WasteWatcher
20th Anniversary Issue
Dear WasteWatcher,

This issue marks the 20th anniversary edition of the City of Ann Arbor’s WasteWatcher newsletter. You may recall a time when recyclables were set at the curb in separate bags for newspapers, cardboard, steel cans, aluminum cans, and clear, green, and brown glass. The voter-supported 1990 Environmental Bond moved Ann Arbor’s recycling program from monthly pickups of source-separated, single-family materials to weekly recycling collections from all Ann Arbor residents. Automating our recycling process into a two-stream recycling system (for papers and containers) allowed the city to expand the types of materials collected and double the service sector by addressing the challenges of multi-family locations, where requiring seven recycling cans at every dumpster location for pre-sorted materials would have been unmanageable.

For these efforts—along with the support from our citizens, Recycle Ann Arbor, the county, and state matching grants—Ann Arbor received several awards and was recognized in 1998 by the U.S. EPA as one of the top 20 waste reduction communities for cutting our trash in half through recycling and composting!

The time is right for Ann Arbor to rise to the challenge of wasting less, and reducing-reusing-recycling-composting more. Currently other cities are forging ahead of our town’s recycling rates, with San Francisco, CA and Seattle, WA at nearly 70% waste reduction, and many other locations routinely reaching 60% recycling and composting diversion rates.

Ann Arbor will provide single-stream recycling starting July 5, 2010 by deploying new recycling carts and adding more plastics—all bottles and tubs, marked #1-2, and #4-7, plus bulky plastic items. Styrofoam™, #3/PVC, and biodegradable plastics will not be added or accepted. Ceramics, household batteries, and used motor oil will no longer be collected. To further boost recycling participation and reduce waste, the city is partnering with RecycleBank® starting September 1, 2010. Please see pages 5-6 for more details on these new programs.

The city-owned Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is being upgraded to process increased quantities of co-mingled recyclables. Streamlining Ann Arbor’s recycling collection and processing capabilities is being undertaken to meet today’s expanding recycling markets and to provide more-efficient recycling collection services to our business sector.

As we prepare for future decades of waste reduction, consider signing up for free, e-mail updates on the city’s solid waste, recycling, composting, and waste reduction services to supplement this WasteWatcher newsletter. Visit [www.a2gov.org/recycle](http://www.a2gov.org/recycle) and click on the red envelope to subscribe to topics of interest for periodic e-mail updates from the city. By subscribing to “recycling” you will be notified of more details of the MRF Grand Re-Opening public open house on Saturday, August 21, 2010, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

I’m looking forward to seeing our recycling bins filled with the new single-stream materials starting July 5, 2010—including clean yogurt tubs and empty drywall buckets—along with the usual papers, bottles, and cans!

-Dr. Recycle
2010 Collection Schedules

• The weekly residential curbside Compostable collection program resumes Monday, April 5 and is scheduled to end for the growing season on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010. Please see page 4 for possible compost collection season extension.

• Please mark your calendars for these three holidays, which affect the weekly solid waste collection schedule for 2010:
  • Memorial Day, Mon., May 31
  • Single-Stream recycling begins, Mon., July 5
  • Labor Day, Mon., September 6
  • Thanksgiving Day, Thurs., November 25

The normal solid waste collection routes will not occur on these specific holidays and will resume one day later for the rest of the week, with the normal Friday routes serviced on Saturday.

Please note the following holidays fall on a weekend and will not affect the solid waste pickups: Independence Day, Sun., July 4, 2010; Christmas Day, Sat., Dec. 25, 2010; and New Year’s Day, Sat., Jan. 1, 2011.

The Drop-Off Station on 2950 E. Ellsworth will also close on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve and is closed on Mondays, year-round.

Information Resources

CITY OF ANN ARBOR

City of Ann Arbor Customer Service & Payment Center, 220 E. Huron, 994.2807, M-F, 8-5. For information on the city’s refuse, compost collection services and cart sales.

• 99-GREEN (994.7336) 24-hour recorded information on solid waste, refuse, compost, and recycling services and the holiday collection schedules. Provides audio format for visually-impaired.

• www.a2gov.org/recycle Links to online city information. Free e-mail subscription available with periodic updates.

• Online Citizen Request System Use this option at www.a2gov.org to notify the city of non-emergency public service concerns, such as a missed solid waste pickup, a pothole, hanging tree branch, low water pressure, etc.

• CodeRed emergency alerts Sign up for free city-only, emergency notifications (e.g., tornado, water main breaks requiring “boil water” procedures). May register for your own city address and/or another location, to help support an elderly resident, business property, or rental location.

Compost Center & MRF, 794.6380, 4150 Platt Rd., Wheeler Service Center, M-F 8-4 p.m. April, May, June open Sat 8-12, www.a2gov.org/compost. For bulk compost and wood mulch sales and yard waste drop-off arranged at the MRF Scale House. Also see page 7. Pre-registered MRF recycling plant tours and open houses are available, www.a2gov.org/mrf.

