

Single-stream recycling fails

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Sept. 22 -- The city of Auburn, Maine, is moving away from its single-stream recycling for curbside pickup and will instead offer a dual-sort program, the Sun Journal reported.

Going forward, paper and cardboard will go into one bin, the newspaper said, while plastic, glass and metal would go in a second.

"The problem with a single-stream program is that it renders most of the commodities recycled practically worthless," Dom Casavant, chairman of the city's Solid Waste Subcommittee, was quoted by the paper as saying during Monday's Auburn City Council meeting.

The main reason for the switch is that broken glass from bottles and jars gets mixed in with paper and cardboard, Casavant told the newspaper, and that reduces their value.

The dual-sort program will cost \$128,000 -- \$7,000 more than single-stream -- and will need a half-a-truck more to complete the daily route, the newspaper said.

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