



Village of Manchester initiates new recycling program

What would it take for *you* to start recycling? More convenient? More economical? Simpler? Being able to recycle more items? Knowing how to recycle? The Village of Manchester has an answer for you!

For many people, recycling has become a part of their daily, or at least weekly, lives. The village is pleased to announce important changes to its recycling program. Because the current unlimited trash pickup may not be sustainable in the long term, village council has worked to find ways to provide waste services at the lowest possible cost, while encouraging recycling as we look to the future.

The village council is committed to make curbside recycling as convenient and simple as possible, and to encourage residents to participate in this activity that is important to the community and the world.

Since 1992, the village has been part of the Western Washtenaw Recycle Authority (WWRA). Over the years, all village residents have been levied a special assessment (currently \$44/year) on township tax bills that covered curbside recycling pickup from the WWRA. Unfortunately, only about 15 percent of residents participated in this program that everyone paid for. Recent changes in structure and financing have caused the council to examine other options

To continue participating as a full member of the WWRA, the council would have committed residents to a 15-year, \$2.7 million bond for capital improvements to the WWRA facility. The price per household would have increased significantly, with initial estimates ranging from \$86 to \$100 per year. No assurance was offered to check price fluctuations in future years.

Instead, the council has voted to contract with Stevens Disposal & Recycling Service of Temperance, Mich. for future recycling services. The total price for the three year, seven month term (until June, 2015) will be \$111.10. Rather than a special assessment on your tax bill, this cost will be included in the trash fee (labeled OR) on your monthly Village water and sewer bills at a rate of \$2.50/month for the first 19 months, \$2.60 for the second year, and \$2.70 in the third year of the contract. In contrast, the cost for the same term at WWRA's lowest estimation would be more than \$300.

WWRA will conclude weekly curbside pickups in the village after Nov. 30. Stevens' curbside pickup will commence on Wednesdays, the same day as you put out your regular trash, **starting the week of Dec. 5.** You may continue to use your current bins (or other bins clearly marked "recyclable") for a few weeks, and Stevens will provide new 18-gallon bins to every household after Jan. 1, 2012. Anything you have been putting out as recyclables in the past, will be accepted by our new carrier.

These new bins will be more convenient and all recyclables can be co-mingled in the same container. There is no need to sort glass, plastic, newspaper, and aluminum cans. Stevens will provide instructions to introduce those new to recycling at curbside, along with guidelines to let all residents know what can be recycled. You may be surprised to learn how much you can recycle under the new program!

The council is excited about these developments, and looks forward to helping create a cleaner, greener future in the Village of Manchester with this new recycling program. Please join us!



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