

curbside journal

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

NO-FEE YARD WASTE COLLECTION APRIL 18 AND MAY 2

Who is R2C2?

The question often arises, “Who is R2C2 and what do they do here in the Greater Lansing community?”

R2C2 is short for the Regional Recycling Coordinating Committee, a group comprised of regional partners that has been in existence for more than 15 years. Representatives from several local municipalities make up the R2C2, including East Lansing, Lansing, Meridian Township, Delhi Township, as well as Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. The R2C2 group works to create awareness and action around resource recovery and conservation issues. R2C2 members co-sponsor special recycling collection events and environmental education for the Greater Lansing/Tri-County community.

For the past several years, the group has worked collaboratively to provide the regional electronics and book collections, as well as the rain barrel/compost bin truckload sales. The group also recently launched an effort to promote the use and recycling of rechargeable batteries in the community and have assisted each other with grants for special collections, such as the collection of unwanted medicines. The group’s efforts have become even more important in the past few years as municipal budgets have shrunk and the need to pool resources has increased.

Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com and search for “Regional Recycling Coordinating Committee” for more information. R2C2 will also be at the Lansing Home & Garden Show at the MSU Pavilion.



Also in this issue:

Recycling Guide	2
Yard Waste Program	3
Project Pride	4
Calendar	5



City Recycling and Refuse Disposal Basics

Here are some basics on the City of East Lansing's recycling/refuse programs:

The City collects recyclables curbside for single family homes, duplexes and small apartments with up to 20 units. Recyclables are collected weekly in the City's blue curbside recycling bin. There is no fee to recycle. Residents living in large apartment complexes can use the City's drop-off recycling sites, located at 1800 E. State Road and 841 Timberlane St. A list of items accepted curbside and/or at the drop-off sites is available in the

recycling guide below.

The City provides refuse services to single-family households, duplexes and households with up to four units. Refuse is collected weekly in an Easy Cart purchased through the City. Refuse that does not fit in the Cart can be placed in yellow City trash bags. Large or heavy refuse items that don't fit in a 32-gallon container or weigh more than 40 pounds must be disposed of through the City's bulk item collection. Residents can schedule a bulk item collection by calling (517) 337-9459.

Nominate an Environmental Leader

Do you know someone who is an outstanding local environmental advocate or a business that goes above and beyond to conserve resources?

The Tri-County Environmental Leadership Awards initiative publicly acknowledges residents, businesses, governments, educational institutions and non-profit organizations in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties that have implemented exemplary environmentally sustainable practices. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/tcela to submit a nomination by March 15.

recycling guide

1.) Brown Paper Bags

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

2.) Plastic Bottles/Cartons

Can be recycled at both drop-off sites and curbside. #1 PETE, clear and green only. No amber. #2 HDPE with seam on bottom and sides. Screw top #1 and #2 bottles only. Rinse clean, no caps or lids. No #3, #5 or #2 containers.

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.) Paper, Mixed

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.

Patriarche Recycle Site Open Through April

The City's seasonal recycling site at Patriarche Park, located at the corner of Saginaw Street and Alton Road, will remain open until spring when park use increases and the space is needed. The site will be closed sometime in mid-April and will re-open again in October. Residents can recycle their corrugated cardboard and boxboard at this temporary drop-off location.

ELROW Food Drive

Residents can donate non-perishable food to those in need this spring during the Department of Public Works' annual East Lansing Reducing our Waste (ELROW) Food Drive. Donations of canned or dry food items will be collected April 25-May 6 in residents' curbside recycling bin on regular collection days or can be dropped off at East Lansing City Hall, the East Lansing Public Library, the East Lansing Hannah Community Center or DPW. Items collected go to East Lansing's Haven House.

Document Destruction Day, April 16

The Old Town Commercial Association and Friedland Industries will be hosting a Document Destruction Day on Saturday, April 16 from 8 a.m.-noon. The event is free and open to the public. Friedland Industries is located at the corner of Center and Maple streets. Call (517) 482-3000 for more information.

yard waste program

The City's regular curbside yard waste collections will kick off on April 4 and run through the end of November. Collections occur on Mondays, except holidays during this period. Advance request is required for pickup. Call the 24-hour number at (517) 351-4999; the Department of Public Works (DPW) at (517) 337-9459; or e-mail a request via an online form at www.cityofeastlansing.com/collectionrequest.



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. Bags must weigh no more than 40 pounds. Please do not use Easy Carts or plastic bags for yard waste.

Brush may be bundled with string or twine. Bundles must be no more than four feet long and one foot in diameter and weigh no more than 40 pounds. Individual limbs must be four inches or less. Each bundle must have a yard waste sticker attached.

City yard waste bags and stickers can be purchased at the DPW office, 1800 E. State Road; City Hall, 410 Abbot Road; the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road; and the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road. In addition, several local retailers sell bags and/or stickers, visit www.cityofeastlansing.com for a list.

Special no-fee yard waste collection days are April 18 and May 2. Advance request, City bags and stickers are not required. All other yard waste requirements apply.

East Lansing to Host Project Pride on June 4

This year's Project Pride, an annual community cleanup and recycling event for East Lansing residents, is scheduled for Saturday, June 4.

