



Hi everyone, John Hilton here, owner of Helena Recycling. I want to clarify a few things, so people have accurate information.

Helena Recycling has provided curbside recycling service in Helena since 2009. We've also serviced the City of Helena curbside contract for the past 10 years. After it expired, the City of Helena was required to put the contract out for bid. Helena Recycling submitted a bid and was awarded the new contract.

One of the changes in the new contract is that Helena Recycling is now responsible for billing. Unfortunately, it can no longer be included with the City of Helena water bill. Because of that change, we now handle billing for the program directly and are billing quarterly instead of monthly.

Our curbside recycling rates have not increased in the past eight years. During that time, operating costs including fuel, labor, insurance, equipment, and processing have continued to rise. Even with the recent rate adjustment, Helena's program remains one of the lowest-cost curbside recycling services in Montana.

I was born and raised in Montana. In 2009 I started this recycling business out of my home with one old pick-up and a home-made trailer. In 2016 I opened a recycling center which allows us to process and ship all our own recyclables. This includes recyclables from the transfer station, Tri County Disposal/Republic, and numerous businesses in Helena. I work hard to provide recycling options for all of Helena and its surrounding residents. I employ eight local folks, and my employees are professional, courteous, and take pride in their work, as many of our customers can attest.

In 2025 alone, we diverted 3,123 tons (6,246,000 lbs.) worth of recyclable materials that would have ended up in our local landfill.

If anyone would like to take a tour of our facility and learn more about how recycling in Helena works, please contact me at [john@helenarecycling.com](mailto:john@helenarecycling.com). I'd be happy to show you around!

We understand that any changes can be frustrating, and we truly appreciate those folks in our community who choose to participate in the convenience of curbside recycling.

If anyone has additional questions about the program or the recent changes, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Thank you,

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