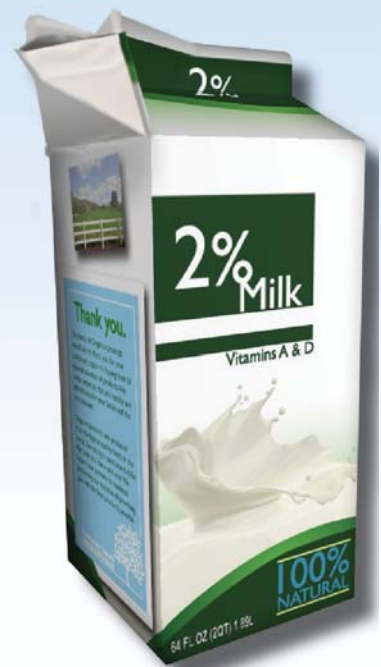
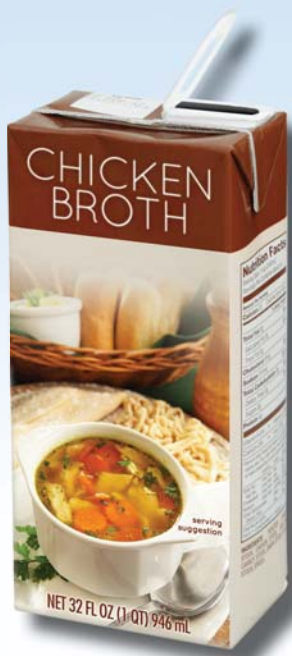




# NEW TO THE L.A. BLUE YES! Cartons are Recyclable!



**Want to give your cartons a second life?**  
*Recycle all cartons, empty with no liquids. And remember, every carton counts!*



**ADA STATEMENT**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**Carton Council**  
RecycleCartons.com



## **CARTON RECYCLING**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### ***Why is the City of Los Angeles implementing a carton recycling program?***

As directed by Mayor Villaraigosa, the Bureau of Sanitation has an objective to divert and recycle 70-percent of solid waste from landfills by 2013 and a long term goal of achieving zero waste. Carton recycling helps the City move a step closer to achieving its goals, and the Bureau of Sanitation seeks to take advantage of further opportunities to recycle more materials. With the support of the Carton Council, the City was able to move forward with this important effort.

#### ***What types of food and beverage cartons can be recycled?***

Refrigerated cartons such as milk, juice, cream, and egg substitutes that are found in the chilled sections of grocery stores, and non-refrigerated cartons such as juice boxes, soup and broth, soy milk, and wine cartons found on the shelves in grocery stores.

#### ***How do I recycle my cartons?***

Completely empty the carton of all liquid before recycling. All recyclables should be empty, clean and dry to prevent damage to other recyclable commodities. Then simply place the cartons in your blue recycling bin (the same as for your glass, metals, paper, cardboard, plastics and expanded polystyrene).

#### ***As a residential customer, will this cost me anything?***

No. It is a no cost, added value to your Solid Resources Fee that enhances the solid resource collection services provided by the City of Los Angeles. Better yet, the addition of carton recycling helps to minimize landfill costs and delay future increases to the City's cost of solid waste disposal. For every ton of recyclables, the City saves the sum total of recycling revenue and avoided disposal costs.

## **Launch of Carton Recycling in City of Los Angeles**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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#### ***Why should I recycle my cartons? What is the importance of this program?***

Simply put, there is a cost savings to ratepayers and the City, and it's good for the environment. It offers potential revenue from the sale of recycled cartons, saves renewable resources and reduces the volume of trash needed to be landfilled.

#### ***How did the Carton Council help the City of Los Angeles implement this program?***

The Carton Council acted as a facilitator to support the City's efforts to add carton recycling to its residential curbside programs. A key step was working with the City's recycling processors - with the City and the Carton Council collaborating with the processors to ensure cartons would be marketable as a recyclable commodity before they would be added to the City's program. The Council provides technical assistance and market support to Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) for equipment upgrades, operational changes and broker services as these MRF's begin to accept and sell cartons to mills around the world. The Carton Council is also supporting City staff as they began the process of educating the public about carton recycling.