RECYCLE ANN ARBOR


Nonprofit organization contracted by the city to provide residential and commercial recycling assistance and collection. Manages the city’s recycling cart distribution. RAA also operates the ReUse Center, 2420 S. Industrial for building materials and other reusables and Calvert’s Roll-Off Containers, 7891 Jackson Rd. for construction and demolition debris recycling, with public recycling drop-off options.

RAA’s Drop-Off Station, 2950 East Ellsworth, 971.7400 is the state’s largest community recycling and disposal center. Sells compost and mulch. Also see page 9.

WASHTENAW COUNTY


Provides area-wide recycling and waste reduction information.

• Home Toxics Center, 222.3950. Also see page 12.
• Trash-to-Treasures disposal guide posted online.
• WasteKnot recognition program for local businesses and agencies.

Phone connection for audio-impaired individuals is available by dialing 7.1.1 for a “TDD” connection.
The benefits of this direction include: Providing weekly bagged leaf pickups throughout the fall season instead of relying on twice/season street collections, which may not coincide with the actual leaf drop; avoiding problems with vehicles parking over leaves and impeding truck pickup access; increasing safety for bicyclists; preventing leaves from clogging storm drains, leading to neighborhood flooding and pollution to the Huron River; increasing efficiency of leaf collection by using existing compost trucks and not deploying additional trucks to pick up bulk leaves. Instead of saving leaves for two street pickups, residents can manage leaves throughout the fall. If approved, the discounted compost cart orders will be accepted online and over the phone at the Customer Service Center. Details will be posted at www.a2gov.org/recycle.

City Council is reviewing the city’s street leaf pickup efficiencies as part of the budget process and is considering a shift from twice/year street leaf collection to weekly curbside pickups of fall leaves placed in paper yard waste bags or compost carts for an extended season—through Dec. 15.
**All Together Now: A new way to recycle more!**

New recycling program starts Monday, July 5, 2010

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**SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING**

*What is single-stream recycling?*

Single-stream recycling allows all recyclables to be placed into one recycling bin without separating papers from containers. (Single-stream recycling does not mean placing trash and recyclables into the same cart—customers still have to separate recyclables from trash.)

*What new materials will be accepted?*

All plastic bottles and tubs (except #3/PVC and biodegradable plastics/PLA) will be added. New types of materials that will be accepted include clean yogurt and margarine tubs, berry boxes, most microwave freezer trays and most carryout containers (not Styrofoam™). Large bulky plastic #2/HDPE items, such as laundry baskets and buckets, will be accepted.

*What materials will not be accepted?*

Biodegradable/PLA plastics, #3 (PVC) plastics, Pyrex and ceramics will not be accepted because they contaminate the regional plastic and glass markets. These materials melt at different temperatures and cause unacceptable “Swiss cheese-like” holes in new plastic products, or create lumps in new glass items. Ann Arbor’s single-stream program will also not accept plastic bags or polystyrene foam (Styrofoam™) because these items clog and break the sorting machinery. Lastly, household batteries, used motor oil, and oil filters will no longer be accepted since these toxic materials cannot be placed inside the recycling carts. Drop-off locations for these items are available. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at most stores that sell rechargeables (e.g., Best Buy, Target, Radio Shack, Batteries Plus, etc.). As of the last ten years, U.S.-made alkaline batteries have not contained added mercury, so the original rationale for collecting non-rechargeables has become obsolete.

*When will single-stream recycling begin in Ann Arbor?*

Single-stream recycling will start for everyone in Ann Arbor on Monday, July 5, 2010. On that date, you will be able to recycle all the additional plastics and other materials mentioned above. You will no longer be able to recycle batteries, motor oil, or oil filters for curbside collection. The new recycling carts will not arrive immediately for everyone. Please continue to use your existing recycling stacking bins until you have received your new cart. You will be able to blend all the recyclable materials in your existing stacking bins effective July 5, 2010.

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**WHY IS ANN ARBOR GOING TO SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING?**

*It’s good for the environment:* It is expected that single stream recycling, combined with the RecycleBank incentive program, will more than double recycling in Ann Arbor. It will save energy and natural resources, reduce pollution and our carbon footprint, and increase jobs in the regional recycled-content manufacturing sector. It will increase our community’s waste diversion and decrease our dependence on landfills. Ann Arbor will get a state-of-the-art, single-stream sorting facility that produces materials to meet the quality of the current two-stream facility.

*It saves money:* Even with the infrastructure upgrades, trucks, and carts, the financial analysis for Ann Arbor converting to single-stream recycling shows a six year payback on investment. Collection efficiencies with the single-stream recycling program will increase substantially, saving the city money. In addition, the city will realize savings on reduced solid waste collection and disposal costs, and it will earn more money on the sale of increased recyclable materials.

