

# Recycling: Source-Separated Versus Single-Sort



# Source-Separated Recycling : What We Do Now

- **People separate their recyclables into 3 Categories:**

- Rigid: Aluminum & Steel food/beverage containers, #1 PET Plastic, #2 HDPE Plastic
- Fibers: Mixed Paper & Cardboard
- Glass: Mixed Cullet/Color Food & Beverage Containers

## **Residential, Business & Multi-Family Recyclables:**

- Collected every week from the curb in 18-gallon tubs
- Started in 1994
- 1 staff per truck = 3 total staff needed
- Recycling crews collect material at curb & sort at the curb
- Additional card-board only service available

# What is Single-Sort Recycling?

When ALL recyclables  
are placed in a single bin or cart  
for recycling.

(Includes newspaper, glass, cardboard, plastic,  
aluminum, junk mail, etc.)

*Sometimes called Single-Stream Recycling*

# What Would a Single-Sort System Look Like in Red Wing?

- Residents & businesses use larger, 96-gallon can for collection  
(Most residents currently use a 48-gallon can.)
- Recyclables collected every two weeks (not every week)
- Customers place all acceptable recyclable materials in their can  
*(No need to sort by recyclable type)*
- People set recycling cans next to their garbage cans
- City crews collect with side-loading collection vehicles
- All recyclables processed off-site  
*(Because Waste Campus would shift to MSW processing only)*

# Advantages of Single-Sort

- **More Convenience**
  - No need to sort
  - Less litter blowing around
  - Bulky materials fit better
  - More room for recyclables
  - Rolling the cart is easier for residents than carrying a tub
  - Commercial account would be available
- **Increased Recovery (Probable)**
  - Increased participation
  - May potentially add more materials
  - Increased volumes of recyclables
- **Reduced Collection Costs**
  - Reduced number of trucks & drivers
- **Improved Employee Safety**
  - Keeps staff in the trucks and off the streets
  - Lifting & fall-related injuries decrease due to automation