
STILL PIONEERING

Waste Management expands Downtown single-stream recycling pilot program

MEDIA RELEASE • For Immediate Release

(STILLWATER, OKLA. / Feb. 21, 2014) — The Waste Management division has extended its downtown recycling pilot program to include paper, cans and plastic for weekly pickup.

Downtown Stillwater began the pilot program in October 2013 with the disposal of cardboard. Waste Management Superintendent Ian Groshong said they decided to expand the program to the additional recyclables after recording a 44 percent diversion of cardboard from participating downtown businesses.

“We were actually planning on doing a six-month pilot program just for cardboard,” Groshong said. “We had a lot of people ask, ‘When can we do single-stream?’ so we decided to go ahead and start that a little earlier.”

Sean Eisensmith, Convenience Collection Center coordinator, was responsible for bringing the downtown recycling program to a reality. He said Waste Management and the Business Improvement District No. 1 worked together to begin a single-stream recycling campaign for commercial businesses.

“The goal is to try to recycle materials instead of putting them in the ground,” Eisensmith said. “The businesses have been so helpful and have done a great job at following our recycling policies. They are fantastic to work with.”

Groshong said Waste Management would consider expanding single-stream recycling to more businesses someday based on the success of the downtown pilot program.

Lynn Gann, owner of Cowboy Bob’s Discount Golf, said his store now recycles about 90 percent of its waste. He said about 10 percent of that total includes aluminum, plastic and paper.

“Cardboard is such a big deal to us because everything gets shipped in cardboard,” Gann said. “We were just throwing it away [before]. I’m so glad the City is now recycling that plus the other items, too.”

Both Groshong and Eisensmith expressed their division’s appreciation to the participating downtown businesses for helping Waste Management make Stillwater a greener community.

“It has been exciting getting to develop this program with Downtown Stillwater,” Eisensmith said. “It’s definitely something special.”

Businesses participating in the program are those north of 10th Avenue, south of Sixth Avenue, east of Husband Street and west of Lowry Street.

Waste Management provides municipal collection of residential and commercial waste and recycling services for Stillwater and the surrounding area. Its collection programs are safe, efficient, cost effective and environmentally responsible.



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