

## **Blue and Black Cart size selection and utility rates**

October 15, 2018

Coming spring of 2019 – Blue and Black Carts will be delivered to homes who received Green Carts in the spring. The Blue Cart replaces your blue box, and the Black Cart will be for all other household garbage.

When the program is in full swing, Blue and Black Carts will be picked up every other week, on alternating weeks. Green Carts will continue to be picked up weekly.

Residents are able to customize their Blue and Black Cart size for their individual needs to truly optimize the system so it works for each household. The size of Black Cart a household chooses will be reflected on the utility rate that is approved by Red Deer City Council, the size of Blue Cart chosen will have no impact on the monthly utility rate charged.

### **1. Why is the City introducing a Blue and Black Cart program?**

Consistent with the Environmental Master Plan (EMP) and Waste Management Master Plan (WMMP), the cart program helps reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by diverting organics and recyclables. Also, the new collection system increases efficiency, and helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **2. Can I opt out of the Blue and Black Cart program?**

No, households are unable to opt out of the program. The new collection trucks will only be able to pick up garbage and recycling that is contained in a cart. If garbage and/or recycling are placed without being in a cart, it will not be picked up.

### **3. How will my garbage and recycling collection schedule change?**

Collection for the Blue and Black Cart will take place every other week, on alternating weeks starting in May 2019. That means your garbage will be picked up one week and your recycling picked up the next week. Green Cart pickup remains weekly.

### **4. How will I keep track of what carts are picked up when?**

Residents will receive a colour coded calendar to make keeping track easy. Residents can also sign up for weekly electronic notifications in the spring through Notify Red Deer ([www.reddeer.ca/notifyreddeer](http://www.reddeer.ca/notifyreddeer)).

### **5. When will Blue and Black Cart collection start?**

Blue and Black Carts will be delivered to the front of your home between March 18 and April 19. If you are at home during delivery, City staff will be able to answer any questions you have about the two new carts, and there will also be education materials included with the carts to help you get acquainted with the program.

Blue and Black Cart collection will start the week of May 6; on your regular collection day in the same location you normally place your waste (front street or back alley). The information you receive with your cart will explain which cart will be picked up that first week.

### **6. Can I request a different size for my Black and Blue Cart after I receive mine?**

If you find that the Blue or Black Cart size you selected isn't working for your household's garbage and recycling needs, you will be able to request a different size several months after the program starts. A small fee may be associated with the swap, and will be determined in 2019.

**7. Why a Blue Cart?**

Recycling is a proven method to decrease the amount of unnecessary garbage that ends up in the landfill and reduce the need to process new raw materials. Through recycling, we can conserve our natural resources and prevent harmful pollutants like greenhouse gases.

**8. What will go into the Blue Cart?**

In general, you can recycle paper, cardboard, metal cans and plastics #1 through 7.

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Mixed paper (e.g. office paper, junk mail, envelopes and flyers)
- Telephone books
- Corrugated cardboard
- Boxboard (e.g. cereal boxes, shoe boxes and tissue boxes)
- Number 1 to 7 plastic containers and lids (e.g. yogurt cups, detergent containers, food platter trays, and plant pots)
- Metal cans

**Unacceptable items:** Glass bottles and jars will not be accepted in the Blue Cart. Through the new collection system, glass is broken into small pieces that cannot be recovered at the sorting facility. Instead, people can recycle glass bottles and jars at a community recycling depot.

**9. If my Blue Cart fills up, what can I do with my extra recycling?**

Recycling set beside, or on top of the Blue Cart will not be picked up. You can always drop off extra recycling at a community recycling depot at no cost, or if possible, you can hold onto extra recyclables until the next scheduled pickup day.

**10. What should I do with my Blue Box when I get a cart?**

Keep your old blue box, and use it to store and transport recyclables to the cart. If your blue box is no longer usable, it can be recycled at a community recycling depot.

**11. What will go into the Black Cart?**

The Black Cart is a new way to place your regular garbage for pickup. Pretty much everything that doesn't go in your Green (organics) or Blue (recycling) Carts can go in your Black Cart including:

- Styrofoam (e.g. meat trays and packing foam)
- Diapers
- Plastic films (e.g. chip bags and grocery bags)
- Aluminum foil
- Gift wrap and ribbons
- Laminated paper
- Wax-coated paper products
- Small lids
- Multi-material packaging (e.g. frozen food trays, deodorant, toothpaste tubes and pet food bags)
- Diseased branches & noxious weeds

**Unacceptable items:** remember to take batteries, e-waste, household hazardous waste, fluorescent lights and tires to the Waste Management Facility (landfill) for proper disposal.

**12. If my Black Cart fills up, where can I put my extra garbage?**

Garbage set beside, or on top of the Black Cart will not be picked up. You can always drop off extra garbage at the Waste Management Facility for a small fee, or if possible, you can hold onto excess garbage until the next scheduled pickup day.

**13. Can I place any kinds of bags into the Black Cart?**

Yes, any garbage bag you currently collect your household garbage in can be placed into the Black Cart for pickup.

**14. Has the program been tested in Red Deer, and what were the results?**

Yes, The City ran a two-year pilot program with 2,000 households across the city. Households were chosen to reflect a range of demographics, as best as possible matching the whole city's demographics. The pilot was further broken down by neighbourhood, home assessment value, back alley or front collection, and the year the home was built. The pilot system was created to not only test the system, but to gather feedback from participants on a regular basis, make changes based on their feedback and ensure we launch a system that will work for all Red Deerians. The pilot tested Green Carts (organics) Blue Carts (recycling) and Black Carts (garbage).

**15. Will all households in the city receive carts?**

No, the cart system (Green, Blue and Black Carts) will replace manual collection so only households that currently have this service will receive carts. Multi-family properties that have their garbage collected in larger dumpsters will not receive carts.

**16. Will there be a new charge on my utility bill for the Blue and Black Carts?**

Households are charged a single waste management utility rate covering all collection services received. Once Blue and Black Cart collection begins in May, waste collection fees will be updated to reflect the service. You are able to choose the level you participate by selecting the Black Cart size that best meets your needs, which directly relates to your fees. Only Black Cart sizes will have a direct impact on utility bills. For example, if you choose a smaller Black Cart, your fee will be less in comparison to if you choose the largest size Black Cart.

**17. What other municipalities have similar programs?**

Automated cart systems are becoming the industry standard. Many municipalities across Canada operate similar programs including Calgary, Airdrie, Leduc, Brandon, Yellowknife, Richmond, Hamilton, and Saskatoon and many more.

**18. Where can residents find out more information about carts?**

Extensive marketing will be taking place, pointing residents to the website for full details. The Blue Line is the main point of contact for residents wishing to speak with City staff about the program.

**Website:** [www.reddeer.ca/carts](http://www.reddeer.ca/carts)

**Phone:** 403-340-BLUE (2583)

**Email:** [carts@reddeer.ca](mailto:carts@reddeer.ca)