Single-Stream Recycling (SSR) and Composting: 
A brief how-to guide for responsible waste practices

Welcome to the future of recycling and waste management!

Single-stream recycling (“SSR”) is a new, easy way to recycle as many materials as possible while also reducing the confusion generally associated with recycling and the separation of materials from each other. This new way to recycle allows for those participating in the program to put ALL of their recyclables into one single bag- hence the name 'single-stream'!

CWS has broken down the waste stream into three easy to understand categories: Compostables, Recyclables and Everything Else/Inerts. CWS provides you with two different bags: Blue and Green. These bags are specifically designed to hold recoverable waste streams for efficient processing while also minimizing waste. It is important that each waste stream category is deposited into the appropriate bag for processing. The color-coding helps CWS recognize and separate the streams from each other so that CWS may process each stream accordingly once they reach the facility.

Compostables - Green Bags:
Green Bags are for all compostable materials. These items usually originate in the kitchen or the yard. While high in nitrogen content, these materials also usually have high water content, making them one of the heavier components waste streams. Compostables that are included in these bags are:

- Food trimmings
- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Small bones from store-bought meats
- Eggshells
- Tea bags and coffee filters
- Leafy waste
- Plate scrapings
- Breads
- Pastas
- Meats

Try and avoid putting liquids into these bags as much as possible. Pour the broth content of soups down your drain, and deposit only the meat, potatoes, vegetables or other contents into the Green Bags.

*It is important that you use the green bags provided by CWS. The green bags used by CWS are referred to as 'BioBags' because they are made from corn and are completely biodegradable. This allows us to throw the green bags and their contents into our trammel for composting. Traditional plastic bags do not compost and cannot be composted.*
Recyclables - Blue Bags:
Blue bags are for all recyclable materials. These are household items and include many of your traditional recyclables and more. The single stream recycling (“SSR”) concept was developed to reduce the work required by households to participate in traditional recycling. Now that all recyclables can be deposited into the same bag, more items are capable of being recycled- even the blue bag you put the recyclables in are recycled! Recyclables to be deposited into these bags are:

- Aluminum food and beverage containers
- Ferrous (iron/steel/tin) cans
- Plastic containers with symbols #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7
- Mixed Rigid
- Glass food and beverage containers
- Newsprint
- Old corrugated cardboard
- Magazines
- Catalogs
- Cereal boxes
- Telephone books
- Printer paper
- Copier paper
- Mail
- All other office paper without wax liners

As you use your blue bag for SSR, it is important to prevent unacceptable materials from contaminating the SSR:

“When in doubt, toss it out!”

Please keep lids on all plastic containers. All glass containers, tin cans, bi-metal cans, aluminum cans, aerosol cans and plastic containers should be emptied prior to their disposal. All paper products must be free of food debris and other contaminating materials. Tissues, paper towels or other paper that has been in contact with food or cleaning solutions are unacceptable materials for SSR and should be treated as 'inert waste' (see below).

It is important that you use the blue bags CWS provides for single stream recycling. Some trash can liners are not composed of recyclable materials, but the CWS-provided blue bags are. This ensures that absolutely nothing is wasted throughout the recycling process- including the containers used to collect recyclable materials.

Inerts – Trash Bags:
After you have separated all of your compostables and recyclables, there will still be a few items that require disposal. These items are referred to as “Inerts”. Inert waste is waste that has a low potential to cause leaching pollution or runoff and also has a low potential to attract animals and other forms of wildlife. Inert waste includes, but is not limited to:

- Microwave trays
- Mirrors
- Light bulbs
This category of waste usually comprises the smallest stream for an average American household. This bag should be relatively lightweight, take a long time to fill up and represent the smallest of the three waste streams. Customers may use their own bags for this category of waste.

**Additional Information:**

**Bag Deposits:**
CWS spends around $0.20 on each bag and starting January, 2013 will ask for a $0.20/bag deposit on the color-coded bags from self-haul customers. Each time you bring in a full, colored CWS bag for processing and disposal, CWS will either replace the bags for you at no charge or apply a $0.20/bag discount to your total for waste disposal. If you bring in empty bags, CWS will refund your deposit for $0.20/bag. This bag deposit ensures the color-coded bags are being used for their intended purpose- to improve waste management practices within the Haines borough.

**Mixed Waste:**
CWS accepts all kinds of waste and will continue to accept mixed waste at current listed prices for mixed waste processing. Mixed waste is all three of the categories outlined above present in one single bag or container for disposal. Mixed waste does not include electronics, medical waste, construction and demolition debris, hazardous wastes, batteries or machinery. Because of the higher costs associated with processing mixed waste, the rates for this waste stream category will be higher than those for separated waste streams.

You now know how to separate for the SSR/Composting program with CWS! It is a simple, easy and cost-effective way to reduce the amount of waste you produce by redirecting as much as possible to be reclaimed and reused. Reduce, reuse, recycle and repeat!

CWS has been developing this program for the past year and understand that there's a learning curve involved. If you have any questions, feel free to come up and visit our facility at 854 FAA Road, call us at (907)766-2736, email us at info@communitywastesolutions.com or go online for more info to communitywastesolutions.com. We look forward to providing you with top-notch service for all of your waste needs!

*Do not hesitate to contact us!*