



Recycling and Waste Reduction

KEEPING MILWAUKEE CLEAN & GREEN

Fall 2020

City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works • MilwaukeeRecycles.com • 414-286-CITY (2489)

City of Milwaukee Receives Grant to Implement Every Other Week Recycling Schedule in 2021

On March 24th, 2020, the City of Milwaukee Common Council approved a resolution for the Department of Public Works to accept over \$1.1 million in grant funding from The Recycling Partnership to implement a service improvement of every other week recycling collection across the City beginning in 2021. The resolution was signed by Mayor Tom Barrett on April 2nd, 2020.



\$1.1 million in grant funds awarded to support universal recycling schedule

Universal Recycling City-Wide

The City of Milwaukee was selected to receive grant support because of its dedication to advancing recycling in the community. The grant from The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that works with city governments all across America to transform their recycling programs, will help pay for over 18,600 new carts deployed to residents as well as fund education and outreach about the service improvement. This universal, every other week recycling program citywide in 95-gallon carts will end the current situation of five different schedules currently utilized across the City. Every other week recycling collection is an industry standard service level, and this improvement will facilitate greater

recovery of resources and sustainable materials management, furthering the City's goal of increased landfill diversion. The improved service schedule will also help satiate rising demand for increased curbside recycling, reducing the need for a 2nd recycling cart or bringing overflow curbside recyclables to a City Drop Off Center.

Grant Funding and Partners

The grant was supplemented with a special plastic resin and monetary donation from Dow, along with support from PepsiCo. "The Partnership is proud to partner with Milwaukee on curbside recycling in order to expand access to recycling for residents, collect more quality recyclables, and help residents know what to throw into their recycling," Jill Martin, Director of Community Programs for The Recycling Partnership.



18,600 carts to be delivered to residents in current "small bin" area

How You Can Help

The City of Milwaukee is so pleased to bring this service level improvement to residents. Stay tuned for more details in early 2021. Wondering how you can support a strong recycling program? The most helpful rules to follow are "Know Before You Throw" and "When in Doubt, Throw it Out." Putting non-recyclable

items in the recycling bin with hope it will be recycled, also known as "wishcycling", can be harmful to not only staff and recycling equipment in our facility, but to the industry as a whole. Some items that cannot be recycled in curbside carts include plastic-bagged recyclables, loose plastic bags and film, food waste, Styrofoam, propane tanks, batteries, and clothing.



Find your copy of the City's recycling guide at www.Milwaukee.gov/recycleguide

Items that can be recycled curbside are glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, food and beverage cartons, paper products (including newspapers and flattened cardboard), and empty #1, #2, and #5 plastic bottles and containers. To help limit contamination, food and drink containers should be rinsed before placing them into the recycling cart. Recyclables should always be emptied loose into the recycling cart – no bagging, please!

For more information on what can and can't go into your curbside recycling, as well as tips on reducing, reusing, and proper disposal of a variety of materials, visit www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com or call 414-286-CITY (2489).



2020 Fall Leaf Collection Reminders

Leaves, brush, weeds, garden trimmings, and other yard waste are banned from landfills and must NOT be placed in garbage or recycling carts.

Fall Leaf Collection: Oct 1st – Nov 15th

During the fall rake-out period (Oct 1 – Nov 15), the City collects leaves for composting which conserves natural resources, saves money, and protects water quality by reducing leaves entering storm sewers.

How Should I Rake Out My Leaves?

- Loose into the street with a 1 foot gap between the leaves and the curb
- Away from storm drains and sewer grates
- Add garden trimmings and weeds on top. Do NOT include grass clippings, pumpkins, litter, or bagged material.
- Separate from brush piles. Brush is not to be placed in the street.

No special request for leaf collection is necessary from Oct. 1st – Nov. 15th. Leaf collection operations cycle through the city systematically. Once leaf rake out ends on Nov 15, DPW makes one final collection sweep across the City. To be collected, ensure that leaves have been raked out by Nov 15. At all other times of the year, leaves must be mulched on the property or taken to a Drop Off Center.