*The timing is right:* The city’s current recycling carts used at many apartment locations (comprising over half of Ann Arbor’s residential population) are reaching the end of their 20-year usefulness and need to be replaced. The recycling trucks are likewise reaching retirement age and the timing is on-target for phasing-in automated arm recycling trucks. In addition, the city has a commitment to provide recycling collection services to all businesses within the city limits. Supporting a single-recycling bin system provides a more cost-effective management strategy for commercial locations.

(continued on next page)
**ANN ARBOR IS PARTNERING WITH RECYCLEBANK®**

**What is RecycleBank?**
RecycleBank is a company that helps communities make the most of their recycling programs by offering rewards to residents who recycle. The RecycleBank program is offered in conjunction with single-stream recycling collection.

**How does RecycleBank work?**
The new recycling carts have a tag that uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to track how much is being recycled. Residents on each recycling route earn points based on how much material is recycled on the entire route. Points can be redeemed for rewards – such as discounts and offers – from local and national businesses.

**Will everyone participate in RecycleBank?**
The RecycleBank program initially will be available starting September 1, 2010 for residents in single-family and duplex homes. The city is working with RecycleBank to develop a new, innovative approach to allow businesses and apartment complexes to participate at a later date.

**How do I collect my RecycleBank rewards?**
Eligible residents will be mailed information in August on how to set up a free RecycleBank account. Once set up, participants will be able to access their RecycleBank account online or by phone to check points and shop for rewards. More than 1,500 businesses participate in the RecycleBank rewards program, and many of Ann Arbor’s RecycleBank rewards will be from locally-owned businesses.

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**RECYCLING CARTS**

**When will I get a new recycling container?**
Free rolling recycling carts will be delivered to all residences and apartment complexes over a 6-8 week period in July-August 2010.

**Will all of my recyclables have to fit inside the cart?**
Yes. All materials to be recycled must fit inside the cart with the lid closed, or they will not be picked up for recycling.

**What if I want to change my cart after May 7?**
After receiving your cart, if you decide you want a different size, you may exchange the cart at no charge by bringing it to Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 S. Industrial Hwy., open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A $25 delivery fee will apply to requests to pickup and deliver a replacement cart to your address.

**How about businesses and multi-family locations?**
Businesses will be able to place all recyclable materials in current “papers only” recycling dumpsters or use new or refurbished carts, depending on the age of the current containers. Most apartment complexes will receive new recycling carts to replace the containers that have been in-use for nearly 20 years.

**What should I do with my old recycling bins?**
You may keep your old bins at no charge. Reuse of the old bins is the best option—for continuing to store recyclables or other items. Old recycling bins may be returned to Recycle Ann Arbor, at 2420 S. Industrial Hwy., or to the Drop-Off Station, at 2950 E. Ellsworth for reuse. Anyone returning two or more bins to the Drop-Off Station will have the $3.00 DOS entry fee waived for one time. Residents may also place old bins into the new recycling carts for recycling (not reuse).

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**RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE**

**How will my recycling be picked up?**
As part of a single-stream system, recyclables are placed into one recycling collection cart that is emptied by trucks with automated collection arms. Residential recycling will be collected once per week on the same day as trash collection. Residents are required to separate recyclables from trash. All multi-family locations must provide tenants with an opportunity to recycle. Business recycling will be collected once per week, or more often as established by need.

**Will the city use new trucks for single-stream collection?**
The City of Ann Arbor has purchased four bio-diesel hybrid vehicles with automated arms to lift and empty the new single-stream recycling carts. These vehicles use 25% less fuel.
Seasonal Curbside Compost Collection

Place properly-prepared compost carts, paper bags, or bundled brush at the residential curb before 7 a.m. on the weekly solid waste collection day during the growing season from April 5 through Nov. 27, 2010.*

*Please see the discussion of possible compost changes for fiscal year 2010-11 and the potential for a special pre-purchased compost cart on page 4.*

Optional COMPOST CARTS in 35-, 64-, and 96-gallon sizes are available for a one-time purchase price of $50 each and are picked up from the city’s Customer Service Center, 99.GREEN (734.994.7336). The center is open weekdays from 8-5 at 220 E. Huron in downtown Ann Arbor. Branches may not stick out of carts—the lids must be closed.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS Ann Arbor residents may include fruits and vegetables—as well as grass clippings—to their normal compost materials, placed inside compost carts.

*Please see page 4 for more compost cart information.

30-GALLON PAPER BAGS may be used for the basic yardwaste collection storage. Each bag may weigh up to 50 pounds. Paper bags are available from local retailers and may be used for the basic yardwaste collection trimmings such as leaves, plants, and branches.

Paper bags may not be used for grass clippings or uncooked fruit or vegetable scraps in order to avoid attracting wildlife, producing odors, or creating unsafe conditions from wet, overweight, broken paper bags at the curb. Residents interested in participating in the expanded compost program must use a city-approved compost cart.

BRUSH and TREE LIMBS must be cut into 4-foot lengths or shorter. Please tie with natural twine into bundles up to 18-inches in diameter, and up to 50 pounds per bundle. Tree limbs must be under 6-inches in diameter.

