

February 2022

Dear Providence Resident:

On average, over the past five years, the City of Providence was required to spend an additional **\$1 million** each year on something that could have been avoided. What was it? It was approximately **11,000 tons** or **1,700 truckloads** of mixed recycling that was **rejected** due to contamination.

What is contamination? It's when the wrong materials are placed in recycling carts such as food waste, plastic bags, wood, clothing/textiles OR when the right materials are prepared in the wrong way, such as putting recyclables in a plastic bag.

When there is too much contamination in a mixed recycling truck, it can cause the entire truckload to be rejected. Rejected truckloads are charged as trash and landfilled instead of being accepted as recycling for free. These additional disposal fees cost the city money that could have been used to support critical city services.

That's why the City of Providence and Rhode Island Resource Recovery are partnering to educate Providence residents on recycling right. Recycling right saves valuable landfill space for future generations, protects clean water, creates jobs, and improves the economy.

Here's how to recycle right:

- **Know your carts.** Recycling carts are blue or dark green with a black or blue lid. Trash carts are gray with a black lid.
- **Know what is accepted in your recycling cart.** The enclosed magnet displays the four categories of items that are accepted in RI's mixed recycling program - recycle these four categories but nothing else. Learn more at www.recyclePVD.org.
- **Keep plastic bags out** and never place mixed recycling inside of plastic bags. Please place recyclables loose in your recycling cart.
- **No food waste.** Make sure recyclables are empty and rinse them if possible.
- **Have fun** while you learn how to be a great recycler! Play our waste sorting game – called “Ready, Set, Sort!” at www.recyclePVD.org.



We hope that you will join us in our efforts to recycle right, protect clean water, and save city resources. Together, we can do this!

To learn more about recycling right visit www.recyclePVD.org.

To request municipal services from the City of Providence, dial 3-1-1 or download the free PVD311 app.

Sincerely,



Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor of Providence, RI



Joe Reposa
Executive Director, RI Resource Recovery