

RECYCLING NEWS UPDATE

PROGRAM UPDATE

Boy, there has been quite a whirlwind of activities with the recycling program both at the state level and local level the last few months! First of all, we received word that the amount of grant funding for recycling has been reduced for 2016 as part of the approved state budget. It will be reduced from \$19,000,000 statewide to \$15,000,000. This means that our total amount of our recycling grant is anticipated to drop by approximately \$2,000. This may not seem like a huge amount of money but with the tight budgets and current levy limits, it does not leave a lot of wiggle room. The committee will be reviewing their options in the near future which could include a cut in expenses or reallocation of lost funds back to the recycling budget from other areas in the budget or generation of additional revenue to offset the reductions.

The other much larger change is that there has been a huge push from our recycling processor, which is Outagamie County, to move from the dual stream recycling system that we currently have to a single stream recycling system. As you all know, dual stream recycling is where the recyclables are separated and placed in clear plastic bags. This is where Outagamie County is having issues because the plastic bags are getting caught up in the rollers on their separating machines and they have to shut down the lines in order to remove them. With single stream recycling, each residence has another container where you place all of your recyclables in and WITHOUT BAGS. This means all the tin cans, glass, paper, cardboard, etc. are all placed inside this container. As a member of the Eastshore Recycling Commission, we had several meetings and discussed at quite length about switching to this type of program. Doing this is no small task because our current hauler, Advanced Disposal, would be required to purchase a new truck for recycling because they do not have a recycling truck set up for automated containers. After these discussions, it was recommended by the Eastshore Recycling Commission that we move to this single stream recycling. This was taken back to each individual municipality and all of the members have approved moving to this program. We understand that there may be several of you that may have questions regarding this switch and I will try to address some of them now, but please remember that we are available to address any questions or concerns that residents may have. With this single stream recycling, each property that has a current volume based garbage container will be receiving a 96 gallon recycling container. Properties with multiple garbage containers will be receiving multiple recycling containers. For properties that currently have dumpsters instead of the volume based garbage containers, they will need to contact Advanced Disposal directly in order to either line up a recycling dumpster or obtain recycling containers. With this change unfortunately comes an added cost. Right now they are telling us that the recycling containers will be similar to the garbage containers but will have a blue lid instead of a gray one. There will be a \$1.50 per month charge per recycling container or \$18 per year that will be added to the property tax bill as a special charge similar to the garbage fees.

The current plan is to have the containers ordered and delivered so that we can begin single stream recycling pickup with the November pickup. The goal is to have this program up and running prior to the weather being too bad. When your container is delivered, there will be an instruction pamphlet on the inside of the container which will explain the program in further detail and will explain the proper way to prepare the recyclable material for pickup along with what is acceptable.

As far as pickup of the recyclables, we are still going to stay with once a month pickup. The board felt at the time of the decision that they needed to try it this way first and see how the program does before jumping into another pickup date and the additional costs that go along with it. The biggest thing to remember with single stream recycling is that you will need to break down your cans and flatten them along with flattening your plastics and cardboard. If you do this, we feel that once a

month will still be viable. It does take a little more effort on your part to make sure that prepare your recyclables this way but we feel that it is the best way to go with it at this time. You will also be allowed to opt out of a recycling container if you share with a neighboring property just as the volume based containers have been treated in the past. Please remember though that your recyclables will not be able to be placed at the curbing in bags as in the past. They must be in the container or it will not be picked up.

We ask that everyone exercises patience with the change in the program because it is a big change from what we have been used to for so many years. We feel that this is a step in the right direction and it will also be cleaner and less messy than in the past. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office at 853-3241. As you can see from this, there have been a lot of changes but we feel that once they are implemented, it may actually make our program stronger because previous studies have shown that there have been increases in volumes of recyclables and a reduction in wastes in other communities that have switched from a dual stream system to a single stream system.

COMPOST SITE

When using the compost site, please remember to read the signs and dump the compost material and/or brush on the proper piles. We still continue to have periodic issues at the compost site with people outside the village taking material or bringing material to the site. If you see this going on, please get a license plate for the vehicle and turn it into the clerk's office. We want to curb this type of activity to help save costs to the village. When this happens, it only costs you, the taxpayer. We have also been sifting compost material at the site and this is available free of charge to any village resident. It is also available for non residents but they would have to pay a fee of \$5.00 per yard. If you know of someone interested in the material and they are not a village resident, please have them contact the clerk's office. Please remember that the free compost is for VILLAGE RESIDENTS ONLY! Please do not take the compost material and give it to a non resident. Remember that this program does cost money and you are the ones paying the property taxes to offset that cost.

LEAF PICK UP

As in previous years, the village will go around the village to pick up the leaves at curbside this year. Please place the leaves in the terrace area between the curb and sidewalk. Do not place them in the roadway. This could hinder storm water drainage. Please do not wait too late in the fall season to rake the leaves out to the curb. We will pick them up as long as we can but when the weather goes south along with the birds your leaves may not be able to be picked up at all. Please keep this in mind as we go through this season.

BRUSH PICK UP

Please remember that the village still continues to do brush pick up at your residence for large amounts of brush. If you only have a couple of branches and are able to transport them to the compost site, we ask that you do. This helps curtail costs of driving around the village picking up small amounts of brush. **IN ORDER TO HAVE THE BRUSH PICKED UP ON YOUR PROPERTY, YOU MUST CALL THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO BE PLACED ON THE LIST. IF YOU DO NOT CALL THE CLERK'S OFFICE TO GET ON THE BRUSH PICK UP LIST, WE WILL NOT PICK UP THE BRUSH AT YOUR PROPERTY.** The maximum diameter of brush that the village will accept at the compost site or on site at your property is 4". If you are removing a large tree, please call prior to cutting down the tree.