MUNICIPAL COMPOST & MULCH SALES

Two natural ingredients can help produce healthy gardens and landscapes. Compost enriches the soil with the nutrients from naturally-decomposed organic materials. Mulch, made from shredded branches or wood, can be applied around shrubs and plants to retain moisture and reduce weeds. Ann Arbor’s screened, cured, and tested municipal compost and mulch are available for sale from two convenient locations. Test results are posted at www.a2gov.org/compost.

City of Ann Arbor’s Compost Center
4150 Platt Rd., 734.794.6380
Open Mon-Fri 8-4; Sat 8-12 April-May-June.
www.a2gov.org/compost

Compost mechanically-loaded ......................................................... $7/cy*
Compost, bulk price 10-24 cy/load ............................................... $5/cy*
Compost, bulk loaded 25+ cy/load .............................................. $2.75/cy*
Mulch, bulk loaded ................................................................. $12/cy*
Mulch, bulk loaded A2 resident ...................................................... $10/cy*

Pre-pay at the MRF Scalehouse; loader will be radioed to fill vehicle. All trucks must be tarped before exiting.

Recycle Ann Arbor’s Drop-Off Station
2950 E. Ellsworth at Platt 734.971.7400
$3.00 entry fee unless purchasing compost or mulch.

Open Tues 9-6; Wed-Sat 9-5. Also see page 9.
Compost ................................................................. $1.75/bushel or $7/cy*
Mixed Mulch .......................................................... $1.50/bushel, $15/cy*
Wood Chips .............................................................. $10/cy*
Yard waste drop-off ............................................................. $2 bag, $14/cy*
Stumps, larger logs, painted wood ........................................... $3/bag, $23/cy*

Delivery is available for additional charge.
Call 734.971.7400 for more information.

*cy= cubic yard.
Prices are subject to change.
Please follow this guide until July 5, 2010!

Please do not combine papers and containers or add more plastics before then.

**RECYCLING GUIDE FOR ANN ARBOR**

**MATERIALS MUST BE OUT BY 7 A.M. FOR PICKUP**

- **Corrugated Boxes** - to fit into the truck openings, please:
  - Flatten & cut or fold into 2’ x 3’
  - Tape or tie into 6” thick bundles
  - Or stuff into a box no larger than 1’ x 18”

- **Newspapers**, junk mail, office paper, glossy paper

- **Magazines, paperbacks, catalogs, telephone books**.
  - No hard cover books

- **Empty and rinsed**
  - PLASTIC BOTTLES marked  or  accepted.
  - Bottle shapes only. No other plastics.
  - Milk cartons, juice boxes, cans, glass, ceramics accepted. Remove all lids.
  - Recycle metal lids, discard plastic tops.
  - Metal cans, foil, pots, pans, utensils, empty aerosol cans & scrap metals up to 1 cubic foot, or 20 pounds. No electrical appliances.

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**Do NOT recycle these items:**

- Get free recycling bins and 24-hour information at 99-GREEN (994-7336),
  - www.a2gov.org/recycle.
- Residential recycling collection and the Drop-Off Station are services of Recycle Ann Arbor, 662-6288,
The Drop-Off Station is open to the general public and operated by Recycle Ann Arbor. Prices are subject to change. For 24-hour information and a complete list of recycling fees, please visit www.recycleannarbor.org. No paints, liquids, or toxics. Entry fee: $3.00.

**COMPOST & MULCH SALES**

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<tr>
<th>MUNICIPAL COMPOST</th>
<th>$1.75/bushel</th>
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<tr>
<td>MIXED MULCH</td>
<td>$1.50/bushel or $15/cubic yard</td>
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<td>WOOD CHIPS</td>
<td>$10/cubic yard</td>
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Delivery is also available from Recycle Ann Arbor, 971-7400.

Loaded bulk compost and mulch are handled at the MRF Scalehouse at 4150 Platt Road. Call 794-6380 for hours, prices, and availability.

**RECYCLABLES** (See the Recycle Guide for preparation guidelines)

- **PAPER:** Newspaper • Magazines • Office Paper • “Junk” Mail • Phone Books • Paperbacks • Catalogs
- Flattened Bagged Boxboard • Flattened Corrugated Boxes and Paper Bags
- **MIXED CONTAINERS Empty, Rinsed:** Milk Cartons • Juice Boxes • Glass (jars, bottles, dishes, Pyrex)
- Plastic Bottles (marked #1 and #2) • Metals (steel cans, lids, empty aerosols, aluminum cans, foil, pie tins)
- **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (Not accepted on collection routes):** Household Batteries • Hardcover Books • Styrofoam (with no food waste) • Packing Peanuts (bagged) • Egg Cartons (paper and foam)
- Shoes (paired) • Textiles (clean, dry and bagged) • Plastic shrink wrap
- Plastic Grocery Bags #2 and #4 (empty and dry)

**TIPWALL MATERIALS**

Fees and volumes (to next quarter yard) are assessed at the Gatehouse. Pick-up available for additional charge. Please call (734) 971-7400.

