage residents to revisit their recycling routine and take advantage of the increased capacity, which will help Charlotte County increase our current recycling rate of 39 percent as we work towards reaching the state mandated goal of 75 percent by 2020. Everything that we recycle is therefore kept out of the landfill, which helps extend the life of the landfill. Extending the life of the landfill helps reduce the need to expand and build new ones at significant cost to our community. We continue to be among the counties with the lowest sanitation rates in the state and the recycle cart program will help keep those rates low for all our residents.

The County's solid waste webpages has been recently updated so that residents can see the progress of the cart delivery and get the most current information on what is recyclable and how to properly dispose of items that are not. Visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click "Garbage & Recycling" in the Popular Links on the left. It is important to be knowledgeable about recyclables and keep the cart free of non-recyclables such as hazardous waste, water hoses, plastic bags of any kind and of course food contamination.

Our webpages also have a survey form and we welcome your input on how we are doing—please make sure to include your contact information if you would like to be contacted. Charlotte County solid waste division prides itself in providing its residents excellent services that address everything from e-waste, hazardous waste, garbage collection, yard waste, illegal dumping, Keep Charlotte Beautiful and landfill operations in a modern, efficient cost effective manner.