

Curbside Journal

No-Fee Yard Waste Collection April 17 and May 1

The Importance of Clean Recycling

City staff hears frequently from residents who express how happy they are with East Lansing’s curbside recycling program. The greater variety of materials that can now be recycled, the reduction in waste residents have seen in their household and the City’s monthly collection volumes, which have more than doubled, speak to the success of the new program.

When it comes to recycling, though, a community’s work is never done. Maintaining a clean, uncontaminated recycling stream takes effort and vigilance.

Contamination, meaning the inclusion of unacceptable materials, increases City costs, lowers the value of recyclable materials and causes unsafe conditions for employees sorting those materials. Plastic bags and Styrofoam are two of the biggest and most concerning contaminants that City staff has seen. Residents often ask why plastic bags are not accepted. Material recovery facility employees often sort recyclables by hand and are in direct contact with all materials. When plastic bags are improperly mixed into the stream, the bags entwine in equipment, causing unsafe conditions and increased costs. Most grocery stores will now take plastic bags.

Residents are urged to help keep East Lansing’s recycling stream clean:

- Plastic bags are not an acceptable material in recycling carts. Items should be placed loose in carts without the use of plastic bags. The only exception is shredded paper, which can and should be placed in clear plastic bags.
- Styrofoam, yard waste, plastic film, textiles, food waste, cords and wood can’t be recycled in recycling carts. Staff must reject carts that include unacceptable items in order to protect the value of recyclables collected.



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For more information about the curbside recycling program, visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/recycle.



2017 Curbside Recycling Schedule

JANUARY

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29	30	31				

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DECEMBER

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Placement Guidelines and Information

- Carts should have at least 3 ft. of clearance on all sides.
- All recycling should be contained within carts with lids closed and the lid opening facing the street.
- Place cart at curb no earlier than 8 p.m. the day before collection and no later than 7:30 a.m. the day of collection.
- No plastic bags, styrofoam, yard waste, food waste, etc.
- Not sure whether you are in green week or blue week? Unsure of your collection day? Call (517) 337-9459 or visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/recycle.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING GUIDE

	Material	Details (single stream, no sorting required)
	Glass Bottles & Jars	Paper labels acceptable • All colors accepted, including green
	Tin, Foil, Steel & Aluminum Cans	Paper labels acceptable • All sizes accepted • Remove food residue
	Household Scrap Metal	Includes metal pots/pans, metal trays, metal bakeware, metal utensils, etc. • Empty aerosol containers accepted • NO wire hangers
	Plastic Bottles & Containers	Labeled #1-#7 (NO #3 PVC, Styrofoam or plastic bags)
	Bulky Rigid Plastic	Includes buckets, lawn chairs, toys, bins, etc. (look for HDPE symbol)
	Cartons	Includes milk cartons, juice cartons/boxes, etc.
	Newspapers, Magazines & Phone Books	Includes inserts • NO plastic bags or packaging wrap
	Paper	Includes office paper, junk mail, envelopes, file folders, cards, paper bags, shredded paper in secured clear plastic bag, etc.
	Boxboard	Includes dry food/cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc.
	Corrugated Cardboard	Break down boxes
	Clothing/Textiles	Only in green Simple Recycling bags
	Small Household Goods/ Appliances/Electronics	Only in green Simple Recycling bags

Simple Recycling Makes it Easy

Since the start of the City's partnership with Simple Recycling in 2014, close to 200,000 lbs of material has been collected for reuse or recycling; that is 100 tons of material diverted from the landfill! Acceptable materials include textiles, shoes, pillows, toys, jewelry, purses, small appliances, lamps, small furniture, dishes, pictures and more. Residents simply put their green Simple Recycling bags (or boxes with the Simple Recycling sticker) next to their curbside recycling on their regular recycling day. Simple Recycling will leave more bags each time you use this convenient free service. Need extra bags? Visit East Lansing City Hall, the EL Hannah Community Center or DPW during normal business hours or call Simple Recycling at (866) 835-5068. Bags can also be requested at <http://simplerecycling.com/supplies/>.

CFL, Battery Recycling

CFL Bulbs can be recycled at the East Lansing Department of Public Works (DPW), East Lansing City Hall and the East Lansing Hannah Community Center.

Due to recent cost increases for battery recycling, battery recycling will only be available at DPW as of March 13.

Document Destruction Day

The Old Town Commercial Association and Friedland Industries will host a Document Destruction Day on Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. This free event will take place at 405 E. Maple Street in Lansing. Learn more at www.friedlandindustries.com.

Controlled Medication Drop Box

The East Lansing Police Department, 409 Park Lane, hosts a drop box where residents can properly dispose of controlled medications. Pain relievers, anti-depressants, sleep aids, behavior modification medications and cough medications are accepted. All personal information should be blacked out or removed. This program is provided by the Ingham County Health Department and is made possible through a Pollution Prevention Grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.



Yard Waste Program

Yard waste includes leaves, plant materials, grass clippings and brush/limbs.

