

## **City of Columbus to Launch Weekly Residential Recycling Collection in Summer 2023**

*The expanded service supports Climate Action Plan goals to achieve clean neighborhoods and a healthy environment for all residents*

The City of Columbus will expand to weekly residential recycling collection beginning in summer 2023 to support cleaner, healthier neighborhoods and reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.

The expansion from biweekly to weekly recycling collection of the household blue containers is one of several new programs the Columbus Division of Refuse Collection is leading to support the city's Climate Action Plan goals.

Reducing the amount of waste going to the landfill will reduce carbon emissions to help Columbus achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Weekly recycling service is expected to increase the amount of residential recyclable material the city collects by 25 to 40%. Manufacturers in the Midwest have a growing need for recoverable materials — 95% of collected recyclables go to U.S. businesses, with most material staying in Ohio and the Midwest.

Weekly collection will help the city achieve other Climate Action Plan goals to divert from the landfill 95% of recyclable materials and 95% of organic materials such as food and yard waste. Reaching the plan's goals will create a circular economy to help our community thrive.

### **Refuse Collection will also add these services and staff to support sustainability and Mayor Andrew J. Ginther's Clean Neighborhoods initiative against illegal dumping and littering in our neighborhoods:**

- Two new Solid Waste Investigators will expand the team to seven to investigate and assist in prosecuting cases of illegal dumping in city alleys. They will also educate residents on proper waste disposal.
- Refuse Collection will add six drivers to focus on trash collection where dumping, container overflow and litter is more prevalent.
- Two new Waste and Reuse Convenience Centers are targeted to open in summer 2023 at the Alum Creek and Georgesville Road Refuse Collection transfer stations. The centers will allow residents to drop off trash, bulk items, recyclables, food and yard waste materials, and waste that is hard to dispose of, with assistance from staff for proper sorting.
- A pilot for Food Waste Drop-off Sites will launch in spring 2023 at the two Waste and Reuse Convenience Centers and three city Recreation and Parks community centers. *Locations for the food waste drop-off sites are still TBD*
- Residents may use these sites to drop off food waste and divert it from the landfill.
- A new Refuse Collection team of four employees will be dedicated to cleaning up litter in the public right of way.
- In addition in 2023, Refuse Collection will begin recycling collection at all city buildings and expand public recycling availability at select city recreation facilities. More citywide education will help residents Recycle Right and focus on litter prevention.

With these new services, the city is doing our part to combat the effects of climate change while imparting equity and environmental justice to disproportionately affected residents in our community.