

County Waste & Recycling: Single Stream Recycling (SSR)



About Single Stream Recycling:

In December 2009, County Waste and Recycling launched Single Stream Recycling (SSR) for its residential and commercial customers. SSR allows all recyclable materials – glass, paper, metal, cardboard and plastics – to be placed in the new, single recycling bin for collection. Once collected, the recyclables are taken to County Waste & Recycling’s facility to be sorted and processed for shipment to recyclers.

To support the initiative, County Waste & Recycling provided its customers with new recycling containers. Commercial customers received custom-fit recycling containers to suit their specific business needs, and residential customers had their small, blue bins replaced by new larger recycling containers with green lids.

The Impact of Recycling:

According to data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans generated about 250 million tons of trash in 2008 but only recycled or composted 33.2 percent of that waste. So recycling is making a difference, but it’s clear we could be doing more.

Why Single Stream Recycling?

- **SSR is good for our customers** – The new, larger wheeled containers are more attractive and easier to move.
- **SSR is more convenient** – Customers no longer need to sort. Instead, they can combine all recyclables in one container and have them collected weekly.
- **SSR is good for the environment and our communities** – Since the program began, it has already increased recycling rates by an average of 24 percent in converted communities and helped to keep recyclable material from going to a landfill.

SSR is where the industry is headed. It’s being used successfully by forward-thinking communities like San Francisco, Toronto, Denver, Tucson, San Jose, Philadelphia, and Dallas, because consumers can see how Single Stream Recycling gives them the best of both worlds: more environmental benefits and more convenience.

County Waste and Recycling is committed to being a leader in SSR and is investing \$14 million in a new recycling program and state-of-the-art processing facility to make it all work. We’re also reducing our own carbon footprint by phasing in one truck to replace the two normally used on each route, eliminating the fuel use and emissions of a second 70,000-pound truck.

About County Waste and Recycling:

County Waste and Recycling Service, based in Clifton Park, NY, ranks as the region’s largest privately owned waste and recycling company. County Waste provides residential, commercial, industrial, and construction and demolition waste collection services in the Capital/Saratoga region, including adjoining areas of Massachusetts.

The company’s customer base includes approximately 4,600 commercial and industrial customers and more than 180,000 residential customers including municipal contracts. In addition to waste collection services, County Waste also operates two transfer stations and two recycling facilities.

County Waste serves the following counties in New York: Albany, Northern Columbia, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie, Saratoga, Orange, Ulster, Greene, Columbia, Warren, and Washington, and the Massachusetts counties of Berkshire, Hampshire and Hampden.