

Curbside Journal

Green Glass Recycling Returns to EL Drop-off Site

The number one question recycling coordinators in the region have been asked over the last ten years has been “why don’t you accept green glass anymore?”

The answer has been fairly straight forward - that there wasn’t a market value for it and there wasn’t a recycling processing company in the area that would accept green glass for that reason.

That isn’t to say green glass can’t be recycled. It has been recycled over the years in areas of the country close to processing facilities, including many East Coast states. However, the cost to ship the material to these areas has been prohibitive.

Fortunately, advances in processing and new uses for recycled glass have allowed local processors to begin accepting green glass again. Therefore, the City is now able to accept green glass at its recycling drop-off site, located at 1800 E. State Road. Green glass bottles and jars can be recycled with brown glass bottles and jars in the specially marked containers at this site.

The City and its recycling processor, Granger Recycling, are continually looking to add new items and make recycling more convenient for residents. Over the past few years, boxboard and an expanded amount of plastics were added to the options for drop-off recycling. Now, green glass has been added once again. A special thanks goes out to all East Lansing residents who do their part to recycle.



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Spring Events Garner Tons of Materials for Recycling, Reuse

This spring's Recycle Rama and Project Pride were once again extremely popular with local residents, with more than 2,000 cars dropping off items at the events.

Recycle Rama, open to all Ingham County residents, was held in early April at the Ingham County Health Department in Lansing. The annual Project Pride community cleanup and recycling event, open to all East Lansing residents, was held in June at the Abbott Center.

Project Pride accepted two new items this year - green glass and unwanted medicines - in addition to the usual list of items accepted such as scrap metal, styrofoam, books and more. More than 40 tons of material was collected for reuse and recycling and about 10 tons was properly disposed. Project Pride is held the first Saturday after Memorial Day. Next year will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Project Pride event. Residents are welcome to come on out in the spring for the collection!

Patriarche Park Recycling Site to Open this Fall

For the fifth year in a row, the City will place recycling roll-off containers in the Patriarche Park parking lot to make corrugated cardboard and boxboard recycling more convenient for residents.

This seasonal site will be open around Oct. 1 and will remain open until mid-April when park use increases. Originally just open around the holidays, the site is now open during the entire off-season.

Recycle Guide

The year-round recycling drop-off site is located at 1800 E. State Road.

Brown Paper Bags

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

Boxboard

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

Corrugated Cardboard

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

Newspapers

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

Mixed Paper & Phone Books

Can be recycled curbside and at the State Road drop-off site. Keep dry. Includes copier/colored paper, stationery 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 State Road drop-off site. Shiny/glossy only. Bundle with string.

Tin, Steel, Aluminum Cans, Foil

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

Glass Bottles (Clear, Brown, Green)

Can be recycled curbside and at the State Road drop-off site. Rinse clean and remove lids. Do not break. Food and beverage bottles only. No ceramic, Pyrex™ or window glass. 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 State Road 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 w/ oil, antifreeze or other household hazardous waste.

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

Household Hazardous Waste

Ingham County's Household Hazardous Waste collections will continue through the end of September. Collections are on Thursdays, 2-6 p.m., at the Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St. Items accepted include pesticides, oil-based paints, solvents and more.

Holiday Light Recycling

Holiday light stands can be recycled in curbside bins on regular collection days Nov. 15-30. Strands can also be dropped off in specially marked containers at DPW, 1800 E. State Road, and the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, during regular hours.

CFL, Rechargeable Battery Recycling

Residents can recycle CFL bulbs and rechargeable batteries at DPW, East Lansing City Hall, the East Lansing Hannah Community Center and the East Lansing Public Library (batteries only). Look for the white and brown boxes at these locations.



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, 32-gallon 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 (runs through Nov. 26)

Curbside collection takes place on Mondays (excluding holidays) through Nov. 26. 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. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/collectionrequest or call the 24-hour number at (517) 351-4999 or DPW at (517) 337-9459 to request a pickup. Requests must be made by 7:30 a.m. on Mondays.

No-Fee Curbside Yard Waste Collection (Oct. 1 and Oct. 15)

Dispose of yard waste for free on Oct. 1 and Oct. 15. 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.

Fall Bulk Leaf Collection

Bulk leaf collection will be offered the weeks of Oct. 15, Oct. 29 and Nov. 12 on the City's east side and the weeks of Oct. 22, Nov. 5 and Nov. 19 on the west side. The east side includes the east City limits at Park Lake to Abbot Road. The west side includes the west City limits at Coolidge and West roads to Abbot Road. Loose yard waste (except brush/limbs) can be raked to the curb for free collection.

Holiday LED Light Exchange to Take Place Nov. 15-30

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Lansing Board of Water & Light's (BWL) Hometown Energy Savers program will again offer 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 lights. LED lights are safer, brighter, last longer and offer up to 90 percent in energy savings.

The exchange will take place Nov. 15-30 at DPW, 1800 E. State Road; the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road; and the BWL Customer Service Center, 1232 Haco Drive in Lansing during regular business hours. Supplies will be limited to the first 750 households. Bring a valid Michigan i.d. and current BWL electric bill. There is a limit of two LED light strands per household.



Timberlane Drop-off Site Closes

One of the City of East Lansing's year-round recycling drop-off sites, located at 841 Timberlane St., was permanently closed this past August.

The property has been purchased by the University Reformed Church.

Residents still have the opportunity to drop-off items for recycling at the City's other year-round site, located at 1800 E. State Road. In addition, select items can be recycled at the seasonal site at Patriarche Park from October to the beginning of spring. Consult the Recycle Guide on page 2 for a list of common items that can be recycled.

