



Heritage Complex  
2662 Riva Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Ronald E. Bowen, P.E.**  
**Director, Department of Public Works**

August 11, 2009

Art Huseonica  
President Greater Crofton Council  
PO Box 3683  
Crofton, MD 21114

Dear Mr. Huseonica,

Thank you for your letter regarding the current County supplied recycling container and your request for the return of the smaller bin. To help with answering your request, I'd like to provide some history on this topic and how we evolved to the larger container.

Many years ago a decision was made to provide the small square recycling bin to County residents and it simply was intended to motivate people to start recycling. It worked. As time passed, we received feedback from residents and it became obvious that the small bin was a limitation on recycling. Many residents would fill the small bin and discard everything else as trash (even though it was recyclable). Some actually told us that they thought that's all the County wanted. This was not in any way our intent.

Based on more recent surveys coupled with the long list of what people can now recycle in the program, we find that the average household generates far more than what fits in a small 18-gallon bin. When we made the switch to the larger container, the popularity of recycling grew and we have advanced our recycling rate. In fact, because many households generate enough recyclables to fill two (2) large containers, we have willingly provided them with additional containers. Because of the high volume of recyclables each home can produce, we feel that issuing the smaller 18 gallon bins would be a step backwards and could have a negative effect on achieving a Countywide Recycling Rate of 50%. We provide comprehensive services to over 150,000 households throughout Anne Arundel County. It is important that we use the taxpayer's money wisely, especially during difficult fiscal times, and our limited budget cannot support the purchase of 18 gallon bins.

With respect to town homes, I know that there are many challenges as it relates to storage, including but not limited to trash and recyclables. Because each town home is unique, we feel that the container of choice option works best and matches up with the specific generation of recyclables and trash within the home. The challenge is for each resident to simply decide where they can temporarily store their recyclables for a week until their collection day, and in what type of

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container. As an example, a family of 2 adults would likely have different requirements than a family of 4 that includes young children.

In an attempt to meet halfway on the issue, we have been collecting the small recycling bins from residents who wish to trade-in their smaller bin; because they have increased their recycling and can now fill the larger barrel container. As smaller bins are retrieved, we sort them out, retain the ones acceptable for re-use and recycle the rest. As a supply exists, the bins are made available to the small number of people desiring them.

I do thank you for making recycling a priority and I hope that container size doesn't stand in the way with increasing recycling in the Crofton area. We all make a choice with every item we throw away; a choice between throwing it into the recycling container or throwing it into the trash can. We encourage everyone to recycle at home, work and on the go. Please visit our website at [www.RecycleMoreOften.com](http://www.RecycleMoreOften.com) for tips to boost your recycling and to take the 50/50 Challenge. If I can be of further assistance, please call me at 410-222-7951.

Sincerely,



Richard Bowen  
Solid Waste Recycling Manager

cc: Councilman James G. Benoit  
Councilwoman Tricia Johnson  
James Pittman

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