Numerous household items will be accepted again this year for reuse, recycling and proper disposal. Items collected will include small appliances, tires, bicycles, scrap metal, electronics, clothing and much more. A special bin tag with important details will be placed in residents' recycling bins in early May.



Information will also be posted at www.cityofeastlansing.com. Interested in volunteering? Contact Susan Schmidt at (517) 333-3587.

Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Truckload Sale

Residents can save the date for the annual Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Truckload Sale sponsored by the Regional Recycling Coordinating Committee.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 21. The time and location is yet to be determined, so check at www.cityofeastlansing.com closer to the event date for the latest updates.

Compost bins are an effective way to handle yard waste while providing valuable nutrients to plants. Rain barrels are a great way to collect and conserve water for a garden or landscape.

Recycle Rama to Take Place Saturday, April 9

The first-ever Recycle Rama was held last fall and was very successful with more than 1,000 people participating in the event. Because of its popularity, another collection is scheduled for this spring on Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St. in Lansing. The event is open to Ingham County residents and some of the items collected for recycling/reuse include: books, clothing, bicycles, appliances, scrap metal, unwanted medicines and CFL light bulbs. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com for more information. Interested in volunteering? Contact Martha Knorek at (517) 887-4521.

recycling benefits

In 2010 residents recycled 1,400 tons of recyclables through the City's curbside and drop-off program.

Additionally, residents recycled or donated for reuse about 50 tons of materials through special collections such as Project Pride. In total, nearly 3 million pounds of material was recycled. Recycling volumes were down slightly from 2009, when 1,525 tons were collected.

The recycling efforts of East Lansing residents have numerous environmental benefits that can be quantified. Last year's recycling efforts prevented 175 refuse truckloads of material from being deposited in a landfill, reduced total air emissions by 975 tons, reduced waterborne waste by six tons, conserved 105,670 million btu's of energy and saved 12,332 trees.

The East Lansing Department of Public Works would like to extend a thank you to all who participated in last year's recycling programs. Keep up the good work in 2011! Your efforts make a difference!

calendar

April

- 4 Regular yard waste collection begins
- 9 Recycle Rama
- 16 Document Destruction Day, Friedland Industries
- 18 First no-fee yard waste collection
- 25 ELROW Food Drive begins

May

- 2 Final no-fee yard waste collection
- 5-6 Pack Up, Pitch In
- 6 Last day for ELROW Food Drive
- 21 Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Truckload Sale
- 30 Memorial Day holiday, no yard waste or bulk item collection

June

- 4 Project Pride

July

- 4 Independence Day holiday, no yard waste or bulk item collection

September

- 5 Labor Day holiday, no yard waste or bulk item collection

MSU Student Recycling Event to be Held May 5-6

The City will, once again, offer an off-campus drop-off location for the annual Pack Up, Pitch In student recycling event.

Off-campus students moving out of their homes/apartments this spring can drop off their unwanted items for recycling or reuse by a local charity. Items collected will include non-perishable food, clothing, shoes, furniture and electronics. The event will take place in the north parking lot of the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, on May 5 and 6 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.



Students should bring their MSU student i.d. Visit the “Recycle for a Greener East Lansing” Facebook page or www.cityofeastlansing.com for more information.

City Environmental News and Updates on Facebook

The East Lansing Department of Public Works (DPW) has made the transition from a group to a page on Facebook.

Residents can receive the latest environmental news, events announcements and program updates from DPW by clicking “like” on the new “Recycle for a Greener East Lansing” Facebook page. The page allows residents to receive DPW’s latest information right in their news feeds and also allows them to post questions and feedback regarding

East Lansing’s recycling programs and other public works services. The page is administered by East Lansing’s environmental specialist, David Smith.

The City of East Lansing also has a general Facebook page (search “City of East Lansing”), as well as a Twitter feed, www.twitter.com/CityofEL. Community members can “like” and or “follow” the City on these popular social networking sites to receive the latest news and information from the City’s various departments.

Environmental Tips for Yard Fertilizing

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams!

While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in rivers and lakes makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes canoeing, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

How Can You Care for Your Yard and Help Keep Our Environment Clean?

You can help keep our lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater clean by applying the following tips.

- Sweep it. Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into storm drains.
- Buy low and go slow. First, find out if you even need fertilizer! Contact your Michigan State University Extension office to get a soil test. If you do need it, choose a fertilizer with

no or low phosphorus - phosphorus causes algae growth. You can also use an organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, which causes less harm to water. Follow the manufacturer's recommended amounts and don't fertilize before a rain storm.

- Hire smart. Select a lawn care service that follows the practices noted above.
- Mow high. Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Also, remember that the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.
- Don't over water your lawn and garden. Consider using a drip system or soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- Go natural. Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. And, consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods whenever possible.
- Make fertilizer-free zones. Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams or storm drains. In recent years sources



of pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like excess fertilizer applications, cars leaking oil, pet waste and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too, and that adds up to a pollution solution! Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy.

Clean waterways provide recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water - and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater clean. For more easy steps on protecting lakes and streams, visit www.mywatersheds.org.



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