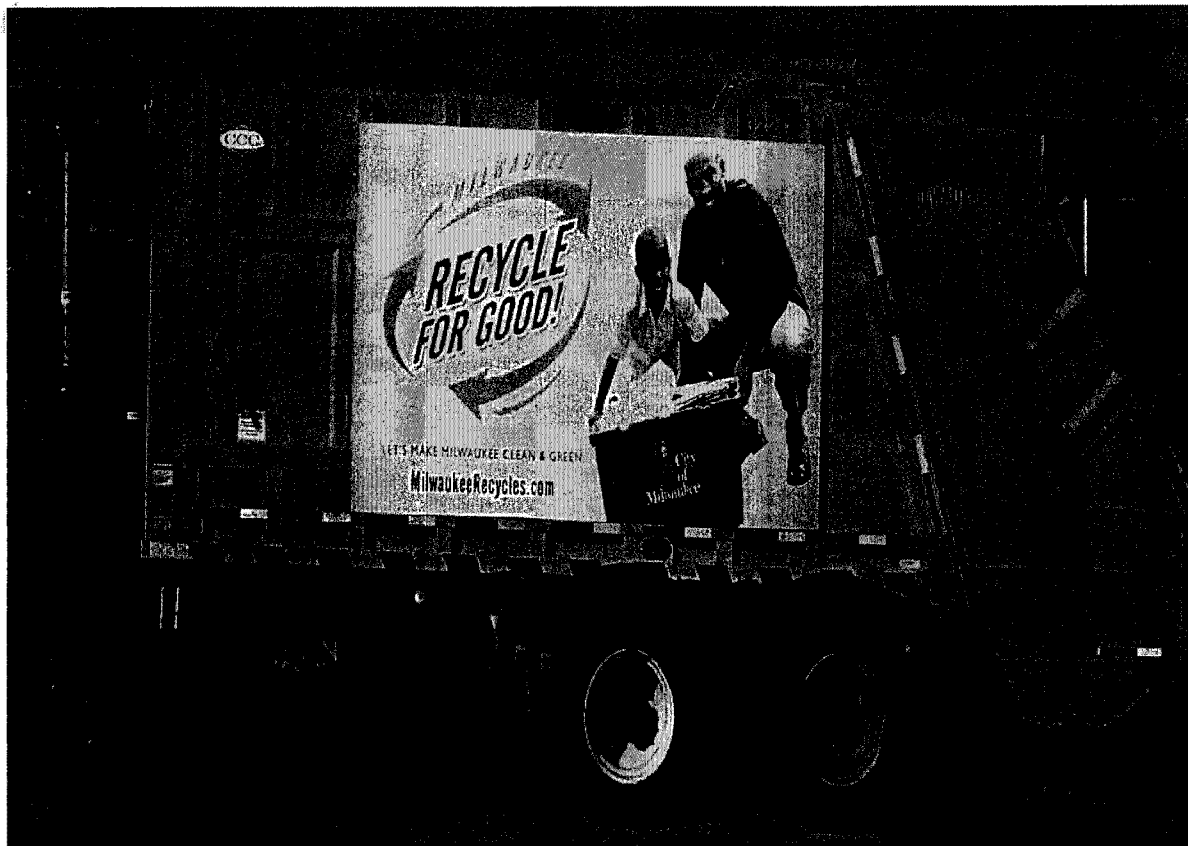


**City of Milwaukee**  
**Recycling Task Force**  
**Final Report and Recommendations to the**  
**Common Council**  
**January 2010**



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The recommendations may require further refinement and review and may require ordinance amendments or contract negotiation to be implemented. Time has not allowed for a complete review of their legality and enforceability.*

**We, the members of the City of Milwaukee Recycling Task Force hereby recommend the following:**

1. Implement single stream recycling within the next 1-4 years as the recycling collection and processing system to serve the City of Milwaukee.

*According to the Recycling Facility Alternatives Study, prepared by AECOM (APPENDIX D, Page ES-2):*

*"A Single stream processing means all the recyclables are collected in a single undivided cart and then sorted at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF). This approach is more user friendly and collection friendly resulting in more recyclables being placed at the curb by the public and more efficient collection by the recycling truck operation. Single stream collection is more user friendly because the public can simply consolidate all recyclables in the home and place them all in one cart without further sorting. The recycling industry is moving toward single stream recycling nationwide. Single stream can accommodate fully automated collection, which improves efficiency by allowing carts to be serviced without the driver exiting the vehicle."*

2. Include internal and external stakeholders in a detailed investigation of the Recycling Facility Study's top two options:
  - i. Alternative D – One Transfer Station at Existing City Facility
  - ii. Alternative F – Regional Single Stream MRF at Existing City Facility

*According to the Recycling Facility Alternatives Study, prepared by AECOM (APPENDIX D, pages ES-2 and ES-3):*

*"Alternative D would consist of converting the existing City MRF into a recycling transfer station. A compactor and related improvements would be added to the MRF. The transfer station would be operated by a third party, which would transport the recyclables by semi truck to a processing facility. Transfer station capital equipment could be provided directly by the third party firm and are estimated for this study. For this evaluation, the Waste Management Recycle America (WMRA) MRF in Germantown was used for the cost evaluation."*

*"Alternative F considers Waukesha County, City of Wauwatosa, and City of Milwaukee developing a MRF at the City's existing MRF on Mount Vernon. The City's current dual stream processing would be replaced with single stream processing equipment. The existing equipment would be replaced entirely due to its age, size, and condition. The structural aspects of the facility would remain basically the same. A cost allowance is included for some structural improvements to accommodate the new process equipment. Staffing is expected to increase from the current level based on additional recycling tonnage and is estimated based on the Waukesha County Report. The processing would be performed by a private firm as currently done."*

3. Immediately implement three-week recycling collection to increase recycling volumes and revenues. Schedule recycling collection and require the cart to be located at the curb or alley line to improve collection efficiency. End summer walk-up driveway service except for hardships.

*According to the Recycling Facility Alternatives Study, prepared by AECOM (APPENDIX D, Page ES-4):*

*"The most cost-effective method was to collect the recyclables on a three-week frequency with placement of the cart at the curb by the resident. Three week frequency is estimated to increase recyclables volume by ten percent."*

4. Implement Pay-As-You-Throw features for garbage collection in conjunction with increased recycling collection service to optimize effectiveness of both programs.

*According to the Recycling Facility Alternatives Study, prepared by AECOM (APPENDIX D, Page ES-4):*

*"There is increasing interest in managing municipal solid waste through "Pay-As-You-Throw" (PAYT) programs. The most common approach is for the user to pay for a certain size garbage container(s) and the recycling cart is free. The PAYT program results in a decrease in the trash tonnage and increase in recycling tonnage. A 16 to 17 percent diversion from residential trash is the average, which is generally divided equally among recycling, yard waste and source reduction."*