#### ***Are cartons recycled in other parts of the country?***

Yes. Nearly one in three households across nearly 40 states can recycle cartons. In California alone, over 200 cities recycle cartons. The City of Los Angeles is now the largest city in the state that has carton recycling systems in place for the convenience of their residents.

#### ***How many tons of cartons are expected to be recycled per year?***

As awareness of carton recycling grows among consumers, the number of tons collected per year is expected to increase in the future. From residential collection, the Bureau of Sanitation anticipates collecting an estimated 430 tons of cartons. Studies show that adding more materials into a municipal recycling program increases household participation and the total amount of materials that households will recycle. Higher recycling participation and recycling volume will enable the City of Los Angeles to reach higher diversion of waste from landfill.

#### ***How much does the City of Los Angeles currently recycle (cans, bottles, etc.)?***

The City diverts and recycles approximately 6.5 million tons of material each year, which represents 65-percent of the City's 10.1 million tons of solid waste – more than any big city in the nation. The short term objective is to achieve a 70-percent waste diversion by 2013. Our future Solid Waste Integrated Plan (SWIRP) goal is to achieve zero waste by implementing advanced Alternative Technologies to use the residual non-recyclable solid waste as a resource for the production of clean energy.

#### ***What are cartons made from?***

Cartons are mainly made from paper as well as very thin layers of polyethylene (plastic) and/or aluminum. Refrigerated cartons contain about 80% paper and 20% polyethylene, while non-refrigerated cartons contain on average 74% paper, 22% polyethylene, and 4% aluminum. And depending upon the type of carton, 60% to 85% of these products are made from a renewable resource that is responsibly replenished.

## Launch of Carton Recycling in City of Los Angeles

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### ***How are cartons recycled? Is it difficult? What happens after they are placed in the blue recycling bin?***

The process to recycle cartons is rather simple. After cartons are collected curbside, they are delivered to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), better known as a recycling facility, where they are separated from other recyclable materials such as glass.

Once sorted and baled, the processor will then sell the material to their best available market. Cartons have global demand and are shipped to paper mills, where the carton fibers are converted into pulp and separated in a hydropulper (imagine a giant blender). The pulp is made into new and useful products.

#### ***What is the recycled material made into?***

The recycled carton paper fibers are a valuable resource for making new products, and consist of some of the highest quality fiber among recyclable products. Most paper mills that recycle cartons manufacture tissue and paper toweling products. By participating in recycling, your cartons are turned into value-added products you use every day.

#### ***Is there a waxy coating on cartons? Does it prevent cartons from being recycled?***

Cartons DO NOT contain wax. What you may see as wax is actually a thin layer of polyethylene (plastic). Like any commodity, when the material is sent to the right end market the recycling process is efficient and easy. Cartons are made mostly from paper and they are typically sold to one of 150 specialized paper mills worldwide.

***What happens to the aluminum and plastic left over after the carton recycling process in a paper mill?*** The aluminum and plastic left over can be used in different ways. Some mills sell it to plastic manufacturers that turn the product into building materials such as lumber board or shipping pallets. Others use the material for generating energy. Yet in some instances, the material ends up in a landfill. The Carton Council is working with paper mills to find the highest and best use for the residual material while taking into consideration environmental and financial aspects.

#### ***What is the value of the recycled material in the marketplace?***

Like all recycled materials, commodity prices vary based on supply, demand, the economy and other variables such as geographic location, transportation and fuel costs. Recovered cartons are typically priced as a percentage of Sorted Office Paper, a commonly traded recovered high-grade paper commodity. Once established as a mainstream recycling commodity these cartons will carry a more specific pricing level.

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