

Curbside Journal

No-Fee Yard Waste Collection April 15 & April 29

City Replaces Original Automated Refuse Trucks

After more than a decade of service, the City has retired its two original automated refuse collection trucks and replaced them with two new automated trucks with improved technologies.

The City piloted an automated refuse collection system in the late 1990's, which was implemented City-wide in 2002. Eleven years later, the City's Easy Cart program has proven to be popular with residents and has succeeded in making City operations more efficient and cost effective.



In more than a decade out on the roadways, the City's original Easy Cart refuse collection trucks have served more than 6,600 East Lansing residences on a weekly basis, hauling an average of close to 14,000 compacted cubic yards of waste per year.

The City's new automated trucks have improved technologies in efficiency, safety and emissions. The trucks' improved automated arm system is expected to require less maintenance. Additionally, these new trucks are cleaner running, more fuel efficient and quieter. With greater capacity for solid waste, these trucks are able to collect more cubic yards of solid waste prior to being emptied, which also reduces the number of trips to the landfill.

The City would like to thank its residents for their continued support of the Easy Cart program. The work of City staff, East Lansing City Council and East Lansing Boards & Commissions, coupled with resident support, has allowed this program to succeed.

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City Offers Important Tips about Curbside Recycling

The City's curbside recycling program is more than 20 years old and continues to evolve and grow. Residents can watch for new developments in the coming year as the City expands opportunities to recycle and reduce landfill deposits.

In the meantime, DPW offers the following tips for optimal curbside recycling. When recycling glass, residents are asked to separate the glass from all other materials by bagging it or putting it in a separate container. When recycling plastics, residents are reminded that the City accepts plastic bottles/cups, tubs, pots and trays labeled #1-7. Items larger than a detergent bottle should not be included (larger items can be recycled at the DPW drop-off site) and screw-on lids should be removed. Finally, putting a curbside bin out for collection when it's full, rather than less full, optimizes staff time. Anyone with questions or concerns about curbside recycling are encouraged to contact DPW at (517) 337-9459.

Recycle Rama Hosted April 13

Recycle Rama will take place Saturday, April 13 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 items such as books, bicycles, scrap metal, medicines and electronics will be collected. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com for a complete list. Volunteers are needed. Contact Cathy DeShambo at (517) 337-9459 or cdesham@cityofeastlansing.com to volunteer!

Recycle Guide

Find the year-round recycling drop-off site at 1800 E. State Road.

Brown Paper Bags

Can be recycled at the drop-off site. No curbside. Do not bundle. Place with corrugated cardboard.

Boxboard

Can be recycled at the drop-off site. No curbside. Break down boxes. Dry only. No refrigerator/freezer items (cartons, soda cases).

Corrugated Cardboard

Can be recycled at the drop-off site. No curbside. Break down boxes. Dry only.

Newspapers

Can be recycled curbside and at the drop-off site. Keep clean /dry. Inserts accepted.

Mixed Paper & Phone Books

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

Magazines

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

Tin, Steel, Aluminum Cans, Foil

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

Glass Bottles (Clear, Brown, Green)

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

Plastic Bottles/Containers

Plastic bottles, cups, tubs, pots and trays labeled #1 - #7 can be recycled curbside and at the drop-off site. Rinse clean and remove caps from bottles. Place bottle caps in small container in curbside bin. No plastic bags, strapping or Styrofoam. No bottles with oil, antifreeze or other household hazardous waste.

Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/recycleguide for information on other recyclable items.

Easy Cart Repairs

If a resident's Easy Cart is in need of repair, they can contact DPW at (517) 337-9459. By providing the cart serial number, DPW staff can find out if a cart is under warranty. If the cart has exceeded the warranty and is in need of repair, the City will continue to service the cart, but will charge for the cost of replacement parts. Residents can also purchase a new cart by contacting DPW.

Seasonal Site

Residents will have through mid-April to drop off boxboard and corrugated cardboard at the seasonal recycling drop-off site located at Patriarche Park, at the corner of Saginaw Street and Alton Road. The site will remain open until park use picks up in the spring. The site will re-open in October.

Document Destruction Day

The Old Town Commercial Association and Friedland Industries will host a Document Destruction Day on Saturday, April 20 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.



Yard Waste Program

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

Containing Yard Waste

There are three options to contain yard waste (this guideline does not apply to no-fee days):

- City paper yard waste bags
- Rigid plastic container or paper bag with City yard waste sticker (do not use Easy Carts or plastic bags to dispose of yard waste)
- Bundled (with string or twine) with a City yard waste sticker

Bags and stickers can be bought 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. Before collection, yard waste contained in paper yard waste bags should be stored in a dry location.

Disposing of Yard Waste

Curbside Yard Waste Collection (April 1 - November 25)

Curbside yard waste collection will take place on Mondays (excluding holidays) from April 1 - November 25. 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 or less.

Advance request is required. The preferred way to submit a request is via a 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. Requests must be made by 7:30 a.m. on Mondays. If a holiday falls on a Monday, yard waste will be picked up the following Monday.

No-Fee Curbside Yard Waste Collection (April 15 and April 29)

Dispose of yard waste for free on Monday, April 15 and Monday, April 29. Yard waste must be placed in a paper yard waste bag, placed in a 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 yard waste guidelines apply. No bulk items will be collected on no-fee days.