1. **LIGHT WASTE** and 2. **HEAVY WASTE** - All non-hazardous municipal solid waste such as carpeting, mattresses, furniture, and trash; and building debris, drywall, shingles, plywood, painted or treated wood, concrete with steel, or bricks. $23/cy or $3/bag.

2. **YARD WASTE** - Includes soft yard debris and branches up to 6” in diameter. No stumps or logs. $14/cy or $2/bag.

3. **FERROUS (STEEL) METALS** - Includes small appliances (e.g., toaster ovens), gutters, bikes, auto parts(empty of oil and fuel). $5/cy. Non-Freon appliances (e.g., microwaves, stoves) $5/each.

4. **CONCRETE** - No painted concrete or imbedded steel or brick. $15/cy.

5. **NON-FERROUS METALS** - such as aluminum, copper, etc. No charge.

6. **UNFINISHED WOOD** - Includes clean lumber (no painted, treated, stained or glued wood/plywood) and pallets. $12/cy.

7. **PROPANE TANKS** - 20-pound size, $10/each; 1-pound camping tank, $5/each.

8. **SPECIAL ITEMS** to recycle details at recycleannarbor.org

- FLUORESCENT LIGHTS (up to 4’) $1 ea. or $10/dz if preboxed
- COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTS $1 ea.
- FLUORESCENT LIGHTS, 8’ $2 ea.
- FREON APPLIANCES $28 ea.
- COMPUTER (CPUs), VCRs, METAL STEREOS, MICROWAVE OVENS Free
- COMPUTER MONITORS $15 ea. COMPUTER PERIPHERALS $50 ea.
- FAX MACHINES, PERSONAL PRINTERS $5/ea.
- TELEVISIONS variable fees

Prices are subject to change
What can you do with an old refrigerator, unwanted sofa, mattresses, broken television, rolls of carpeting, or the dozen bags of “stuff” you just cleaned out of your closet, basement, attic, or garage?

**Bulky items or trash bags cannot be placed outside trash carts.** Trash found outside of Ann Arbor’s refuse carts can be cited and subject to fines up to $1,000. You may be able to save some surplus dry trash for the next week, when your cart is less full. If excess trash is an ongoing situation, you may subscribe to have additional refuse carts serviced weekly ($68/year for each additional 96-gallon cart) by calling the Customer Service Center at (734) 994-2807.

**Recyclables** and **compostables**, prepared for separate collection, may be placed at the curb at least 3 feet from the trash carts. The U.S. EPA recognizes Ann Arbor for offering recycling and composting programs that can reduce landfilled waste by over 50 percent.

**Freon must be removed from appliances before disposal.** This is a Federal requirement to reduce a significant greenhouse gas. Cost is $28 per appliance for freon recycling by a certified extractor. Freon extraction is available at the Drop-Off Station and some scrap metal sites.

**Contact a PRIVATE WASTE HAULER or Reuse Operation.** Many haulers are listed in print and Internet “yellow pages” under Rubbish & Garbage Removal or a similar heading. The haulers listed below are recognized as Washtenaw County Waste Knot Partners, and provide waste pickup and recycling services.

- **1-800-GOT-JUNK?** 1.800.468.5865 Provides waste pickup and disposal services as well as recycling options for most items, including renovation debris. Fees include removing items from inside building. [www.1800gotjunk.com](http://www.1800gotjunk.com)

- **Big Time Services** 734.330.9000. Provides waste pickup, disposal, and recycling services.

- **Calvert’s Rolloff Containers, Inc. Operated by Recycle Ann Arbor.** 734.426.2280. Rents containers of all sizes to handle construction or clean-out debris. Processes collected materials for recycling and disposal. Provides some pickups and accepts drop-off of bulky items on a for-fee basis. [www.calvertsrolloff.com](http://www.calvertsrolloff.com)

- **Drop-Off Station** 734.971.7400, Allows drop-off of a wide variety of bulky waste materials, including furniture, appliances, and electronics for recycling and disposal. Pickups also available. $3.00 entry fee. Additional fees may apply. [www.recycleannarbor.org](http://www.recycleannarbor.org)

- **Honeymoon Hauling** 734.761.4030. Provides waste, appliance, compost, and recycling pickup and disposal.

- **TDF II Hauling & Plowing** 734.994.3484. Provides pickup and disposal/recycling services for many items, including appliances, computers, furniture, and yard waste. Also donates items such as cleaning products, toys, clothing, and books to local charities. tdf2@aat.net

*The listing of these haulers is not and does not imply an endorsement of their services or products by the City of Ann Arbor or by any City of Ann Arbor official or employee.*
NONPROFIT RESALE/DONATION CENTERS for items in new or gently used condition

**Ann Arbor District Library, Main Branch**

**Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop**
a2ptothriftshop.org.
2280 S. Industrial, 996-9155. Accepts and sells small household goods, jewelry, antiques, clothing, and toys. Donation limit 3 bags/day.

