

curbside journal

FALL/WINTER 2011

NO-FEE YARD WASTE COLLECTION OCT. 3 AND 17

City Expands Plastic Recycling

Recycling in East Lansing just got a little easier! The City is now accepting #1-7 plastic containers, including items such as butter tubs, yogurt cups and more.

Prior to this change, the City could only accept #1 and #2 bottles. According to East Lansing Environmental Specialist David Smith, the change is the result of expanded markets for plastics and advanced sorting technologies.

“The City is always working with our processor, Granger Recycling Center, to find new markets for products we can add to our recycling stream,” said Smith. “Demand for recycled plastics has increased over the last couple of years, presenting us with an opportunity to begin collecting these new items.”

The change allows residents to recycle #1-7 plastic containers curbside and at the City’s two drop-off sites, with a couple of exceptions. Plastic bottle caps can be recycled, but should be removed from the bottle. Plastic bags, five gallon buckets, plastic strapping and Styrofoam will not be accepted. As in the past, bottles that have large amounts of residue on them or those that contain hazardous waste (i.e. paint, oil, antifreeze) will also not be accepted.

“Expanding the City’s plastic recycling options is a great idea and service for East Lansing residents. It will reduce landfill costs and provide new uses for these plastics. East Lansing has one of the best and most comprehensive recycling programs around and this makes it even better with little added cost,” said East Lansing resident Mike Vasievich.



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Recycle Rama to Take Place this September

The fall Recycle Rama event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Ingham County Health Department parking lot, 5303 South Cedar St. in Lansing.

Ingham County residents can recycle or donate for reuse the following items: books, clothing, shoes (in pairs), bicycles, appliances/scrap metal, unwanted medicines, compact fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermostats, mercury thermometers, cooking oil, electronics, household batteries, corks, eye glasses, fabric/yarn, Styrofoam and glass bottles/jars

(including green glass).

Some of the items require special handling. Mercury thermostats and thermometers should be left intact and placed in a sealed Ziploc bag. Unwanted medicines should be kept in the original container and personal information (including the prescription number) should be blacked out on the bottle.

Community members can find more important Recycle Rama information at www.cityofeastlansing.com or by calling the City of Lansing at (517) 483-4400.

Project Pride Numbers

This year's annual Project Pride community cleanup and recycling event was one of the most successful ever thanks to residents who participated and more than 100 volunteers.

Over 88,000 pounds of materials were recycled or donated for reuse - an increase of more than 14,000 pounds over the previous record. The most popular station this year was the free electronics recycling, which brought in close to 34,000 pounds of e-waste. Another popular station was the free document shredding, which collected over 4,000 pounds of paper for recycling. The City is looking forward to hosting Project Pride again next year and encourages residents to volunteer!

recycling guide

1.) Brown Paper Bags

Can be recycled at both drop-off sites. Do not bundle. Place with corrugated cardboard.

2.) Plastic Bottles/Containers

Plastic containers #1 - #7 can be recycled at both drop-off sites and curbside. Please remove caps from bottles. No plastic bags, strapping or Styrofoam. Rinse clean. No bottles with oil, antifreeze or other household hazardous waste or residue.

3.) Boxboard

Can be recycled at both drop-off sites. Break down boxes. Dry only. No refrigerator or freezer items (i.e. milk cartons, soda cases).

4.) Newspapers

Can be recycled at both drop-off sites and curbside. Keep clean/dry. Inserts accepted, place in separate bag.

5.) Mixed Paper & Phone Books

Can be recycled at both drop-off sites and curbside. Keep dry. Includes copier paper, stationery, colored paper and envelopes. No carbon, construction, fax, wrapping, tissue paper, manila envelopes, labels, tape or self-stick flaps. Bundle/bag separately.

6.) Magazines

Can be recycled at both drop-off sites and curbside. Shiny/glossy only. Bundle with string/twine.

7.) Glass Bottles (Clear, Brown)

Can be recycled at the State Road drop-off site and curbside. Rinse clean, remove lids. Do not break. Food and beverage only - no ceramic, Pyrex™ or window glass. Separate by color. No green, blue or yellow glass.

8.) Tin/Steel/Aluminum Cans, Foil

Can be recycled at the State Road drop-off site and curbside. Rinse clean. Must be empty.

9.) Corrugated Cardboard

Can be recycled at both drop-off sites. Break down boxes. Dry only.

*Drop-off sites are located at 1800 E. State Road and 841 Timberlane St.

Last Chance for Free CFL Bulbs

Over the past several months, the East Lansing Department of Public Works has handed out more than 11,000 free energy efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to residents. The bulbs were provided through a Michigan Public Service Commission grant to increase the energy efficiency of homes. Residents who have yet to pick up a pair of bulbs, shouldn't wait much longer to stop by DPW. There are less than 1,000 left to give out! DPW is located at 1800 E. State Road.

Seasonal Recycling Site to Open in October

The City's seasonal recycling site at Patriarche Park will open in early October for the collection of cardboard and boxboard. The site will remain open until spring when park use picks up again - around mid-April.

