

Paper Cart Program in Burlington County

The Board of Chosen Freeholder's paper recycling cart program was launched in the fall of 2008 and as of July 2010, includes all or parts of 23 municipalities. Over 53,000 homes in the county now have paper carts.

Under the program residents can put all their paper and cardboard into a large, wheeled blue cart, which is serviced by a truck with an automated arm. Residents find that carts make paper recycling much easier, with no worries about blowing paper on wet and windy days. This convenience has led to a big boost in recycling rates – almost 20% in some cart communities, helping towns meet recycling goals and cut tax dollars spent on landfill disposal. Homes with carts recycle more than their non-cart counterparts. Cart homes recycle an average of 36 lbs/home compared to only 23 lbs/homes without carts.

The Freeholders are funding half of the cost of the carts and are allowing the towns to pay back their share over six years. For most towns, their annual state recycling tonnage grant covers their payment, avoiding any impact on local budgets.

“County sponsored programs must provide a true benefit to the taxpayers,” said Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio. “The cart program has clearly met this test. Public support for the program is strong and our towns are spending less tax dollars on disposal.”

Towns in the cart program also have the opportunity to sign up for the RecycleBank Rewards program. Under the RecycleBank program families can earn up to \$45 a month in discounts, gift cards and rewards at local and national businesses. RecycleBank Reward Points are earned each time a resident recycles with their paper cart.

In Burlington County, residents in Cinnaminson, Delanco, Florence, Hainesport, Moorestown, Mount Holly and Tabernacle that currently participate in the RecycleBank program can register to earn valuable RecycleBank Reward Points by visiting www.RecycleBank.com or calling 888-727-2978.

The chart below lists current paper cart municipalities:

Municipalities in Paper Cart Program as of June 2010		
Municipality	RecycleBank Member	% of Homes w/ Carts
Burlington Township		60%
Chesterfield		100%
Cinnaminson	x	75%
Delanco	x	95%
Delran		62%
Edgewater Park		100%
Evesham		54%
Florence	x	70%
Hainesport	x	100%
Lumberton		88%
Mansfield		29%
Medford Lakes		100%
Medford Township		80%
Moorestown	x	48%
Mt. Holly	x	95%
Mt. Laurel		25%
Pemberton Township		67%
Riverside		40%
Riverton		100%
Springfield		100%
Tabernacle	x	100%
Westampton		100%
Willingboro		30%

Cart Program Questions:

How can my town sign up for the cart program? Any municipality with curbside collection can participate in the program, provided that they agree to pay for their share of the carts. Contact your local elected officials to find out your municipality's cart status. Depending upon your recycling day, there may be a waiting list to join. This is because we have to expand the program in a balanced manner, adding roughly the same number of homes to the program on each collection day. Because not all municipalities have signed on, there are

routing imbalances, which may prevent us from expanding to additional homes on certain days. Homes are added in blocks of approximately 1,000 homes at a time. This is the average route size for our recycling trucks. Our goal is to expand the program county-wide by the end of 2011.

How can my town sign up for RecycleBank? Any town in the cart program can participate in RecycleBank. The municipality must sign a contract with RecycleBank agreeing to pay an annual per household fee for the rewards program and then each cart must be fitted with a radio frequency identification tag.

What do I put in the paper cart? All recyclable paper and cardboard (flatten big boxes to fit in cart), including newspaper, phone books, junk mail (window envelopes are ok but remove product samples, plastic cards, etc.), magazines, catalogs, paperback books, brown paper grocery bags, paperboard such as cereal boxes & tissue boxes, shredded paper (in a paper bag or small box, no plastic bags), school and office paper. ([click here to see examples](#)).

Does it matter how the cart is placed at the curb? Yes, set your cart curbside with the metal bar facing the street. The cart should be at least 2 feet from all obstacles. Do not set it under low hanging branches. Do not set recyclables on top of cart lid. ([click here to see examples](#)).

Do I have to flatten cardboard boxes?

You should flatten boxes as needed, to make sure everything fits in your cart. It is ok if your flattened boxes stick out of the top of the cart ([click here to see examples](#)). Placing material on the ground defeats the efficiency of an automated system and drives up the cost of recycling. That said, if you do have to set excess cardboard on the ground, even after flattening boxes, we will collect it. You can also bring excess recyclables to your municipal recycling dropoff.

What about bottles and cans? Keep using your recycling bucket for bottles and cans. We collect and process bottles and cans separately from paper and cardboard. This method is called “dual stream” recycling.

Will we ever be able to put all recyclables in our cart? The County is studying the costs and benefits of collecting your recyclables all together in one

cart. This method is called “single stream” recycling. It is fairly expensive to modify our current recycling system to collect and sort single stream materials but many programs are moving to this type of recycling, so it is possible that we will offer “single stream” recycling in the foreseeable future. If and when the County does go to a single stream program, then you will be able to place all your paper, cardboard, bottles and cans into your blue paper cart. For now, the cart can only be used for paper and cardboard. [\(click here\)](#)