



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

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To: Ande Banks, City Manager  
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, PMP, LEED AP, Director of Public Works  
Date: December 10, 2024  
Re: Reservation Based Cardboard Collection Services

**Summary:**

City Council will receive an update on a new reservation based cardboard collection program, that is being implemented by the Public Works Department.

**Background:**

Currently, the Public Works Department manages cardboard collection at the Recycling Convenience Center, requiring citizens to drop off cardboard on their own. Public Works processes about 300 tons of cardboard each year, and this volume keeps growing. Despite this, our collection staff reports that a considerable amount of cardboard still ends up in residential solid waste (Toter bins).

Focus Area 5 of the City's Environmental Action Plan (EAP) aims to cut landfill use, develop zero waste principles, and boost recycling. To support these goals, the Public Works Department is rolling out a new program to enhance cardboard collection through a reservation-based system.

This program lets citizens reserve a collection slot specifically for cardboard. Reservations can be made on the City's website or by calling the Public Works Department, available exclusively on Fridays for those who receive solid waste collection services. Participants are expected to break down cardboard boxes and place them where Toters are normally collected.

**Key Issues:**

N/A

**Environmental Impact:**

Reduction in landfill use and increase in cardboard recycling.

**Fiscal Impact:**

This program will not result in any increased operational costs. In addition, cardboard collection generates \$50/ton as well as an avoided cost of \$58/ton (landfill tipping fee).

**Prior Actions:**

N/A

**Alternatives:**

N/A

**Community Engagement:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

1. Presentation

**Review:**