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Bureau of Solid Waste

Re-News

Moving Ahead! - 2011 Sees Progress in City Recycling

Did you know...

- we cannot accept recyclables in plastic bags? These bags jam the machines that sort the materials.
- Baltimore has a 40% residential recycling participation rate?
- you can buy an 18 or 25 gallon yellow recycling bin at 111 Kane St?

This past year has seen some new and exciting things happening with recycling in Baltimore City! The Office of Recycling has been busy working to make recycling easier for residents and businesses. The City of Baltimore is committed to expanding recycling options and offering our residents more environmental choices.

One of the most exciting changes that happened in the past year has been the institution of a monthly drop-off schedule for household hazardous waste. A new hazardous waste container was installed at the Northwest Citizens Convenience Center at Sisson Street. Previously, we only offered household hazardous waste drop-offs once or twice a year. Materials such as oil-based paints, pesticides, herbicides, car and household batteries, CFL light bulbs, drain cleaners, gasoline, pool chemicals, and many other items will be collected. (Latex paint can be dried up and the cans put out for regular trash collection.) The new program will run the last Friday and Saturday of every month from April to November. Drop-off hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; summer hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day) are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Residents can also now recycle foam material! Through a recycling partnership with Dart Container Corporation, a leading manufacturer of polystyrene foam foodservice products (commonly known as Styrofoam, a registered trademark of the Dow Chemical Company), we now accept these materials at Sisson Street. Residents can drop off cups, plates, take-out containers, egg cartons, and packing material in clear plastic bags Monday through Saturday at the hours listed above. Make sure your foam material has a #6 on it, it is clean, and that there are no lids, straws, tape or stickers included. Please note that packing peanuts are NOT accepted. Also, this is a drop off program ONLY. We still cannot accept foam materials with our curbside collection.

Please remember: we will not pick up your recyclables if they are in plastic bags!!

In 2012, the Office of Recycling is looking toward a bigger and better year! We are aiming to increase the City's recycling by 30% by the middle of the year. Through outreach and education, we are targeting businesses, condominiums, and schools to reach our goals, as well as working to improve our processes and customer service. We are striving to make a greener Baltimore.



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Fast Facts:

- It takes 80-100 years for an aluminum can to decompose in a landfill.
- The amount of aluminum cans thrown away in a 3 month period can make enough metal to rebuild a whole fleet of commercial airplanes.
- Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV for up to 3 hours!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.baltimorecity.gov

www.facebook.com/BmoRecycle

Follow us on Twitter
[@BmoRecycles](https://twitter.com/BmoRecycles)

More Recycling News

Recycling Resources for Teachers and Schools

Is your child's school interested in having their students learn more about recycling? The City offers a free presentation that teaches K-12 students about the importance of recycling, what can be recycled, and what happens to our recycling once it has been hauled away. Have your child's school call 410-396-4511 to schedule a talk. Teachers can find additional educational resources from Waste Management's website: <http://www.wm.com/enterprise/k-12-education/index.jsp>.

Closing the Recycling Loop

Your efforts to recycle don't just end once you put your materials in a recycling bin. Much of what we accept in terms of various material (i.e. paper, aluminum, glass, etc.) depends on the markets available. Once the material is collected and sorted, it is sold to a company that will turn it into a new product. If there is no company willing to buy the material, it will end up in the landfill or incinerated. A company will buy the material if there is a demand for products made from recycled materials. This is where you come in (again). By making an effort to buy products made from recycled content, you are creating a market for the materials you are putting in your recycle bin. So close the loop and buy recycled!



I Love Recycling

The Baltimore City Office of Recycling is offering residents a new way to show how much you love recycling! "Like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and post or tweet how much recycling means to you and we'll send you this amazing bumper sticker! After declaring your love, private message us your address.

Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/BmoRecycle>



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