**Ann Arbor Thrift Shop**
www.annarborthriftshop.org.
3530 Washtenaw, 662-6771. Accepts and sells clothing, toys, jewelry, and small household items. No donations first 10 days of month.

**Drop-Off Station**
www.recycleannarbor.org.
2950 E. Ellsworth, 971-7400. $3.00 entry fee. Accepts electronics and clean dry clothing, paired shoes, and linens in plastic bags at no charge. Also recycles computers, TVs, and Freon appliances. Some fees may apply.

**Food Gatherers** www.foodgatherers.org.
One Carrot Way, 761-2796. Call or visit web site for food donation guidelines.

**Friends in Deed** www.friendsindeed.info.
484-7607. Provides free, good-condition furniture to needy of Washtenaw County.

**Habitat for Humanity ReStore**
www.h4h.org/restore.html.
170 April Drive, 677-1558. Accepts and sells building materials, tools, appliances, and furniture. Will schedule pickups.

**House by the Side of the Road**
4133 Washtenaw County Service Center, 971-2550. Accepts clothing, cribs, bedding, toys, and small household articles. Call for donation and pickup information.

**Humane Society of Huron Valley**

**Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor - Downtown**

**Military Order of the Purple Heart**

**Pregnancy Help Center**
3150 Packard, 975-4357. Accepts infant and children’s clothing up to size 5T, gently used or new baby blankets, monitors, baths, and crib sheets. Call for drop-off hours.

**Recycle Ann Arbor ReUse Center**
www.recycleannarbor.org.
2420 S. Industrial, 222-7880. Accepts and sells salvaged building materials, working appliances, TVs, books, furniture, sporting goods, and household items. Pickup service available; some restrictions apply.

**St. Vincent De Paul Society**
1001 Broadway, 761-1400. Accepts and sells clothing and household items.

**Salvation Army Store, Area Drop-Off Center**

**The Scrap Box** www.scrapbox.org.
581 State Circle, 994-4420. Accepts and sells craft items from industrial discards. Public welcome to recycle film canisters, corks, coffee cans, CDs, seashells, and baby food jars.

**Consignment and Resale Shops**

Consignment shops will pay for your used items. Telephone before dropping off items.

- **The Klothes Kloset**, 2401 S. Industrial Hwy ..........................................................971-6211
- **Once Upon a Child**, 4559 Washtenaw Ave ........................................................ ..........................................................971-6822
- **Play it Again Sports**, 2461 W. Stadium .................................................................747-6277
- **Top Drawer Women’s Designer Apparel**, 1960 S. Industrial Hwy ..........994-4646
- **Treasure Mart**, 529 Detroit Street .................................................................662-9887
- **Value World**, Maple Village Plaza .................................................................728-4610
- **Woman in the Shoe**, 1241 Rosewood .................................................................994-1206

You can also try selling your usable items to antique, used book, and music shops. Try holding your own yard sale or use the Ann Arbor News freebie ads.

This list covers Ann Arbor resale locations. Find Washtenaw County-wide options at http://recycle.eWashtenaw.org or call 222-6874 for a printed Trash-to-Treasures booklet. Freecycle.org offers free local internet listings.
Home Toxics Disposal Options

Poisons, solvents, heavy metals, and other toxic products should never be poured down a drain or thrown into the trash and landfilled. Instead, use up toxic products completely according to the label, or take unwanted products to Washtenaw County’s permanent Home Toxics Center for free, proper disposal. Computers, electronics, and selected automotive fluids are recyclable through the Drop-Off Station ($3.00 user fee) and other locations. Please purchase less toxic products in the future.

Home Toxics:
- Cleansers & Polishes
- Fertilizers & Phosphorus
- Home Repair Products (glues, caulk)
- Mercury Thermometers
- Oil Based Paints (not latex)
- Paint Thinners, Solvents, Varnishes
- Pesticides & Weed Killers
- Roofing Tar & Asphalt
- Wood Preservatives
- Needles, Syringes & Sharps in a sealed, unbreakable container
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Take these items to Washtenaw County’s Home Toxics Reduction Program, 705 N. Zeeb Road near Jackson Road, open 9-12, first three Saturdays of each month (excluding holiday weekends) and by appointment for other days and during winter months 734.222.3950, (donations accepted). This collection program – with suggestions for less toxic alternative products – are described at http://recycle.eWashtenaw.org. Please keep toxic products in their original containers. All containers, including gasoline cans, must remain at site.

Computers, Televisions Electronics & Recyclable Toxics:
No charge for most electronics and batteries. Variable fees apply to the following:
- Fluorescent Light Tubes & Compacts
- Motor Oil, Brake Fluid, Transmission Fluid, Antifreeze
- Oil Filters
- Propane Tanks
- TVs & Computer Monitors
- Refrigerators & Other Freon Appliances

Computers, electronics, batteries, freon appliances and selected automotive fluids are accepted year-round at the Recycle Ann Arbor Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth Road near Platt Road, 734.971.7400, $3.00 entry fee. For 24-hour information and a complete list of recycling fees, please visit www.recycleannarbor.org.

