



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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Memorandum

TO: Board of Public Works

FROM: Michael Lewis, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

DATE: March 11, 2016

RE: **Communication from the Director of Public Works/City Engineer regarding potential issues concerning the City's recycling program.**

The City's contract expires at the end of the year with Allied Resource Recovery, Inc. (formally West Allis Salvage). Allied has been an excellent contractor for the City over many years.

That said, I think it's worth the effort to at least look at other contractors. Briefly, on Tuesday night I want to present to the Board the general direction I believe we should be taking. I know people have hated the blue bags in the past, basically because they had to buy them. But they were a cost effective way over the years to pick up recyclables.

The other option is a cart system (I have had very bad experiences with bins and don't like that system). The cart would look like and be picked up like the current garbage cart. The material in the cart would be co-mingled, which means all recyclables, glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, etc. would be thrown inside the cart to be sorted later by our contractor.

Like anything else in life, there are pros and cons to co-mingling recyclables. The pros are that it's easier for residents to do and usually increases the amount recycled. The cons are the material gets contaminated and of course, needs to be sorted. This usually increases the processing costs and lowers the value of the recyclables. The other con is the cost of the cart and how it's paid for.