City Receives Grant for Recycling Bins

The City was recently awarded a Keep America Beautiful Lend-a-bin grant for 20 new recycling containers. The grant program, established by the Anheuser-Busch Foundation, supports local community recycling programs by providing portable bins to organizations, which can be used to collect recyclable beverage containers in public settings. The City plans to use the bins during festivals, special programs and at City parks and outdoor facilities.

yard waste program

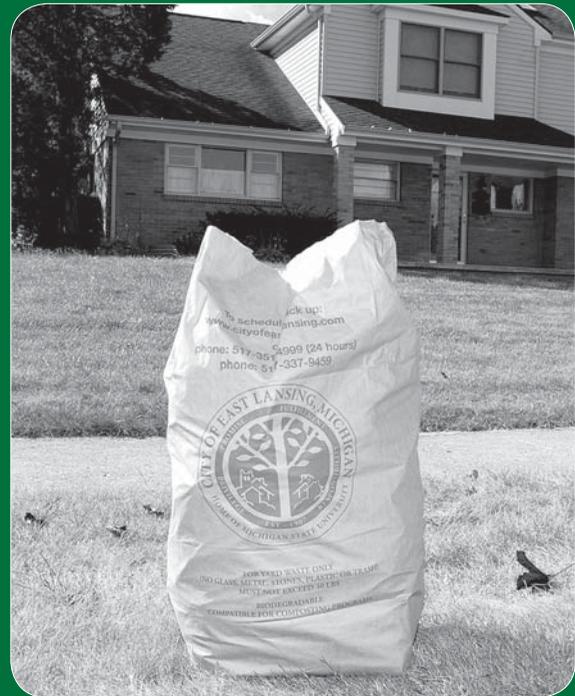
The City's regular curbside yard waste collection will run through Nov. 28. Collections occur on Mondays, except during holidays.

Yard waste includes leaves, plant material, grass clippings and brush/limbs. All yard waste should be placed in City paper bags or non-City paper bags with a yard waste sticker attached. Visit

www.cityofeastlansing.com to view a list of locations where bags and stickers can be purchased. Bags must weigh no more than 40 pounds. Please do not use Easy Carts or plastic bags. Brush may be bundled with string or twine. Bundles must be no more than 4 feet long and 1 foot in diameter and weigh no more than 40 pounds. Individual limbs must be 4 inches or less. Each bundle must have a yard waste sticker.

Advance request is required for regular curbside yard waste collection. The fastest, easiest and preferred way to submit a request is via an online form at www.cityofeastlansing.com/collectionrequest. Requests can also be made by calling the 24-hour number at (517) 351-4999 or DPW at (517) 337-9459.

Special no-fee yard waste collection days are Oct. 3 and Oct. 17. Advance request, City bags and stickers are not required. All other requirements apply. Fall bulk leaf collection is scheduled for the weeks of Oct. 17, Oct. 31 and Nov. 14 on the east side of the City and Oct. 24, Nov. 7 and Nov. 21 on the west side. The east side includes the area from the east limits at Park Lake Road and Timberlane Street to Abbot Road, including Whitehills. The west side includes the area from the west limits at Coolidge and West roads to Abbot Road. All loose yard waste (except brush/limbs) can be raked to the curb for free collection.



Christmas Tree Recycling Options for Residents

Each year the City recycles approximately 1,000 live-cut Christmas trees.

This year, residents can drop off their trees through Jan. 13 at Patriarche Park (lot on Alton Road), Emerson Park (Arbor Drive entrance), Fine Park (lot at Winchester Drive), Valley Court Park (south of community center) and White Memorial Park (lot at Pebblebrook Lane). Residents can also recycle trees curbside on Jan. 9 without prior phone request or stickers. Due to holidays on Jan. 2 and 16, the City will only have one



curbside tree collection this year.

Residents are asked to please cut trees taller than 6 feet in half and remove all bags, decorations and stands.

No-Fee Holiday Refuse Collection

This year's annual no-fee holiday refuse collection will take place Dec. 20-Dec. 30.

During this time, residents can dispose of extra refuse without the use of a yellow City trash bag. Refuse is collected on residents' normal collection day only, except where changes are necessary due to the holidays - see the calendar on page 5. Yard waste and bulk items are not included. All bags must weigh no more than 40 pounds. The City encourages residents to help keep disposal costs down by recycling their extra corrugated cardboard and boxboard at the City's drop-off sites.

Holiday Light Recycling Options for Residents

Like many people out there, East Lansing residents probably have a couple strands of holiday lights that only light up half way or flicker on and off like Clark Griswold's in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation.

