

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN RECYCLING

CARTS ARE POPPING UP!

You may have heard that carts are coming to Sheboygan! For a very long time, residents have dealt with litter because plastic bags break at the curb or alley, large and sharp items rip bags, bags are too heavy and must be dragged to the curb or alley, and seagulls break apart the plastic bags. **But, carts with lids for trash and recycling means these issues are no longer a problem. All trash and recyclable materials will be contained inside the cart.**



SAFER. CLEANER. GREENER.

In April 2019, the Sheboygan Common Council voted to put in place an automated trash and recycling program for Sheboygan. One of the biggest changes for residents will be using carts to manage trash and recycling.

Residents will no longer need to carry individual trash and recycling bags to the curb or alley for pick up. In the spring of 2020, residents will have two carts delivered – one for trash and the other for recycling.

On your collection day, simply roll carts to the edge of your driveway, curb, or alley. The collection truck's driver will control the automated arm to pick up and empty the cart.

Recycling is seeing the most upgrades. Residents will no longer need to buy blue bags for recycling. Those materials get placed into the cart on their own throughout the week. Please do not put any plastic bags in the recycling cart.

Recycling collection will also change to every other week. To get the most space out of the carts, break down and flatten cardboard. Be sure no materials are bagged.

Throughout the next year, the City will be hosting meetings and sending out communications. This is to reach as many residents as possible and inform them when the changes will be happening.

For more information, visit www.SheboyganDPW.com.

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

The City of Sheboygan makes approximately **18,000 stops a week** on the garbage and recycling routes. On average, the Department of Public Works picks up **64 tons of recycling and 240 tons of garbage weekly**. By recycling the City diverts over 3,000 tons from reaching the landfill annually.

In addition to curbside collection, DPW also recycles material that is brought to the Residential Recycling Center at the Municipal Service Building.

In 2018, DPW composted 2,755 tons of yard waste and 1,303 tons of leaves. Over 6,500 gallons of waste oil and 159 tons of scrap metal were also recycled along with 153 tires.

Lastly, tree and bush branches that are collected by the City's Forestry staff and citizens are ground into mulch that is provided free of charge to the citizens.

Since 1996 the City of Sheboygan has saved the following from our recycling efforts:

295,344,000 gallons of water

16,032,960 gallons of oil

21,096 years' worth of energy for a single home

Enough debris to fill a football field 60 feet high

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING CORRECTLY

The City of Sheboygan Department of Public Works has partnered with leading industrial recycling experts, Waste Management and The Recycling Partnership. **Together the City of Sheboygan is moving towards a safer, cleaner, and greener collection system.**

According to Waste Management, 69% of plastic bottles do not get recycled and 45% of aluminum cans end up in the garbage. Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for two hours, power a 14 CFL bulb for 20 hours, and run a computer for three hours.

We must take the time to learn how to recycle correctly. Improper recycling can cause entire loads of recycling to be ruined at the recycling plant.

Please remember that the plastics you are using and are going to recycle will be made into new products. We do not want things like medical waste showing in the recyclable material that will be made into new products.

When recycling plastic, make sure that it is a rigid container from a household item. Rigid containers that hold motor oil or other hazardous material should be placed in the trash. Rigid buckets from household items are also recyclable.

Flimsy plastic pouches are not recyclable and should be placed in the garbage. Good examples of flimsy plastic containers are chip bags, resealable bags, toothpaste tubes, and bags that hold liquid (wine, juice, apple sauce).

Plastic toys should not be recycled. Often they are constructed with metal materials and batteries. Look to donate unused toys so that they can be reused.

Recyclable material must be cleaned before being placed in the recycling container. Recyclables with food residue, liquid, or grease stains are not recyclable. Scrape all jars, bottles, and cans until the residue or contents are removed. Then, rinse the containers. If you cannot remove all residue (peanut butter, jelly, honey) the item should be placed in the trash.

Plastic bags, holiday lights, strings, and clothing should not be recycled because they can get caught up in the recycling sorting machines and bring the entire plant to a standstill. Plant employees then must climb up and cut the material loose. By recycling material that can get caught up in machinery, you could place a plant worker in danger.

