Written by Douglas Bridges-O'Connor, Daily Vidette Senior Staff
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A proposed curbside recycling program for residents of Normal received mixed reactions from member of the community who attended the Town Council meeting on February 6.

The proposed program provides residents with the option to have all of their recyclable materials collected at the curb on regularly scheduled waste removal days, rather than the current "drop box" program.

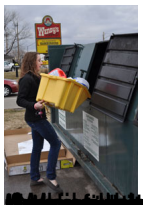
"I think this proposed curbside recycling program would be more convenient for the user and similar programs have been shown to increase participation rates among residents," Michael Brown, executive director of the Ecology Action Center, said.

However, a number of residents voiced their opposition to the proposal. Some are concerned with the idea of buying a new, larger recycling bin. Others are worried the program, if implemented, will not receive enough participation to offset associated costs.

Residents are against the increase to their monthly waste bills, which will increase from $10 to $12 if the program is implemented.

"There are those that don't like the fact that there's an additional fee that we're proposing that would increase general waste fees from $10 to $12 a month, which covers all of the waste services we provide. They don't feel the increase is justified. Others don't like the fact that they would have to acquire another recycling container and store in their garage or someplace out of public view because they just don't have the means or the space for it."

"And finally, some people like the drop box program, they think it works well and they don't like the idea that we're expanding service levels right now while things are still not so great with our federal economy," Mark Peterson, Normal city manager, said.



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