



## The Environmental Benefits of Partnering with Eureka Recycling

**Plymouth City Council needs to hear from residents of Plymouth who care about the environment by Tuesday, August 26!**

In July, the Plymouth City Council decided that 50 cents more is worth it for the environment and they voted 5-2 to partner with Eureka Recycling. We have learned that Plymouth residents are confused about a couple of issues, in part as a result of a letter that the city's current hauler, Waste Management, sent to all the residents of Plymouth warning them of increased costs and the burden of having to sort materials.

We hope this clarifies those concerns:

### **Will I have to sort more with Eureka Recycling?**

No. The City of Plymouth currently has a two-sort system. Residents will continue to sort into two categories: *Paper & Cardboard* in one category and *Bottles and Cans* in another.

### **Will it cost the city more to partner with Eureka Recycling?**

Yes, but it includes more services and allows you to save much more on trash service. Eureka Recycling's proposal is 50 cents more per household per month (or \$400,000 over 3 years). The city has not determined whether or not they would pass this cost along to residents.

By working with Eureka Recycling residents can recycle more materials. Our programs include milk cartons, juice boxes, pop and beer boxes, clothes, linens and shoes. When you reduce your trash service because you recycle more, you can save up to \$2.00 a month on your trash bill.

### **Are there greater environmental benefits by working with Eureka Recycling?**

Yes, there are many:



**With Eureka Recycling, more people can recycle more things in more places.** Eureka Recycling is constantly looking for ways to improve recycling rates. In cities that are serviced by Eureka Recycling, the recycling rate has increased while most cities in the Twin Cities and across the county are seeing stagnant or declining recycling rates (even with single stream programs).

- Eureka Recycling will **add materials to Plymouth's curbside program** like milk cartons, juice boxes, pop and beer boxes, clothes, linens and shoes.
- Everyone, including people living in apartments and condo buildings, should have access to recycling. Eureka Recycling is a national leader in **multi-unit recycling** and will apply this expertise to improve Plymouth's program.

- Eureka Recycling has been selected by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to determine the best practices for **public space and park recycling**.
- Eureka Recycling focuses on making events waste-free throughout the Twin Cities. On average, our **event recycling** services result in 96% of what would have been wasted getting recycling and composted.



**With Eureka Recycling, the materials picked up at the curb really get recycled.** Over 98% of all the materials that arrive at our facility are made into new products. No other facility in the Twin Cities can make this claim. This remarkable achievement is only possible when residents sort into two simple categories. These results have never been achieved in a single stream program (when all recycling is collected together) because more of the materials are damaged or contaminated throughout the process.



**Eureka Recycling guarantees that your glass bottles will be recycled back into glass bottles.** We recycle over 95% of our glass back into bottles. Much of your recycled glass will go to Anchor Glass in Shakopee, Minnesota, where it is made into new bottles. Other processors in the metro area use glass as daily cover in landfill operations or as aggregate for sandblasting, which significantly reduces the environmental benefits of glass recycling.

- Recycling a ton of glass bottles back into bottles saves approximately 3 million BTUs—the equivalent of 20 gallons of gas—compared to landfilling or incineration.
- Using recycled glass significantly reduces the amount of energy required to fuel glass furnaces. Energy costs drop about 2-3% for every 10% of recycled glass used in the bottle manufacturing process.
- For every ton of glass recycled, over a ton of raw material inputs are saved, including 1,300 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar.



**Eureka Recycling's trucks are cleaner.** Eureka Recycling exclusively uses a soybean based fuel (biodiesel) in all our trucks. In addition to using biodiesel, we have installed diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC's) on our trucks to specifically reduce our particulate emissions.

- According to the U.S. Department of Energy, biodiesel produces 78% less carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, than petroleum-based diesel over its entire life cycle. Eureka Recycling's use of biodiesel replaces 20,000 gallons of petroleum-based fuel with 360 acres of soybeans annually.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, DOCs reduce emissions of particulate matter by at least 20%, reduce emissions of hydrocarbons by 50% and reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 40%. A DOC is a device that uses a chemical process to break down pollutants in the exhaust stream into less harmful components.

## What can you do?

Help make sure Plymouth's recycling program has the highest environmental benefits.

**The City Council is scheduled to vote on approval of a contract with Eureka Recycling on Tuesday, August 26 and they need to hear from you.**

- ❶ **Share your comments about your recycling program.** The City of Plymouth has established a voice mail at 763-509-5310 that will be shared with the city council.
- ❷ **Contact council members directly.**
  - Kelli Slavik, Mayor, 763-509-5007, [KSlavik@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:KSlavik@ci.plymouth.mn.us)
  - Sandy Hewitt , Ward 1 (Northwest), 763-509-5001, [shewitt@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:shewitt@ci.plymouth.mn.us)
  - Kathleen Murdock, Ward 2 (Southwest), 763-509-5002, [kmurdock@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:kmurdock@ci.plymouth.mn.us)
  - Bob Stein, Ward 3 (Southeast), 763-509-5003, [bstein@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:bstein@ci.plymouth.mn.us)
  - Ginny Black, Ward 4 (Northeast), 763-509-5004, [gblack@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:gblack@ci.plymouth.mn.us)
  - Tim Bildsoe, At Large, 763-509-5005, [tbildsoe@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:tbildsoe@ci.plymouth.mn.us)
  - Jim Willis, At Large, 763-509-5006, [jwillis@ci.plymouth.mn.us](mailto:jwillis@ci.plymouth.mn.us)
- ❸ **Attend the city council meeting on Tuesday, August 26 @ 7 p.m.** Residents are welcome and have been encouraged by the city council to attend the meeting and share their perspective on recycling in Plymouth.
- ❹ **Ask your friends and neighbors to call!**
- ❺ **Learn more!** For more information, visit the City of Plymouth's website for a detailed explanation about the city's decision to partner with Eureka Recycling. [www.ci.plymouth.mn.us](http://www.ci.plymouth.mn.us)

Feel free to contact Eureka Recycling if you have questions for us at (651) 222-7678. You can also visit our website for more information: [www.eurekarecycling.org](http://www.eurekarecycling.org)

Eureka Recycling is looking forward to working with Plymouth residents for years to come to improve and expand the city's recycling program through services designed to best meet Plymouth's environmental goals in the most cost-effective way!