WISH-CYCLING (WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY BULLETIN)

Wish-cycling is a term used to describe recyclers who want to do the right thing and hope that everything they toss in the bin is recyclable – they have the best intentions but need some education to recycle the right items. **Wish-cycling is one of the leading causes of contamination in our country today.**

Currently, contamination levels average around 25% - that means for every ton of recyclables we collect, we must remove 500 pounds to meet our customers' quality standards. Contaminants can impact good recycling programs by increasing costs, reducing the efficiencies of processing, and lowering the value of commodities. And the most serious problem with contamination are items that cause injuries to recycling professionals responsible for sorting those materials. Employees who work in the recycling facilities could be injured with the wrong materials – batteries that cause fires or propane cylinders that explode. These do not

belong in curbside programs, and neither do plastic bags or bowling balls.

We get some unusual items in recycling carts. We recently surveyed our facility managers and asked about the types of items they see coming across the sorting line.

This list included everything from hoses (lots of these) to engine blocks, grenade launchers (of course, they're metal, right?), a deer, a black bear, and even a python snake. Through a Google search, there are only 3,000 bowling alleys in the U.S., but Waste Management recycling facilities receive over 100 bowling balls each week. **That works out to about 5,000 bowling balls every year – or 82,000 pounds of bowling balls annually!** Recycling programs do not accept bowling balls, however, once a week, 100 wish-cyclers decide – I'm going to take my lucky 16 lb. ball and drop it in the good old 96-gallon wishing well, better known to us as the recycling cart.

RECYCLING TODAY

Prior to January 1, 2018, 30% of all recyclables worldwide were shipped to China. This number included over 50% of the world's mixed paper and plastics. Since then, China has banned all importing of mixed paper and recycling. On March 1, 2018, China began enforcing a new .5% contamination limit on imported sorted recyclables. **China plans on eliminating all imports of post-consumer recyclables by 2021.**

As a result, the market values have decreased for recyclable material. The City of Sheboygan's current contract with Waste Management expires on December 31, 2019. City employees collect solid waste and recyclable materials at over 18,000 households weekly. **As a result of the economic markets, the fee to process the City of Sheboygan's recyclables has increased from zero dollars a ton to \$90 per ton.**

The material is driven to the Waste Management Transfer Station in Sheboygan Falls. From there, Waste Management transfers the solid waste to their landfill in Whitelaw, Wisconsin and the recyclables to their Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Germantown, Wisconsin.

When the recyclable materials reach Germantown, they are processed by hand and by machinery. Currently, all of Sheboygan's recyclable are collected in bags. Each bag of recyclables is then opened by hand.

All Wisconsin Material Recovery Facilities in the State of Wisconsin are banning processing bagged recyclables. **If the City of Sheboygan continued to collect bagged recycling, there would have been \$60 per ton added to the \$90 tipping fee, or a contamination charge of over \$180,000 annually.**

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

PLEASE RECYCLE



Paperboard & Cardboard

To make room for all your recyclable materials in your cart, be sure to breakdown and flatten cardboard boxes.



Paper, Newspaper, and Magazines

Be sure to place all soiled and wet paper in your trash bin.



Glass Bottles & Jars

Be sure to clean and rinse all bottles and jars before recycling.



Plastic Bottles, Jars, Jugs, and Tubs

Caps can be recycled by placing them inside the empty container.



Aluminum, Tin, and Steel Cans

Empty aerosol cans may also be recycled - be sure all contents of the aerosol can are released prior to recycling.

Learn More At
SheboyganDPW.com

PLACE IN THE GARBAGE



Plastic Wrap, Bubble Wrap, Sandwich and Freezer Bags

If possible, try to reuse plastic bags before discarding.



Flexible Packaging (Chip Bags & Pouches)

Manufacturers use materials that prevent them from being recyclable.



Disposable Cups

Most disposable cups have a plastic lining that allow them to hold hot beverages.



Polystyrene Foam, Packing Peanuts, and To-Go Containers

These items are made of unrecyclable materials.



Medical Waste

Needles can cause a serious health risk to the collectors and recycling plant workers. Please speak with your medical provider about proper disposal of medical waste.



Garden Hoses, Leashes, String, and Holiday Lights

Like plastic bags, these items often get stuck in the sorting machinery at the recycling sorting plant.



Soiled Paper Towel, Napkins, and Tissues

These items are not recyclable, however, please recycle the paper towel cardboard tube!



Dirty Diapers

Waste placed in a recycling container can soil an entire load of recyclable material at the sorting plant! Be sure to bag all your waste before discarding.



Metal Waste

Items such as car parts, scrap metal, and lawn mowers are not part of curbside collection. They can be brought to the Residential Recycling Center.



Household Items

Items such as clothing, textile shower curtains, and kids swimming pools should not be recycled.



Pizza Boxes

Pizza boxes that have grease stains should not be recycled.

Learn More At
SheboyganDPW.com