If that is the case, those lights can be recycled through the City's holiday light recycling program. Light strands can be recycled in residents' curbside recycling bin on their regular collection day Nov. 17-Dec. 2. Strands can also be dropped off in specially marked containers located inside the East Lansing Department of Public Works, 1800 E. State Road, and the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road.

green your holidays

The following are tips from Keep America Beautiful to reduce the amount of energy/waste residents generate during the holidays:

- 1.) Save and reuse gift boxes, bags and bows from last season.
- 2.) Make gift tags from old greeting cards and recycle the scraps. Be creative with gift wrapping - use reusable containers, fabric scraps, etc.
- 3.) Donate unwanted gifts, as well as old or used clothing and toys to a local charity.
- 4.) Buy rechargeable batteries for gifts.
- 5.) Buy a live tree and replant it after the holidays.
- 6.) Use energy efficient holiday lighting, like compact fluorescent and LED lights. Use timers on lighting.
- 7.) Turn down the heat in homes before guests arrive as extra body heat and heat from cooking and lighting will warm the house.
- 8.) Walk and car pool to parties and consolidate shopping trips.

calendar

September

17 Recycle Rama

October

3 No-fee yard waste collection. No bulk item pickup.

17 No-fee yard waste collection. No bulk item pickup. Bulk leaf pickup begins on east side of City.

24 Bulk leaf pickup on west side of City.

31 Bulk leaf pickup on east side of City.

November

7 Bulk leaf pickup on west side of City.

11 DPW closed for Veteran's Day. Friday refuse & recycling collected Monday.

14 Last week for bulk leaf pickup on east side of City.

21 Last week for bulk leaf pickup on west side of City.

24-25 DPW closed for Thanksgiving. No refuse, recycling or bulk leaf collection. Thursday and Friday refuse and recycling collected Friday. No bulk leaf collection Friday.

28 Last day for curbside yard waste collection.

Calendar continued on page 6.

LED Light Exchange to be Offered Nov. 17-Dec. 2

The East Lansing Department of Public Works (DPW) is partnering with the Lansing Board of Water & Light's (BWL) Hometown Energy Savers program to provide free holiday Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights. BWL residential electric customers can exchange a string of their old, working incandescent holiday lights for a new box of LED holidays lights. LED lights are safer, brighter, last longer and provide up to 90 percent in energy savings.

The light exchange will run Nov. 17-Dec. 2 at the DPW office, 1800 E. State Road (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.); the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, during hours of operation; and the BWL's Customer Service Center, 1232 Haco Drive in Lansing (M-F, 8 a.m.-5:30



p.m.). Supplies will be limited to the first 750 households that apply.

Bring a valid Michigan ID and a current BWL electric bill to participate. There will be a limit of two strands of LED lights per household. There is no limit on the number of incandescent lights that can be dropped off for recycling.

Proper Paint Disposal Tips

The City has recently had several incidents of paint spilled along the streets because of paint being improperly disposed of in Easy Carts. City crews, not knowing paint is in bins, have emptied them into trash vehicles where the cans rupture and leak out onto the roadway.

This causes a mess the City must clean up and makes for upset drivers who drive through the paint and track it onto the side of their car. Wet paint should never be placed in an

Easy Cart. Latex (water-based) paint may be disposed of in Easy Carts only after it has completely dried out. The lid should be removed in these cases. Oil-based paints should never be disposed of with refuse. They can be disposed of through the county's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program. The county accepts HHW items every Thursday from 2-6 p.m., April-September. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com to learn more about the HHW program.

Refuse & Recycling Basics for New City Residents

New residents of East Lansing are encouraged to participate in the City's refuse and recycling collection programs.

The City provides refuse collection for single family households, duplexes and rental properties with one to four units. Refuse can be disposed of in either an Easy Cart or yellow City-issued trash bags. Residents have the option of purchasing a 32-, 64- or 96-gallon Easy Cart. The 32-gallon Easy Cart has a one-time purchase price of \$55 with no annual collection fee, the 64-gallon Easy Cart has a one-time purchase price of \$60 with no annual collection fee and the 96-gallon Easy Cart has a purchase price of \$70 with a \$75 annual collection fee. The yellow City-issued trash bags can be purchased in packages of five for \$7.50 at numerous locations throughout the City, including but not limited to East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road; the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road; and the East Lansing Department of Public Works (DPW), 1800 E. State Road.

The City collects recyclables curbside from single-family homes, duplexes and small, multi-family homes with up to 20 units. Recyclables are collected



weekly on the same day as refuse collection and should be placed at the curb by 7:30 a.m. Community members can view a map of refuse/recycling routes color coded by day at www.cityofeastlansing.com.

There is no fee to recycle, however, recyclables must be placed in a blue City-issued recycling bin, which can be purchased for a one-time fee of \$6.50. Recycle bins and Easy Carts are available for purchase at DPW, 1800 E. State Road, or by placing an order over the phone at (517) 337-9459.

In addition to curbside recycling, there are two year-round drop-off recycling sites located at DPW and 841 Timberlane St. Consult the recycling guide on page 2 or visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/recycle_guide to learn what can be recycled.

calendar

December

- 20 Special no-fee holiday refuse collection will run Dec. 20-30. Bulk items and yard waste not included.
- 23 DPW office closed for Christmas Eve holiday. Friday's refuse and recycling will be collected.
- 26 DPW closed for Christmas holiday. No bulk item collection.

January

- 2 DPW closed for New Year's holiday. No bulk item collection.
- 9 Curbside Christmas tree collection. No bulk item pickup.
- 13 Last day to drop off live-cut Christmas trees at drop-off sites.
- 16 DPW closed for MLK holiday. No bulk item pickup.

February

- 20 DPW closed for Presidents' Day. No bulk item pickup.



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