

Solid Waste Program Update



City of Ann Arbor Environmental Commission

Thursday October 27, 2022

Presentation Overview

- Major Initiatives Updates
 - Recycling Education Cart-Tagging Campaign
 - Commercial Franchise Solicitation Overview
 - Downtown Solid Waste Collections Audit Overview
 - Planning for New Drop-Off Station
 - Award of Education, Marketing and Outreach Contract
 - Other Programs
- Challenges and Opportunities
 - Staffing
- Questions/Answers



Recycling Education Cart-Tagging

Hi Neighbor!

The City of Ann Arbor is part of WRRMA (Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority). WRRMA is working to improve recycling in our area through education on what is and isn't recyclable, increasing participation in recycling programs and increasing the quality of our recycling through direct resident feedback.

On behalf of your community, WRRMA will be conducting a Recycling Quality Improvement program. Our representatives will be in your neighborhood from mid-July to mid-August on recycling days to glance at recycling and see how we're all doing. If there's something in a recycling cart/bin that doesn't belong there (oops!) they'll leave behind a tag with feedback about how you can fix it. Thanks in advance for your participation and putting the right recyclables in your container.



301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Find the A-Z Recycling Guide at a2gov.org/recycle.



a2gov.org/recycle | 734.994.7336
customerservice@a2gov.org



RECYCLE THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:



Paper



Mixed Paper, Mail, Newspaper, and Food and Beverage Cartons



Cardboard



Cardboard and Boxboard
(empty and flatten)



Metal



Aluminum and Metal Cans
(empty and rinse)



Plastic



Plastic Bottles, Tub, and Containers
(empty, rinse and replace cap)



Glass



Glass Bottles and Jars
(empty and dry)

NO!



Do Not Bag Recyclables



No Plastic Grocery Bags, Film, or Wrap
(return to retail)



No Shredded Paper



No Batteries or Electronics



No Tanglers
(no hoses, wires, chains, or electronics)



No Bulky Plastics or Scrap Metal



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June 2022



Funded in part by

Recycling Education Cart-Tagging



OOPS!
YOUR RECYCLING WILL NOT BE COLLECTED IF WRONG ITEMS CONTINUE TO BE FOUND.

Please leave these items out of your recycling!

<input type="checkbox"/>  Do Not Bag Recyclables	<input type="checkbox"/>  No Plastic Grocery Bags, Film, or Wrap (return to retail)
<input type="checkbox"/>  No Shredded Paper	<input type="checkbox"/>  No Batteries or Electronics
<input type="checkbox"/>  No Tanglers, Cords, Hoses, or Chains	<input type="checkbox"/>  No Bulky Plastics or Scrap Metal

Other: _____

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KEEP RECYCLABLES LOOSE IN CART
Collecting recyclables in a bag? Empty contents into the cart.



WRRMA
Washtenaw County




OOPS!
CORRECT THIS AND WE WILL COLLECT NEXT TIME.

Please leave these items out of your recycling!

<input type="checkbox"/>  Do Not Bag Recyclables	<input type="checkbox"/>  No Plastic Grocery Bags, Film, or Wrap (return to retail)
<input type="checkbox"/>  No Shredded Paper	<input type="checkbox"/>  No Batteries or Electronics
<input type="checkbox"/>  No Tanglers, Cords, Hoses, or Chains	<input type="checkbox"/>  No Bulky Plastics or Scrap Metal

Other: _____

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BATTERIES CAN SPARK OR EXPLODE

 They don't belong in recycling or trash.



Safely dispose of batteries and personal electronics at Washtenaw County Home Toxics Center

WRRMA
Washtenaw County



Recycling Education Cart-Tagging

SCRAP METAL RECYCLABLE ONLY AT DROP OFF



**NO SCRAP
METAL
FUEL TANKS,
HANGERS, OR
SMALL METAL
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

Find a list of drop-off locations on the other side.