Green Your Holidays

The following are a few tips to reduce the amount of energy and waste generated during the holidays:

- Save and reuse gift boxes, bags and bows from last season.
- Make gift tags from old greeting cards and recycle the scraps. Be creative when wrapping gifts - use decorative boxes, reusable containers, fabric remnants, etc.
- Donate unwanted gifts, old/used clothes and toys to a charity.
- Buy rechargeable batteries for gifts.
- Buy a live tree and replant it after the holidays.
- Use energy efficient holiday lighting, like compact fluorescent and LED lights. Use timers on lighting.
- Turn down the heat in your home before guests arrive as extra body heat, cooking and lighting will warm the house.
- Walk and carpool to parties and consolidate shopping trips.

*Adapted from Keep America Beautiful, Tips for the Holiday Season

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

Christmas Tree Recycling

The holidays are over, the relatives have gone home and your Christmas tree is starting to drop needles. It's time to recycle it!

The City will once again collect live-cut Christmas trees, which will be chipped and used as mulch in East Lansing parks. Trees can be recycled either curbside or at a variety of City drop-off locations. Before recycling it curbside or taking it to a drop-off site, please remove trees from bags and remove all holiday decorations and tree stands.

Curbside collection of trees will take place on Monday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 7. Advance phone request and stickers are not required. If the tree is greater than 6 feet in length please cut it in half. Drop-off sites will be available through Jan. 11:

- Patriarche Park - parking lot on Alton Road
- Emerson Park - Arbor Drive entrance
- Fine Park - parking lot at Winchester Drive
- Valley Court Park - south of the Community Center
- White Memorial Park - parking lot at Pebblebrook Lane

No-Fee Holiday Refuse Collection

In order to assist residents with disposal of extra holiday refuse, the Department of Public Works will again offer the annual No-Fee Holiday Refuse Collection Dec. 18-28.

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 calendar. Yard waste and bulk items are not included. All bags must weigh no more than 40 pounds. Residents are encouraged to help keep disposal costs down by using the City's drop-off sites for cardboard and boxboard.



Calendar

October

- 1 First No-Fee Yard Waste Day
- 15 Final No-Fee Yard Waste Day & Bulk Leaf Collection Begins on East Side
- 22 Bulk Leaf Collection on West Side
- 29 Bulk Leaf Collection on East Side

November

- 5 Bulk Leaf Collection on West Side
- 12 Veterans' Day Holiday; No Bulk Item, Yard Waste or Bulk Leaf Collection
- 13 Final Week of Bulk Leaf Collection on East Side
- 19 Final Week of Bulk Leaf Collection on West Side
- 22/23 DPW Closed for Thanksgiving; No Refuse/Recycling on Nov. 22. Thursday and Friday's Refuse/Recycling Collected Friday. No Bulk Leaf Collection.
- 26 Final Curbside Yard Waste Collection

December

- 18 No-Fee Holiday Refuse Collection Dec. 18-28. Bulk Item/Yard Waste Not Included.
- 24/25 DPW Closed for Christmas; Monday's Refuse/Recycling Collected Dec. 24. No Refuse/Recycling Collection Dec. 25. Tuesday and Wednesday's Refuse/Recycling Collected Dec. 26.
- 31 Curbside Christmas Tree Collection

January

- 1 DPW Closed for New Year's Day. No Refuse/Recycling Collection. Tuesday and Wednesday's Refuse/Recycling Collected Jan. 2
- 7 Curbside Christmas Tree Collection
- 11 Last Day to Drop Off Live-Cut Christmas Trees
- 21 MLK Day; No Bulk Item Collection

February

- 18 Presidents Day; No Bulk Item Collection

Residents Encouraged to Make Homes Energy Efficient

Both the Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) and Consumers Energy are currently offering a variety of consumer incentives to upgrade home appliances, fixtures, lights and more.

The BWL Hometown Energy Savers Program offers cash rebates when their customers buy qualifying products or appliances. Products and appliances include everything from CFL bulbs to CFL fixtures, a variety of Energy Star appliances, high-efficiency pool pumps and more. A complete list and rebate amounts can be found at www.lbwl.com/energysavers.

The BWL also offers the Be Bright! Retailer Lighting Program, in which customers can purchase reduced-price CFL bulbs from participating retailers. A complete list of retailers can be found at the aforementioned website.

In addition, BWL customers can have their old, but functional refrigerators and freezers hauled away and recycled properly by BWL, free of charge! These appliances are wasting energy and money! If interested in taking advantage of BWL's free appliance recycling, call 877-714-0139 or visit the BWL online at the aforementioned

website to schedule an appliance pick-up with JACO Environmental.

Visit www.lbwl.com/energysavers to learn about additional incentives.

Consumers Energy has rebates and instant savings on lighting, heating and cooling, and energy efficient appliances as well. Similar to the BWL program, Consumers features rebates on CFL bulbs, Energy Star products, insulation/windows and more.

Also similar to BWL, Consumers Energy offers free collection and recycling of old refrigerators and freezers.

Visit www.consumersenergy.com and click on "Our Environment," "Energy Efficiency" and "Residential Energy Efficiency Programs" to learn more about Consumers Energy's rebates and incentives.

Taking advantage of these programs will help residents to reduce electric use, save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Photos at right, top to bottom:

DPW employees Lisa Hagerman, Ashley Wicker, Victoria Joseph and Bob Scheurman.

Out & About with DPW



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

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