Hello, my name is NAME.

Thank you for this opportunity to talk with you about the City of Columbus' new residential recycling program called RecyColumbus. This is a great name for this new city service because it shows that recycling and Columbus really do belong together and that our city is enthusiastic about recycling.

I'm speaking to you today as a fellow citizen who supports this program. Recycling is important to me because I believe that each of us can make a difference… (SHARE A PERSONAL STORY ABOUT WHY RECYCLING AND LIVING IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE, THE PLANET).

I hope recycling is important to you too and that you will recycle at home and also help spread the word about recycling with your friends and neighbors.

Residents consider recycling to be a basic city service.

Recycling is important because it preserves the environment. Each person who recycles can make a difference.

And oftentimes, recycling at home is a gateway for people to adopt other simple environmentally friendly habits like using CFL bulbs and conserving water.

Recycling preserves our natural resources for future generations by keeping reusable materials out of the landfill.

And the more we recycle, the less we spend to dump material at the landfill.

Recycling directly creates and retains 60 full-time jobs at Rumpke – Columbus' partner in collecting recycling as part of the new city service.

Here are few quick facts you might find interesting. The average American produces about 4 and a half pounds of trash per day. When you do the math, that equates to 1,657 pounds of trash per person per year! (US Environmental Protection Agency)

This is even more astonishing when you realized that about 60% of our trash is recyclable but only 25% is recycled on average nationwide. (ODNR.org)

Glass and plastic bottles buried in a landfill will not decompose. Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)

This is particularly wasteful when you consider that glass is one of the few materials that can be recycled over and over without losing its strength, purity or quality. (GPI)

Here are some fast facts about aluminum recycling from the Aluminum Association.

Aluminum is a durable and sustainable metal: two-thirds of the aluminum ever produced is in use today.

Over 50% of the aluminum cans produced are recycled.

So, what should Columbus residents expect in the coming year?

Residential recycling service will be available to Columbus city residents living in a single family home or building of 4 attached units or less that is not part of a complex.

All eligible households will receive a blue recycling cart for all of their recyclable materials.

There is no direct fee to residents for the recycling service or the new blue cart. The program is being funded by the General Fund as a basic city service.

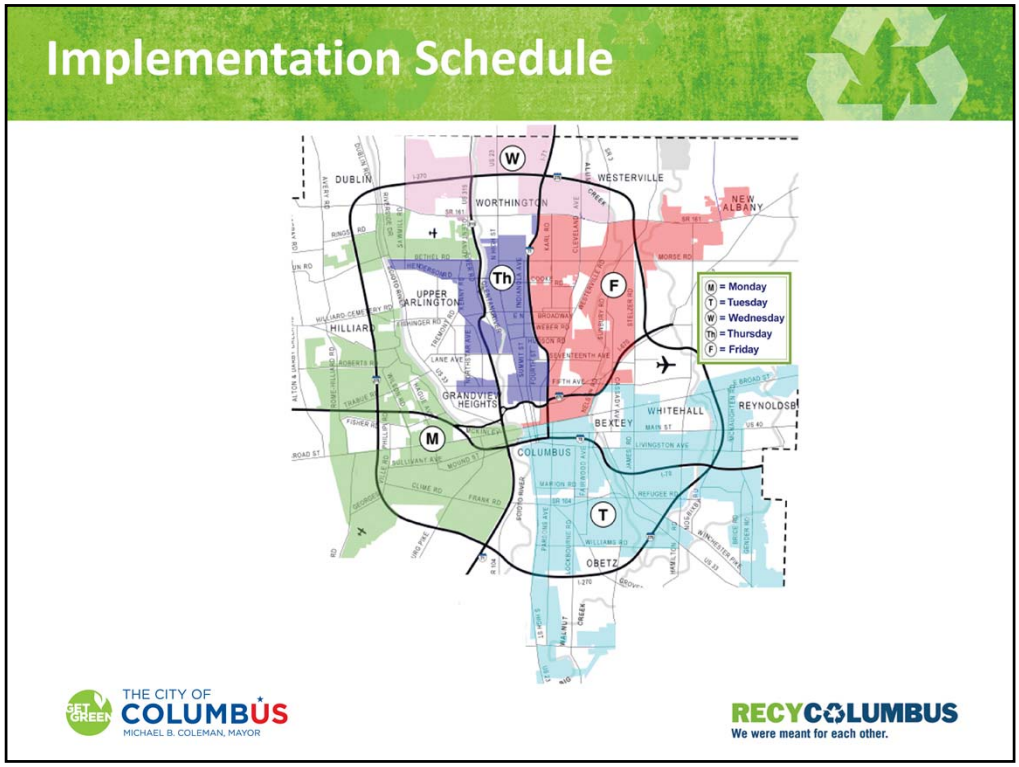
When the blue cart arrives, just write your street address on the label in permanent market.