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Recycling Education Cart-Tagging

- Results showed:
 - Over 80% participation rate of households visited
 - Over 20% decrease in contamination of pre-tagging sample to post-tagging sample.
 - Top contaminants included-
 - Bagged Recyclables
 - Plastic bags/Plastic Wrap
 - Bulky Items
 - Tanglers
 - Shredded Paper

Commercial Solid Waste Franchise Collection Contract Procurement Timeline

- RFP issued: May 23, 2022
- Original Due Date: June 30, 2022
- Extension granted: June 16, 2022
- Proposals Due: July 14, 2022
- Evaluation Committee Meetings:
 - August 3, 2022
 - August 18, 2022: vendor interviews
 - August 22, 2022: vendor notices sent
- Negotiation
- Final Contract targeted for end of 2022/early 2023



Areas of Focus for New Agreement

- Direct billing and customer service
- Monthly billing instead of quarterly
 - Online application for customer service
 - Training for both customers and CSRs
 - 7 day/week collection schedule to meet demand
- Requested subscription based organics
 - Partnering with My Green Michigan
- Requested on-demand bulk collection

Downtown Solid Waste Collections Audit

The Downtown Solid Waste Collections Audit will examine downtown properties and identify:

- How they receive trash service,
- The cost for the service and
- Who pays the bill,
- Other key information such as size, owner, contact information, type of business, etc.

The Audit will identify the levels of service currently being provided, how the costs for those services are distributed among shared users, and if any properties are currently not participating/paying for solid waste collection services.

New Drop-Off Station

- Existing DOS site is settling due to its location on the closed landfill and requires quarterly inspection by an engineer. Need and desire for new regional facility has been known for over a decade.
- The City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and Recycle Ann Arbor (RAA) have been working together to plan for a new facility, **including applying for and being awarded an \$850,000 grant from Michigan EGLE.**
- Up to \$1,000,000 earmarked from the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Funding subject to approval from County Board of Commissioners
- Remainder of funding for the project will come from the approved City of Ann Arbor Solid Waste Capital Budget

Project Process and Progress



- Project Team including City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and Recycle Ann Arbor has been working together to complete the project.
- In July, City Council approved contract with RRS to complete the Drop-Off Site Design and Engineering work.
- Consultant will complete preliminary design including traffic flow into and away from the site, and other relevant site specific details.
- Public Engagement will be conducted including:
 - Meetings with key stakeholders
 - Community outreach plan
 - At least two meetings for the public to give feedback on conceptual plan options
- Design consultant will bring final site plan to Pittsfield Township for approval, late Spring 2023.
- Aiming for construction to begin late Summer 2023.

Education, Outreach and Marketing

- Ecology Center was awarded an expanded contract with the City to provide education, outreach, engagement, and social-based marketing to the Community around trash, recycle, compost, reuse and circular economy programs and services that support the City's progress toward its Resource Recovery goals.
- The new agreement has five major work areas:
 - Community-Based Social Marketing
 - Commercial Sector Education
 - Education and Outreach at Community Event
 - Multi-family Education and Outreach
 - Youth Education

Other Programs

- City completed two successful move in/move out events in Spring and Fall 2022. Drop-off operations continue to be held at 2000 S. Industrial.
- Several contracts are up for renewal and have been under negotiation with the vendors including the contract for compost operations, DOS operations, and commercial/multi-family recycling collections.
- Monitoring issues with trash in downtown alleys, engaging stakeholders to work towards sustainable solutions.
- Winter compost collection is on schedule for 2023.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Staffing remains a major challenge as national demand for CDL drivers remains high.
- Greater outreach to multi-family residents and commercial businesses to increase recyclables collected, and achieve greater compliance with proper handling of recyclables (i.e. break down boxes).
- Opportunities for collaboration on promoting circular economy, increasing capture of reusable materials from move-out, and around solid waste in downtown.
- Opportunities to continue to explore programs and services that help make progress towards recommendations of SWRMP and goals of A2Zero.



THANK YOU
