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## VBH BOT FYI Health\_Environment

1 message

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Wed, Jun 8, 2011 at 5:45 PM

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Lake Forest City Council approves 3,600 recycling carts for homes  
By Linda Blaser [lblaser@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:lblaser@pioneerlocal.com)  
Lake Foresster STNG  
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Hoping to increase residents' recycling 15 to 20 percent, Lake Forest aldermen on Monday approved the purchase of 3,600 wheeled green carts to replace the recycling bins allotted to each home in town.

The carts will cost \$159,000. The City Council also approved spending an additional \$4,200 to have decals printed detailing what can be recycled and requested that those lists be attached to the inside of the lids.

The 65-gallon covered carts will hold the contents of four bins and will be free to the first 3,250 residents who request one later this summer.

"They will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis," Director of Public Works Michael Thomas told the City Council. The remaining 350 carts will be available for \$50 each for residents who feel they will need more than one cart for recycling paper, plastic and cans.

Thomas said the goal is to allow residents to sign up for a recycling cart via the city's website ([www.cityoflakeforest.com](http://www.cityoflakeforest.com)) beginning in early July with cart delivery to residents' homes in late August or early September.

Bins to be phased out

Next summer, the city will convert the remaining residents to carts, Thomas said.

"We will phase out the bins over the next 12 to 18 months," he said.

The \$159,000 project will be financed largely through a \$100,000 grant the city received from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The remaining \$59,000 will be paid for by the city and is included in the Capital Fund for the current fiscal year.

The City Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the carts and expressed concern that residents do not seem to be buying into the recycling efforts the city launched years ago.

"We're on track to generate \$75,000-plus this (fiscal) year from recyclables," Thomas told the aldermen during the Committee of the

Whole meeting that preceded the regular City Council meeting Monday night.

While that figure is welcome in a budget that saw belt-tightening and employee layoffs, aldermen wonder why that revenue stream is not increasing.

“The performance numbers are flat. You need to do more marketing” of the recycling program, Third Ward Alderman Tom Morsch said.

The city collected 7,464 tons of recycled waste in fiscal year 2010 and 7,344 tons in fiscal year 2011, a 1.6 percent decrease, according to the Summary Chart of Performance Measurements by Department updated on June 2, 2011. The goal in fiscal year 2015 is to collect 8,974 tons of recyclables.

Fourth Ward Alderman Michael Adelman said the recycling guidelines should be “easy to access” on the city’s website.  
<http://www.cityoflakeforest.com>

Thomas said he is aware that the recycling guidelines are hard to find online and will look into correcting the situation.

Adelman thinks the problem is bigger than a hard-to-find list.

“People are complaining, ‘Why do I need a 65-gallon drum?’ The truth of the matter is I suspect those people aren’t really recycling all of the material they can recycle. We need to educate the public,” Adelman said.

“I think the public doesn’t understand or have enough appreciation that the recycling program generates money, so this is benefitting the community,” First Ward Alderman Kent Novit said. “The more recycling, the better for all of us.”

While city sanitation workers see “a lot of cardboard, junk mail and phone books” in their garbage pick-up, “there’s a lot more that can be coming out of that waste stream,” Thomas said.

“This is a step in the right direction,” Mayor James Cowhey said.

All homeowners got one bin when the recycling program started in 1991. They had an opportunity to pick up a second free bin in 2008 when the program was expanded. Anyone who has more than two pays \$10 for each additional bin.

The bins themselves will be recycled unless residents want to keep their bins for another purpose. They cannot use them for any recycling once they switch to the cart.

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