Put recyclables in the cart every day.

The blue recycling cart has a lid to keep out the rain. And wheels make it easy to move the cart to the collection point, which is in the same area as your current trash collection.

Residential recycling service will be introduced to more than 200,000 single-family households in five phases over a nine-month period.

Blue cart delivery starts with homes that receive yard waste collection service on Monday, wrapping up in early 2013 with homes that receive yard waste service on Friday.



This chart shows the implementation schedule by area of the city.

Trash collection is not affected by the new recycling service.

Yard waste collection moves from weekly to every other week once the recycling service is introduced in your neighborhood.

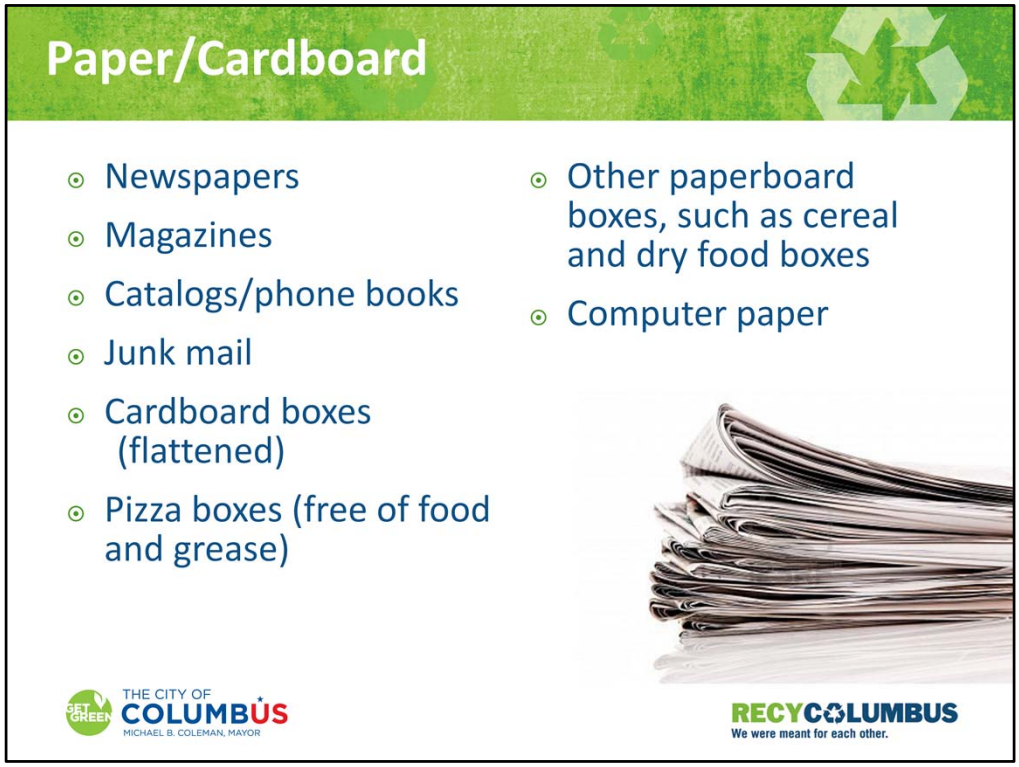
Yard waste will continue to be collected in biodegradable bags or a separate rigid container, not in the blue cart.

That was a lot of information.

All you really need to remember is this website, phone number or email address for information on cart drop off and the collection schedule for your neighborhood.

Households that use the 64-gallon cart recycle more pounds on average than those that use smaller bins.

Now, let's take a look at each group of items that can be recycled in the new blue cart. They include (READ LIST).



Here are a few specifics on what can go in the cart. Let's start with paper and cardboard. This includes (READ LIST)

In 2010, the amount of paper recovered for recycling averaged 334 pounds for every person in the U.S. and 63.5% of the paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling. Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)

Here's a list of plastic items (READ LIST).