Curbside Toxics Collection:
Pickups ending June 30, 2010.
Please see page 13 for recycling options.

Until June 30, 2010, these items may be placed OUTSIDE the recycling bins. Seal positive ends of rechargeable batteries with clear tape before adding to alkaline batteries in a clear plastic bag. Place used oil filters (drained for 24 hours) in a clear plastic bag. Place used crankcase oil only in plastic milk jugs with a securely taped lid. Other liquids, such as transmission fluid, antifreeze, or gasoline, may not be mixed with the oil. Up to 3 filters and 3 gallons of motor oil a week are accepted per address.

These items are also accepted at the Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth, 734.971.7400, $3.00 entry fee. Vehicle batteries are accepted at the DOS and most auto service stations.
Effective July 5, 2010, the City of Ann Arbor will no longer accept household batteries or motor oil from curbside pickup. This is part of the city's move to providing single-stream recycling using recycling carts. Toxic materials cannot mix with comingled papers and clean containers.

Recycling household batteries

In 2009 the U.S. Dept. of Transportation (DOT) placed restrictions on the management and shipment of batteries. Under the new regulations, all rechargeables must be hand-sorted and sealed with clear tape on the positive ends (or placed in individual baggies) before shipped for recycling.

Rechargeable batteries contain toxic, heavy metals such as Nickel-Cadmium, Lithium, and Mercury and should not be placed in the trash. Rechargeables should be taken to free drop-off sites at many stores that sell these batteries, including ABC Appliances, Ace Barnes Hardware, Arbor Vacuum, Batteries Plus, Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's Office Depot, RadioShack, Sears, Staples, and other free locations posted at www.rbrc.org. Look for drop-boxes at the Customer Service area. Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station and Washtenaw County's Home Toxics Center also accept rechargeable batteries (see listing below for more details).

It is generally accepted that used alkaline batteries can be placed in the trash. U.S. alkaline batteries—also called one-use, disposable, dry cells, non-rechargeables or nontoxic 'green' rechargeables—have eliminated the addition of mercury since 1995. The resulting batteries are relatively inert. If desired, consumers can separate alkaline (and taped rechargeable) batteries and take these to Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station, 2950 E. Ellsworth, 734.971.7400 ($3 user fee), or to Washtenaw County's Home Toxics Reduction Center, 705 N. Zeeb Rd., 734.222-3950 (donations accepted).

Footnote: Several mail-back services for battery recycling are available. Since batteries are heavy, these options tend to be expensive. Prepaid mailer boxes that can be filled with sealed batteries may cost between $35-150, depending on size. An online search for “battery recycling” can provide leads in addition to those listed at www.rbrc.org.

Case study: Alkaline batteries are perfect for low-drain applications—radios, clocks, smoke alarms, etc. Rechargeable batteries are ideal for high-drain applications such as digital cameras, electronic gadgets, etc. While there's no universal truth for battery selection, findings from the local VA Hospital may be useful in selecting rechargeable batteries based not on the price, but on the rated milliamps (mAh). In general, look for rechargeable AA & AAA cells at 2500mAh and C & D cells at 3000mAh.

Recycling used motor oil

Most automotive service stations accept used motor oil from the public in their on-site oil recycling program. Place used motor oil in a sturdy, sealed, clear container. Call ahead to the station to confirm any requirements. A small fee may apply. Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station accepts unlimited quantities of used motor oil and motor oil filters at no charge, after the general $3 entry fee is paid.
Safe Refuse Disposal

YES! The following materials are acceptable inside refuse carts. Some special preparation may be required:

Normal household trash is allowed - Up to the weight printed on the outside of the trash cart.

Animal waste & diapers - Must be secured in double plastic bags to reduce odors before placing in the trash cart.

PAINTS:
- Paint, empty, dry cans - Should be placed in the Containers recycling bin with the paint can lid removed.
- Paint, latex (water-based) - Latex paint is acceptable as refuse if/when: 1) the cans are dried out with cat litter, "oil dry" or other absorbent; 2) the lids are securely reattached; and 3) the sealed paint cans are placed inside the refuse carts. Why: Liquid wastes are banned from Michigan landfills. Also, partially-full paint containers break open upon compaction in trash trucks and leak into the street.
- Paint, oil based (brushes cannot be cleaned with water) Prohibited in Refuse. See Household Toxics below.

Building materials - Small quantities of building materials such as painted wood, pane glass, mirrors, flooring, etc., may be placed inside the refuse carts as long as the refuse does not stick out above the top of the cart and the overall cart weight does not exceed the maximum cart weight limit.

Light bulbs – Michigan regulations currently permit placing residential light bulbs in the trash. However, to reduce the release into the environment of toxic mercury from fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs, please recycle at the Drop-Off Station (variable fee, page 15), the Home Toxics Center (free, page 9) or to Gross Electric 2232 S. Industrial (variable fee), or Home Depot, 3300 Carpenter, Ypsilanti (no fee for compact fluorescent bulbs).

