

Holyoke will distribute trash bins: What residents need to know

Updated: Aug. 25, 2023, [The Republican Newsroom](#) [Story source: MassLive.com](#)

HOLYOKE — The Department of Public Works will begin to distribute new trash bins to residents ahead of a planned switch Sept. 25 where city employees will stop collecting bags of garbage in front of residences.



Residents should use the new carts and ensure waste is bagged before placing it inside, the city said.

The new, 96-gallon carts come at no extra cost, and the city will start to distribute them Sept. 18, the city said in a statement. All single-family homes will receive one cart, while multi-family dwellings with up to four units will receive one cart per unit.

Certain items — including yard waste, hazardous materials, electronics and appliances — should not be placed in the new carts. The city said it would not collect trash from bins that contain those items.

Holyoke is also reintroducing its dual-stream recycling, which was paused during the pandemic because residents generated more cardboard waste from ordering items online. Recyclable materials, the city said, should be separated: paper and cardboard in one bin and glass, metals and plastics in another.

The city is considering the introduction of recycling carts.

Old trash cans can be used for recycling or collecting yard debris, according to the city, and residents wishing to discard old trash cans should mark them with the word “trash” and place them next to the new carts on collection day.

Mayor Joshua A. Garcia allocated federal American Rescue Plan Act money for new residential trash containers. Upon taking office, he formed a task force to study the city’s trash and recycling efforts.

In March, the City Council discovered the Department of Public Works was no longer practicing the dual-stream model. Department of Public Works Director Carl Rossi and Public Works Board chair Mary L. Monahan told the council at the time dual-collections were suspended and violated city ordinances, but the change occurred before their tenures. Rossi said the department had deployed single-stream collection because of personnel and trucking issues.

The Department of Public Works has entered into a 13-month agreement with the Springfield Material Recycling Facility, aligning once more with existing regional recycling initiatives.

This recently established recycling contract will conclude June 30, 2024. The agreement stipulates the city will incur a charge of \$120 per ton for contaminated loads and an additional \$300 per ton for reload fees.

Rossi anticipated a revival in the recycling market, which could reduce the collection costs for the city.