It's best to empty the bottle, crush it and replace the lid or cap back on the bottle.

Lids and caps not attached to the bottle will not be recovered for recycling. They must be attached to be recycled.

Here's an interesting fact. More than 9.2 billion pounds of plastic was recycled in 2010. (ISRI)

In 2010, less than 30% of all plastic bottles were recycled, according to the EPA. That means more than 70% of all bottles ended up in the landfill or discarded in some other manner.

Not all types of glass are accepted for recycling. Rumpke only accepts glass bottles and jars that once contained food or drinks.

Be sure to rinse glass before placing it in the blue cart.

There's no need to remove labels.

Materials such as window glass, ceramics and light bulbs are not accepted for recycling.

80% of glass is estimated to be recycled into new containers. (ISRI)

3 million tons of glass was recovered for recycling in 2009 according to the U.S. EPA.

Here a few interesting facts about recycling metals:

Every day, Americans use more than 100 aluminum beverage cans. (Aluminum Association)

Energy saved using aluminum scrap versus virgin materials is up to 92%. (ISRI)

Often, food and beverage cartons are made with mixed materials – usually paper coated with polypropylene film or aluminum.

Once, there were very few recycling options for these types of cartons, but now they are now part of the recyclables list. This includes (READ LIST).

So you can toss cartons in the cart along with your other recyclables.

Everything that is recyclable can go straight into the blue cart with no sorting required.

Here are just a few reminders:

Keep lids, caps and labels on the recyclables – no need to remove them before placing them in the blue cart.

Food and liquid left in containers make recyclables difficult to process or unusable. Please rinse any containers that are easily washable and do not recycle materials that are heavily soiled with food or liquid.

Yard waste will continue to be collected in biodegradable bags or a separate rigid container, not in the blue cart.

The label on the cart lid has detailed information on what you can and cannot recycle.

Here are some common items that are not accepted for recycling: plastic bags, yogurt cups, car batteries or other car parts, scrap metal or hangers, electronics, buckets, butter tubs, food trays, needles/syringes, dishes, plates or utensils, pots and pans and disposable plates and cups.

I'd like to invite you to support the RecyColumbus education program in your neighborhood. It's easy and fun to do.

I know most folks would rather do anything than speak before a group, but the RecyColumbus folks make it easy with this PowerPoint presentation. If I can do it, you can too!

You can also hand out information at local fairs, festivals and celebrations. For example, in my neighborhood each year we celebrate (INSERT FESTIVAL OR EVENT). This would be a great place to take the RecyColumbus display and hand out information like this (HOLD UP CARD).

RecyColumbus provides all of the materials. You just provide the ideas on local events and recruit the people to make it happen.

There are lots of ways to get involved. Here are a few other examples (READ LIST).

To help our volunteers with ideas and information to promote recycling in their neighborhood, you can use our Community Outreach Toolkit posted on the RecycleColumbus.org website.

It's filled with information including this PowerPoint presentation, community outreach events ideas, giveaway items, a list of frequently asked questions, and social media ideas.

If you're interested in volunteering or just finding out more, please fill out the Volunteer form at your table/seat and return it to me or you can complete it online.

Also, by filling out the form, RecyColumbus will add you to the database to receive regular email updates on what's happening with recycling in Columbus.

Each neighborhood is unique and we'd really like your ideas on how to get your neighbors to participate in the recycling program.

Does anyone have any thoughts or ideas they'd like to share? For example, is there a neighborhood meeting or civic group we should be talking to? What are some of your local events that attract a large number of your neighbors?

I'd really like to get your suggestions, so please take a few minutes to share your thoughts on the Volunteer form at your seat and return it to me.

Recycling is just one way to be greener.

To help City residents, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman founded GreenSpot. It's the online place where people in our city go to learn about living and working greener, and commit to doing it—in their homes, businesses and communities.

With just a few small changes, you can help the environment and create a more environmentally-friendly home, workplace or neighborhood.

You can find out more by visiting the GetGreenColumbus.org website.

Thank you for your time and interest in recycling. I hope you are looking forward to residential recycling in Columbus as much as I am.

Would you please take a few minutes to complete the Volunteer form and return it to me or go online to complete and return it electronically.

Now, I would be happy to answer questions or if you think of a question later, you can always visit this website or call this phone number.