Leaves and brush properly set out for collection.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1, 2020	Fall Leaf Rake-Out Begins
November 15, 2020	Fall Leaf Rake-Out Ends
November 29, 2020	Winter Drop Off Center Hours
November 30, 2020	Winter Collection Schedule Begins
December 1, 2020	Winter Parking Regulations Begin
April 1, 2021	Brush Collection Begins
April 3, 2021	Summer Collection Schedules Begin
April 11, 2021	Summer Drop Off Center Hours

Visit Milwaukee.gov/snow to learn about City of Milwaukee Snow and Ice Control Operations and to sign up for winter parking alerts. Snow and ice must be cleared off of and around garbage & recycling carts.

Brush Collection: April – November (by request)

The City collects household brush piles of 2 cubic yards or less from April – November by special request. Brush consists of woody trimmings from trees and shrubs.

- Cut brush down to size. No branch should be longer than 4 feet or larger than 6 inches in diameter
- Place a pile up to the size of a couch between the curb and the sidewalk for collection
- Request collection online at Milwaukee.gov/clickforaction or call 414-286-CITY (2489)

City of Milwaukee DPW Keeps Services Running During COVID-19

As our community first felt the impacts of COVID-19 and lives, businesses, and services were disrupted, City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works team members have continued to provide essential services for residents. These vital roles are even more important as the effects of illness and child care needs provide unique challenges, but the City has maintained garbage and recycling collection for over 181,000 households and kept both Drop Off Centers open to its residents and property owners.

With these challenges came creative solutions, including Infrastructure and Forestry team members utilized on daily routes supporting collection efforts of the Sanitation team, working together to ensure that households were served and that safe, social distancing could be implemented. At the Drop Off Centers, fees were suspended to minimize person-

to-person contact and assist community members financially-impacted by COVID-19. Team members continued to verify residency and property ownership, inspect loads for safe disposal, and provide direction to visitors all while implementing social distancing. Visitors remained able to properly dispose of landfill items, a wide variety of recyclables, and yard waste for composting.

While maintaining their essential roles, Sanitation employees have needed to quickly adapt to changes in their routine and increased precautions to protect their health and the health of those around them. The kind notes and signs placed near collection spots for team members to see are greatly appreciated and have lifted spirits during a difficult time.

To our team, who leave the safety of their homes and loved ones to go to work each

day and provide public health sanitation services for the City of Milwaukee, we thank you for your dedicated service to this City and its residents.



Kendrick Kiper and Artie Tucker receive a resident's thank you sign.



Friends Don't Let Friends Bag Their Recyclables

No Plastic Bags, Please

You may have heard that plastics bags are a big issue for recycling facilities and don't belong in your curbside cart. Correct! Did you know that rule also applies to bagging your recyclables? That's a big no-no.

According to the 2019 survey of material recovery facilities (MRFs) administered by the WI Department of Natural Resources, over 90% of MRFs serving Wisconsin communities list plastic bags and films as their #1 contaminant problem. That's absolutely true for the City of Milwaukee and our materials recycling facility located in the Menominee Valley.

Keep It Loose

Our recycling facility processes 250 – 300 tons of recyclables each day, so it's important that they arrive loose and ready to be sorted. The MRF primarily sorts recyclables through the use of equipment, with team members providing quality control after. Due to the quantity and speed at which recyclables are processed, it's very difficult for workers to open bags to see if there are recyclables inside, dump the contents loose onto the conveyor belt (if they were recyclables inside), while also making sure they are pulling out any other harmful contaminants that sometimes come through the recycling stream.



Do I Have to Stop Bagging My Recyclables in the Kitchen?

It's perfectly okay to keep a bag in your kitchen receptacle. When the bag is full, simply carry the bag out to the cart as you normally would, but pour the recyclables into the cart. A loose knot that's easily untied is all you need. Then take that bag back inside and reuse it in your kitchen container. There are a few bonuses to reusing the same bag. #1 you'll see a real decrease in the number of plastic liners you purchase, and #2 if your bag gets a little stinky and you don't want to reuse it, that's a great indication that you may need to rinse your recyclables just a little better before throwing them in. It'll keep the bag clean, your kitchen smelling nicer, and the recyclables in your cart clean and intact for better recycling quality when it arrives at the MRF.

How Do I Recycle Plastic Bags and Films?