Medical waste, needles & sharps - Store used needles at home in a sturdy, marked container. Seal sharps containers and put inside a trash bag before placing in the refuse cart. Dispose of other home medical waste in trash bags placed inside your cart. Note: Some pharmacists offer a free sharps collection program. Never place sharps in recycling bins or place loose sharps in trash!

Sawdust, cold ashes, loose packing materials - Must be secured in plastic bags to prevent blowing during collection.

Sawdust, cold ashes, loose packing materials - Must be secured in plastic bags to prevent blowing during collection.

PROHIBITED ITEMS. DO NOT DISCARD IN REFUSE CARTS (OR DUMPSTERS)
Illegally discarded materials may be cited and subject to fines up to $1,000.

Ashes, hot – Fireplace and grill ashes must be cold and bagged before placing in the cart. Why: Hot ashes can start fires in the cart at the curb, in the collection truck, at the transfer station, or even in the landfill.

Computer monitors & TVs - Take to the Drop-Off Station or use manufacturer rebate programs or other recycling options. Why: Monitors contain toxic materials, including 3-8 pounds of loose lead, a known neurotoxin, and can be released into landfills to pose potential groundwater contamination.

Household Toxics - Including oil paints, pesticides, solvents, weed killers, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, mercury thermometers, photography and pool chemicals, and other products labeled Danger, Warning, Poison, Flammable or Corrosive. Never discard these items in the trash. Use them up as described on the label and discard empty container as refuse or deliver partially-unused containers to the Washtenaw County Home Toxics Center, 222-3950, see page 12.

Recyclables - Place recyclable paper and container items in the recycling bins, as described on page 8.

Yard wastes are prohibited by state law from burial in Michigan landfills. Prepare your yard waste for the Compostable collection, see page 7.

Michigan landfill-prohibited residential materials include liquids, deposit beverage containers, used motor oil, whole vehicle tires, lead acid batteries, yard clippings, sewage, PCBs, asbestos, radioactive and/or hazardous waste. http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-p2tas-BannedLandfillMaterials.pdf.
May 15: The Adopt-A-Park Spring Kickoff will take place Saturday, May 15th at adopted parks all over town. Adopters and volunteers will be participating in a variety of activities ranging from tree plantings to gardens maintenance. For a list of locations and times, or if you are interested in adopting a park near you, please call 734.794.6627 or visit www.a2gov.org/adopt-a-park.

May 15: Join hundreds of volunteers planting flower beds in downtown Ann Arbor for the A2 Downtown Blooms Day. Volunteers check in at 9 a.m. at Liberty Plaza, receive supplies and orientation from Master Gardeners, and dig in! Celebrate with a free pizza lunch and complementary event t-shirt. Pre-register at 734.794,6000 ext 43112, if possible, or just drop by at 9 a.m.

June 11: The City of Ann Arbor Mayor’s Office will host the 10th annual Green Fair on Main Street from 6-9 p.m. for an evening celebrating our community’s environmental leadership as exhibited by citizens, nonprofits, businesses, and government. Downtown Main Street will be closed to regular automotive traffic, but will remain open for walkers to enjoy displays and entertainment in cooperation with the Clean Energy Coalition, getDowntown’s Green Commute, BikeFest, and WasteKnot Business Partners. Over 100 exhibitors provide information and hands-on activities for all ages. More information at 734.794.6161, www.a2gov.org/greenfair.

July 12: Join the annual celebration of Huron River Day with music, educational exhibits, canoeing, food, and fun events for the whole family. More information at www.a2gov.org/hrd, 734.662.9319.

Census 2010:
We can’t move forward until you mail it back! When you receive your 2010 Census form in the mail this March, please be sure to fill it out and send it in. Census data helps determine how much federal funding Ann Arbor receives and guides local planning decisions, including where to provide social services and build new roads. Census data is also used to reapportion congressional seats to states and assure proper district representation. Be a part of history, and make sure our city is, too — Participate in the 2010 Census! See the 2010 Census link under “living in” on the city’s Web site: www.a2gov.org.
**Starting July 5, 2010**

**Single-Stream recycling for everyone!**

All plastic bottles and tubs, marked #1-7 (except # 3/PVC, Styrofoam™, and biodegradable plastics) and bulky plastic items will be accepted.

**Free recycling carts delivered over this summer!**

More detailed recycling program information will be imprinted on the recycling cart lid.

Starting July 5, 2010, you may put additional plastics in your existing recycling stacking bins until your cart arrives. Do not mix papers and containers or start recycling plastic tubs before July 5, 2010.

Effective July 1, 2010, Household batteries, motor oil and filters no longer collected curbside.

See page 13 for recycling options.

RecycleBank Rewards program starts September 1, 2010.

See single-stream recycling fact sheet and learn what to do with old recycling stacking bins, on pages 5-6.