Containing Yard Waste

There are three ways to contain yard waste (no-fee days are exempt from City bag/sticker requirement, all other guidelines apply):

- City paper yard waste bags
- Rigid, 32-gallon plastic container or paper bag with City yard waste sticker (do not use Easy Carts, recycling carts or plastic bags to dispose of yard waste)
- Bundled (with string or twine) with a City yard waste sticker
- No more than 40 pounds

Bags and stickers can be purchased at locations throughout East Lansing. Call (517) 337-9459 or visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/yardwaste for details. Yard waste may be placed at the curb after 8 p.m. the day before collection or no later than 7:30 a.m. on the day of collection. Prior to that, it should be stored in a dry location.

Disposing of Yard Waste

Curbside Yard Waste Collection (April 3-Nov. 20)

Curbside collection takes place on Mondays (excluding holidays) from April 3-Nov. 20. Bags must weigh no more than 40 pounds. Bundles may 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 in diameter or less.

Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/collectionrequest or call DPW at (517) 337-9459 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to request a pickup. Online requests must be made by 7 a.m. on the Monday of collection and phone requests must be made by 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Monday collection.

No-Fee Curbside Yard Waste Collection (April 17 and May 1)

Dispose of yard waste for free on April 17 and May 1. Yard waste must be placed in a paper yard waste bag/rigid plastic container or bundled and placed at the curb by 7:30 a.m. Advanced requests and City bags/stickers are not required. All other guidelines apply.

Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/yardwaste for additional details.

Recycle! East Lansing to Take Place June 3

Recycle! East Lansing, East Lansing's annual spring recycling event for community members, will take place on Saturday, June 3 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Abbott Center, 1400-1500 Abbot Road.

Numerous household items will be accepted for reuse, recycling and proper disposal. Items that will be accepted include small appliances, clothing, shoes, textiles, books, scrap metal, scrap wood, polystyrene, bicycles, medication, cell phones and more. There will be a charge of \$20 each to recycle all televisions and computer monitors - cash or checks only. Other electronics can be recycled free of charge. Lansing Board of Water & Light customers that recycle a working room air conditioner or dehumidifier will receive a \$25 rebate per working unit.

Interested in volunteering at the event? Contact Environmental Services Administrator Cathy DeShambo at cdesham@cityofeastlansing.com or (517) 319-6936 for more information. Learn more about Recycle! East Lansing at www.cityofeastlansing.com/RecycleEL.

Disposing of Household Hazardous Waste

Ingham County's Household Hazardous Waste collections run May-September on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-6 p.m., at the Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St.

Items accepted include pesticides, oil-based paints and more. Call (517) 887-4312 for more information.

For steps on properly disposing of partial cans of latex paint, visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/311/Latex-Paint-Disposal.

Calendar

April

- 3 Curbside Yard Waste Collection Begins
- 8 Recycle Rama
- 17 No-Fee Yard Waste Collection
No Bulk Item Collection this Day
- 22 Earth Day & Document Destruction Day at Friedland Industries
- 28 Arbor Day

May

- 1 No-Fee Yard Waste Collection
No Bulk Item Collection this Day
- 29 Memorial Day
No Yard Waste or Bulk Item Collection

June

- 3 Recycle! East Lansing
- 4 East Lansing Farmer's Market Opening Day

July

- 4 Independence Day, DPW Closed
Tuesday's & Wednesday's Refuse/
Recycling Collected Wednesday

September

- 5 Labor Day
No Yard Waste or Bulk Item Collection



First Regional Community Solar Park Now Leasing Panels

The City of East Lansing is pleased to share that the first community solar park in mid-Michigan is now leasing panels to BWL electric customers. Community solar provides business and residential customers in the BWL electric service territory with the opportunity to support solar energy without having to install panels on their property. Solar supporters will sign a 25-year lease and pay a single, up-front cost of \$399 per panel. The BWL will provide a monthly on-bill credit to lessees, reflective of the amount of solar energy generated per panel.

Leases are limited. BWL customers are encouraged to reserve their panels today in support of clean, local, renewable energy! Sign up at <https://micommunitysolar.org/sign-up>. Questions? Call (517) 337-0422 ext. 4 or email info@micommunitysolar.org.

Other BWL energy efficiency offerings include:

High Efficiency Products - Cash rebates from \$5-\$550 are available for the purchase and installation of qualifying equipment such as high efficiency central air conditioners, furnace motors (with new furnace), televisions, refrigerators and more. Rebate applications are available on BWL's website and at participating retailers.

Hometown Help - Customers can take advantage of a free in-home energy assessment to receive new products and learn about ways to save. At no cost, a BWL energy expert will schedule a time to come to a resident's home to install free high efficiency products and provide information on ways to be more efficient.

Visit lbwl.com/energysavers or call 800-573-3503 to learn more.



Out & About with DPW



Pictured Above: DPW Sanitation/ Recycling employees David Spitzley, Steven Scott and Rusty Perleberg. Congrats to Rusty on the birth of her new baby girl, Ava!



East Lansing Curbside Journal

Department of Public Works
1800 E. State Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 337-9459
cityofeastlansing.com/recycle

Questions? Email Cathy DeShambo at cdesham@cityofeastlansing.com.
Visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/RecycleEL.