While plastic bags and films of any kind don't belong in your curbside cart, many are recyclable when taken to the proper location. Many local retailers including grocery and department stores offer containers, often located in entrance vestibules, where you can drop off these items. Visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org to find a drop off location near you and a list and helpful posters of the types of plastic bags and films that can be collected for recycling. Common examples include shopping bags, produce bags, bread bags, cracker and cereal bags, plastic wrap from toilet paper and paper towels, and dry-cleaning bags.



Clear, black, blue - no matter the color, plastic bags don't belong in the recycling cart.

Has COVID-19 Affected Drop Offs?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some drop off locations have put their collections on hold to help ensure the safety of workers. While one of the biggest plastic film recyclers in the region, Trex, is still accepting materials, it's best to contact a location to confirm availability of their drop off prior to visiting. If a drop off is not available at this time, compress bags and film into other plastic bags for easy storage until locations come back online.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to recycle right and empty recyclables loose in the cart. Many additional thank yous for sharing this knowledge with family, friends, and coworkers. Just one household that switches to keeping recyclables loose is a BIG win for our recycling program and the sustainability of municipal recycling.

As always, friends don't let friends bag their recyclables.

Safe Disposal & Recycling Reminders



Does this bring joy?
NO? DROP IT OFF.

Year-round Drop-off
HOME HAZMAT COLLECTION

MMSD | For more information visit MMSD.com | MKE County Residents Only



Where do I recycle plastic bags and films?
NOT curbside

Find a store drop off near you at
PlasticFilmRecycling.org/drop-off



Electronics Recycling

TVs, computers, monitors, and PC components must be recycled. Crews will NOT collect these items curbside.

Please recycle at a Drop Off Center. Proof of residency or property ownership required. 3 TVs maximum.

Learn more at
www.Milwaukee.gov/Electronics



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NO COLLECTIONS ON CITY HOLIDAYS:
THANKSGIVING: November 26 & 27, 2020
CHRISTMAS: December 24 & 25, 2020
NEW YEAR'S DAY: January 1, 2021
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY: January 18, 2021
GOOD FRIDAY: April 2, 2021
MEMORIAL DAY: May 31, 2021
INDEPENDENCE DAY: July 4 & 5, 2021
LABOR DAY: September 6, 2021

Service may be delayed due to snow plowing operations.
 Collection days may shift after each holiday. Review your schedule online at milwaukee.gov/collectionday

Follow Us!
 Take the pledge to be a better recycler and opt in to e-notify for important events and updates from Milwaukee Recycles.
Milwaukee.gov/recyclecontact
 @MilwaukeeRecycles @MKERecycles

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GET TO KNOW YOUR DROP OFF CENTERS

North - 6660 N Industrial Road - *must enter Industrial Road from Mill Road*

- **South** - 3879 W Lincoln Avenue

Winter Hours	Summer Hours
Beginning November 29, 2020	Beginning April 11, 2021
Tuesday - Saturday 7 AM - 3 PM	Tuesday - Saturday 7 AM - 3 PM
Sunday - Monday CLOSED	Sunday - Monday CLOSED

ACCEPTED MATERIALS		
Recycled		Composted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antifreeze • Car batteries • Motor oil and filters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appliances • Scrap Metal • Asphalt Shingles • Concrete • Cooking oil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush and branches • Grass clippings • Garden debris • Leaves and Logs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronics (3 TVs max., \$5 each) • Tires (up to 5 passenger tires) • Recyclables accepted curbside • Large corrugated cardboard 		Landfilled
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbage • Old furniture and mattresses • Construction or remodeling debris

Organics Program Update

DPW has concluded its organics collection pilot program. Thank you to our participants who diverted over 1.4 million pounds of food and yard waste since 2016.

While the most recent Request for Proposals did not result in a contract, the City remains committed to organics diversion and continues to consider new opportunities to bring organics diversion services to residents.

Want to participate in composting? Visit Milwaukee.gov/homecomposting to learn more about backyard composting and how to sign up for an organics collection service with local companies

WANT A COLLECTION DAY REMINDER?

Did you know you can sign up for text messages to remind you of your garbage and recycling collection dates? Create an account and login to E-Notify at milwaukee.gov/notify. Once logged into your account, click on "Text Messaging." After adding your phone number you will be able to add your address under Sanitation Notification. You will receive text messages to remind you of your garbage and recycling pick up dates at 12 PM the day before your collection.