



Bureau of Solid Waste

Re-News

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Fast Facts:

- Every year, Americans throw away enough paper and plastic cups, forks, and spoons to circle the equator 300 times.
- Because plastic water bottles are shielded from sunlight in landfills, they will not decompose for thousands of years.
- Recycling one million cell phones allows 35,274 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium to be recovered.



STEPHANIE
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Spring is a Great Time to Clean up the City!

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the Department of Public Works are challenging our communities to get involved and help clean our City. First, the Mayor's Spring Cleanup takes place on Saturday, April 21. Neighbors can join together to clean sidewalks, gutters, storm drains, yards, and alleys. This year, the Mayor is encouraging communities to adopt a lot through the "Power In Dirt" program. Vacant lots are targets for illegal dumpers while adopted lots turned into gardens and maintained by the community discourage the dumping of trash and debris and become islands of green in the neighborhood.

Official community association presidents are encouraged to call 311 to sign up. Bags and brooms are also available in limited supply. Second, the Clean Community Competition is a way for communities to clean and win money. Winning communities will receive cash prizes to benefit their community association and activities: \$5,000 for first place and \$1,000 for second place. Each quadrant of the city (Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast) will have a first and second place winner.

This competition is a challenge to communities to clean alleys, streets and lots, use trash cans, and best of all, increase recycling. All community associations are urged to call 311 to register. Call now - registration ends April 9. The Competition will kick off during the Mayor's Spring Clean Up and runs through October 19. Winning Communities will be announced at the Mayor's Fall Clean Up on October 27.

Please do not Place Recycling in Plastic Bags!

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works, Office of Recycling, reminds residents that items set out for recycling collection cannot be placed in plastic bags. Recyclables can be placed in a cardboard box, paper bag, or any other container – even a laundry basket – as long as it is clearly marked "recycling." Plastic bags can be recycled, just not in your home recycling bin. Instead, you can drop them off at specially-marked recycling bins at the front of most supermarkets. When single stream recycling was initiated in 2008, we could not accept recyclables in plastic bags because they jam the processing machinery. The Bureau of Solid Waste will collect recycling in plastic bags but leave a flyer and/or a sticker asking residents to please discontinue using them.



For additional information, you can call the Office of Recycling at 410-396-4511. To report a missed collection or to find out what your recycling day is, please call 311.



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More Recycling News

Clean Your Files Day

In honor of Earth Day, April 24, Baltimore City is encouraging all businesses and City agencies to Clean Your Files! Paper (all colors and types), cardboard, books, plastic and glass bottles, and metal cans can be purged in concordance with the day set to pay tribute to our planet. To participate, call the Office of Recycling at 410-396-4511 on or before April 10. The paper files and other materials will be collected on Tuesday, April 24.

Recycling Bins Given to all City Public Schools

In an effort to increase recycling, we have expanded our school recycling program and distributed recycling bins to every Baltimore City Public School. We will begin collecting recycling from all schools, which are a great place to teach the importance of recycling. With this new program, students can see it in action, become actively involved, and promote the practice at home and in their communities.



Northwest Transfer Station Temporarily Closed

The Northwest Transfer Station will temporarily be closed for renovation through April 20. Citizens can drop-off recyclables, electronics, white goods (e.g., appliances), and rigid plastics at four other locations in the city: Quarantine Road Sanitary Landfill, 6100 Quarantine Rd.; Western Sanitation Yard, 701 Reedbird Ave.; Eastern Sanitation Yard, 6101 Bowleys Ln.; and NW Citizens Convenience Center, 2840 Sisson St.



Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale

On Saturday, April 14, Baltimore County will host a joint compost bin and rain barrel truckload sale. The sale will be held on the parking lot of the Carver Center for the Arts at 938 York Road, Towson, MD 21204. This sale will be a one-day event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. Compost bins (\$35) and rain barrels (\$50) will be sold on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. Cash, checks, or credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) will be accepted and you do **NOT** need to be a Baltimore County resident to purchase a compost bin or rain barrel. Visit <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/recycling/composting/binsale.html> for more information.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.baltimorecity.gov

www.facebook.com/BmoRecycle

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