For additional details visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/yardwaste.

CRC Partners with City to Increase Student Recycling

The Community Relations Coalition (CRC) student interns have been working with the City's Department of Public Works on an effort to increase student recycling in target neighborhoods.

The CRC interns will be conducting door-to-door surveys with both year-round community members and students in order to collect data on recycling involvement. The data collected will help in developing future promotional efforts to increase curbside recycling. This student-led initiative is just one of the many ways the CRC is contributing to the local East Lansing community.

The CRC is a non-profit organization made up of community members, student interns and City and MSU staff who work to enhance relationships and build bridges in off-campus East Lansing.



Keep Ditches Clear of Debris

There is a system of open drains in the City that channel water away from residential areas. These open drains or "ditches" deposit water into streams, rivers and lakes in the City's watershed and keep neighborhoods from flooding.

Residents with properties adjacent to these ditches are sometimes tempted to throw yard waste into them, which pollutes the water, causes localized flooding and is an added expense to taxpayers when City crews have to come clear the drains. Residents are asked to dispose of yard waste through the City's collection program or compost it in their backyard.

Recycling Benefits

In 2012 residents recycled 1,200 tons of recyclables through the City's curbside and drop-off program. In total, almost 2.4 million pounds of material was recycled. Residents' recycling efforts have numerous environmental benefits that can be quantified. Recycling this material has:

- Prevented 150 truck loads of refuse from being deposited in the landfill.
- Reduced total air emissions by 1,490 tons.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 825 tons.
- Reduced waterborne waste by six tons.
- Conserved 11,899 million btu's of energy.
- Saved 10,168 trees.

A special thanks goes out to the residents who participated in the City's recycling program in 2012. Your efforts made a difference!

Still not sure if it's recyclable? Call DPW at (517) 337-9459 or visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/recycleguide to find out!

Project Pride to Take Place June 1

Project Pride, East Lansing's annual spring recycling event, will take place on Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Abbott Center, 1400-1500 Abbot Road. Participants are reminded to bring proof of East Lansing residency to the event.

Numerous household items will be accepted for refuse, recycling and proper disposal, including small appliances, tires, bicycles, scrap metal, electronics and more. New this year, BWL customers that recycle a working room air conditioner or dehumidifier will receive a \$25 rebate per unit.

A special bin tag will be placed in residents' recycling bins in early May with more details. Information will also be posted at www.cityofeastlansing.com/projectpride. Volunteers are always needed! If interested in lending a hand, email projectpriderecycle@gmail.com or contact Susan Schmidt at (517) 333-3587.

Another Successful Holiday Light Exchange

The City of East Lansing once again partnered with the Lansing Board of Water and Light and the City of Lansing for the popular Holiday Light Exchange in 2012.

More than 1,100 strands of high-efficiency Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights were distributed to close to 600 households in the region.

The program saved more than 12,000 kWh of electricity and resulted in the collection and recycling of approximately 1,380 pounds of incandescent holiday lights. A special thanks goes out to all the East Lansing residents who participated in the program!



Calendar

April

- 1 Curbside Yard Waste Collection Begins
- 13 Recycle Rama
- 15 No-Fee Yard Waste Collection (No Bulk Item Collection this Day)
- 20 Document Destruction Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 26 Arbor Day
- 29 No-Fee Yard Waste Collection (No Bulk Item Collection this Day)

May

- 27 Memorial Day - No Yard Waste or Bulk Item Collection

June

- 1 Project Pride

July

- 4 Independence Day - No Refuse or Recycling Collection; Thursday Refuse & Recycling Collected Friday

September

- 2 Labor Day - No Yard Waste or Bulk Item Collection

Have household hazardous waste items?
Dispose of them through the Ingham County
Health Department on Thursdays,
May 2-Sept. 26.

Learn more at
<http://hd.ingham.org>.

Refuse & Recycling Basics for New Residents

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

The City provides refuse collection for single-family households as well as duplexes and rental properties with one to four units. Refuse can be disposed of in an Easy Cart or in 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 \$65 with no annual collection fee.
- The 96-gallon Easy Cart has a purchase price of \$70 with a \$75 annual collection fee.

Yellow City-issued trash bags can be bought in packages of five for \$7.50 at locations throughout the City, including (but not limited to):

- City Hall, 410 Abbot Road
- E.L. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Department of Public Works (DPW), 1800 E. State Road

Find a complete list of places to purchase City-issued trash bags at www.cityofeastlansing.com.

The City collects recyclables curbside from single-family homes; duplexes; and small, multi-family homes with up to 20 units. 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. Recyclables are collected weekly on the same day as refuse collection and should be placed at the curb by 7:30 a.m. A map of refuse and recycling routes—color-coded by day—is available online at www.cityofeastlansing.com. In addition to curbside recycling, there is a year-round drop-off recycling site at 1800 E. State Road. Take a look at the Recycle Guide on page 2 or visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/recycleguide to learn what can be recycled.

Photos at right, top to bottom:

DPW employees Jason Chubb, David Spitzley and Ashley Wicker.

Out & About with DPW



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