

# SUPPLYING RUBBISH / RECYCLING CARTS FOR TOWN SERVICES





# Anticipated Questions

- ***How many carts would each household receive?***
  - Each household would receive (1) 64 gal. rubbish cart, and (1) 64 gal. recycle cart.
- ***How many carts will the Town need to purchase?***
  - The Town would have to purchase approximately 7,400 rubbish carts, and 7,800 recycle carts.
- ***How much will this cost, and how will it be funded?***
  - April (2023) Town Meeting would be asked to approve \$900k to purchase carts.
- ***Have grant opportunities been explored to fund this?***
  - Yes. Grant opportunities have been found for funding recycling carts (only).
  - MassDEP grant restricts the weekly household rubbish allowance to 35 gal. (Town is not eligible.)
  - Recycling Partnership grant – provides funding for purchasing recycle carts, and implementing recycling education/outreach efforts. Recycling Partnership is a national non-profit organization.

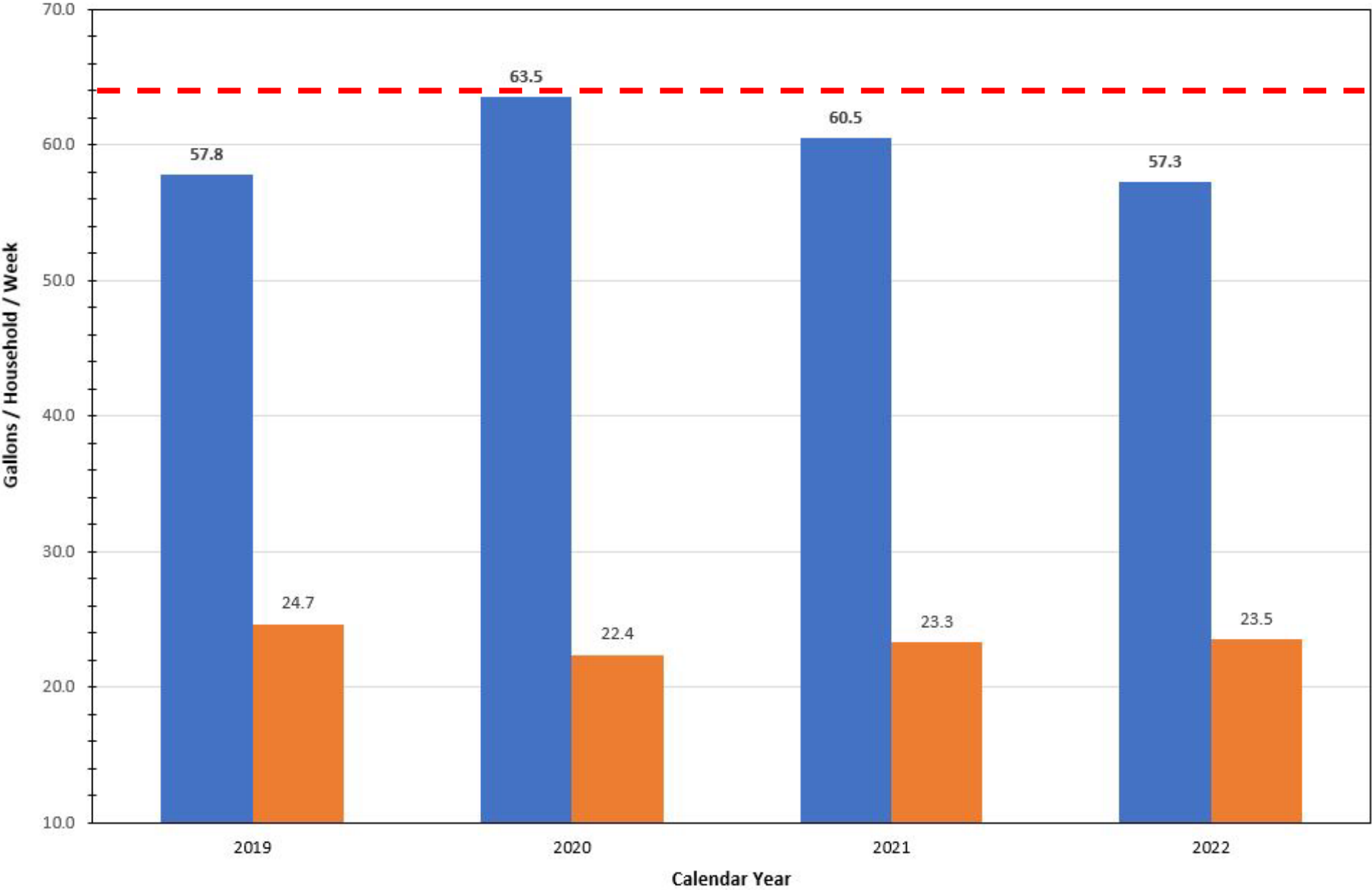
# Anticipated Questions (cont.)

- ***What would be the benefit of switching to carts now?***
  - Having carts in place now would ensure a smooth transition if the Town decided to switch to automated collection when the current rubbish/recycle contract expires 6/2026, and would add flexibility in that the carts would not be tied to a change in collection contracts.
- ***If funding is approved, when could residents expect to see their carts?***
  - There is at least a 6 to 8 week lead time, allowing for possible delivery in Fall 2023.
- ***Is Republic Services on board if the Town switched to carts?***
  - Republic Services sees this as an improvement over our current process, no concerns.
- ***How will the cart program be rolled out?***
  - The vendor would perform the initial delivery of the rubbish and recycling carts to each household, and then the Department of Public Works would perform maintenance and deliverables as needed (10 – 12 year warranty on carts).

# Anticipated Questions (cont.)

- ***Why would the Town only provide (1) 64 gal. rubbish cart to each household, when the current rubbish limit is 120 gal. per household?***
  - From surveying Reading's peer communities, providing (1) 64 gal. rubbish cart per household would align Reading with what our other peer communities are already doing.
  - Data shows that the average amount of rubbish generated by a single Reading household is less than 64-gallons per week.
- ***What options exist if a resident has more than 64 gal. of rubbish per week?***
  - Residents could purchase the 30 gal. overflow bags to be placed with their rubbish cart.
  - Residents could subscribe to the Black Earth Compost curbside collection program to eliminate food scraps from their rubbish stream and reduce their weekly curbside rubbish volume.
  - Each household could obtain 1 additional rubbish cart (64 gal.) for an annual charge; an extra recycle cart (64 gal.) could be obtained for no additional charge.

Average Weekly Household Rubbish & Recycling Curbside Volumes



*64-gal. cart*

- Rubbish
- Recycling

# Anticipated Questions (cont.)

- ***What are the pros/cons of an overflow bag versus an extra cart?***
  - PRO: Bags are more economical when you might only have extra rubbish periodically.
  - PRO: Bags offer the least administrative alternative for the Town.
  - PRO: An extra cart gives the convenience of already having it on hand when it's needed.
  - CON: An extra cart would require additional storage for a household.
  - CON: Allowing an extra cart creates logistical challenges for Town staff, since the Town would be responsible for storing and distributing the extra carts, as well as managing resident payment options.
- ***How will residents dispose of bulk items?***
  - Residents would still be allowed to place 1 bulk item curbside per week with their rubbish. A bulk item is defined as a piece of furniture, toilet/tub, grill, lawnmower, countertop microwave, etc. (not over 60#)
- ***What can residents do with their old rubbish and recycle containers?***
  - The old red recycle bins make great storage containers.
  - Any plastic containers can be recycled at a rigid plastic collection event.
  - Any metal containers can be recycled through the curbside scrap metal collection held annually.