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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Tina Stinson

304.444.6782

[tina.stinson@cityofcharleston.org](mailto:tina.stinson@cityofcharleston.org)

**CITY TO OPTIMIZE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS THROUGH USE OF  
STANDARDIZED RECYCLING CONTAINERS AND SEMI-AUTOMATED COLLECTION**

*2021 Recycling Study recommended these options for the City of Charleston's curbside recycling program*

**(Charleston, W.Va.)** – Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin today shared the City's plan to optimize curbside recycling program through the use of standardized recycling containers (Toter Recycling Bins) and semi-automated collection based on recommendations from the 2021 Recycling Feasibility Study from MSW Consultants. The recycling team will begin distributing bins as early as next week.

“The purchase of standardized recycling containers, or Toter Recycling Bins, and the addition of tippers to our recycling trucks are the first steps in transitioning to standardized recycling containers city-wide and helping reduce the risk of injury during collection. During the transition, our recycling team will continue to collect recyclables in all clearly marked containers,” said Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin. “Curbside recycling is such an important City service. We are excited to make it more accessible for all residents and hope to grow the program through the enhancements we are making to the collection process.”

The 2021 Recycling Feasibility Study (4.1.1 Distributing Standardized Recycling Containers, page 29) recommended the City distribute standardized recycling containers—providing recyclables storage capacity for participants as well as aiding in the collection of recycling through clearer identification of recycling set outs. The 2021 Study (4.1.3 Moving Beyond Manual Collections, page 30/31) also recommended the use of semi- or fully- automated trucks which feature higher productivity rates and lower injury rates as compared to manual collection systems.

The City purchased 5,000 Toter Recycling Bins. These bins are covered, 48-gallon containers on wheels that allow for dry storage of recycling and can rolled to the curb. In addition, the City's recycling trucks are being equipped with a tipper designed to attach to this specific style of bin.

The City's recycling team compiled a list of all stops, over a three-week period, to determine the number of regular recycling participants. They identified nearly 3,100 residences that recycle regularly. These residences will be provided a bin first. The remainder of the bins will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. For more information, residents can call 304.348.6831.

For more information regarding the City's curbside recycling program, visit:  
<https://www.charlestonwv.gov/charleston-life/recycling>.

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