



GreenSense and Single Stream Recycling

The Opportunity

What is [Single Stream Recycling](#)?

- Single stream recycling means no more sorting of recyclables!
- One bin for paper and containers

What does that mean at my desk? Kitchens?

- Mix clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard in bin
- No Styrofoam, no plastic bags
- New materials (empty paper coffee cups, empty pizza boxes - oil stains OK, rigid plastics, spiral cans)
- How clean is clean? Empty liquids, rinse out solids
- Cardboard – no more cutting down, flatten when possible to save space

What's the Impact?

- Recycling curbs climate change and saves energy because recycled products use less energy during manufacturing.
- Single stream in Cambridge is part of a national trend for recycling processors, haulers & communities.
- In Massachusetts, close to 40 communities have switched over.

How much does the City recycle now? How much more expected?

- 35% recycling now, 12,700 tons recycling and 23,000 tons trash
- City expects at least 10% increase in recycling expected with single stream, with up to 25% seen in other communities.
- Cost per ton: \$230/ton for trash, \$184/ton for recycling. So, City saves \$40-60/ton for every ton recycled, depending on market conditions

Where does it go?

- F.W. Russell collects recycling from city buildings and residences
- Casella Recycling in Charlestown sorts recycling into different categories. Over \$8mil recently invested in new technologies. Workers are there for quality control pulling out unaccepted items, but machines do the actual sorting.
- Casella markets the material to manufacturers in US and abroad to make into new products. I.e. Plastic – fleece, lumber. Paper – new paper products, insulation. Glass to glass in MA.

Role of Employees

What GreenSense Champions can do

- **Walk through** office spaces – common areas, copy machines, etc. Recycling should always be next to trash.
 - Are more recycling or trash bins needed? **Contact** DPW for bins (Mike Stone for trash/recycling bins and he'll work with Randi) x4884, mstone@cambridgema.gov)
 - Make sure posters are visible and ask for more if needed (Randi Mail x4866, rmail@cambridgema.gov)
- **Talk** to your co-workers, be a resource, invite Randi Mail, Recycling Director, for an office presentation.

Resources and More Information

- DPW Recycling website: www.cambridgema.gov/recycle
- *Get Rid of it Right*: How to recycle, donate or dispose of just about anything. www.cambridgema.gov/recycle
- Two 6-min videos from Casella Recycling: www.zero-sort.com
- Sign up for Recycling e-newsletter at recycle@cambridgema.gov

Contacts:

Randi Mail, Recycling Director, rmail@cambridgema.gov x4866
Ellen Katz, DPW Fiscal Director, ekatz@cambridgema.gov x6956