

Title: Helpful Hints for Successful Curbside Recycling
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Have you ever carpooled to work or on a long trip? We choose carpooling because it is an effective way to get more people the same distance using the same amount of resources. There are many things we do each day that are similar to carpooling. We receive mail at our homes thereby eliminating the need for individual travel to the Post Office. We make grocery lists to prevent duplicate trips to the store and we utilize phone and email to save time. Carpooling and like activities reduce per unit costs making common expenditures more economical.

How about curbside recycling? Thirty-five years ago there was only one citywide curbside program offered in the entire United States. Over the last few decades rising energy costs has made recycling more popular and as a result curbside service is now available to half the population. Communities eager to jump on board realize that this service is a simple way to reduce trash, is convenient, and is way to “carpool” recyclables.

Union Township residents recently joined the group of communities with access to curbside recycling pick-up. The new program serves over 2,400 households and is expected to recover 350 tons of material each year. Other communities benefiting from service through Isabella County are Deerfield Township, Village of Lake Isabella, Lincoln Township, Rolland Township, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and Village of Shepherd.

These communities are pooling resources to make a big difference. Participating residents are currently recycling 15 to 20 pounds per month, for a family of four that is nearly 1,000 pounds per year! For the cost of less than two postage stamps per pick-up residents have access to unlimited curbside recycling.

If you live in one of the above communities you’ll want to remember the following tips to take advantage of service benefits.

Our collection routes start at 8 am. While our drivers are usually right on time, please make sure your bin is out by 8 am on your designate day. When we have unexpected weather or if our driver requires a substitute, collection routes can change. If, however, the bin was out and was missed, give us a call to coordinate another pick-up time.

Keep an updated material guide handy as a reminder of all the items that are accepted curbside. Curbside recycling guides can be picked up at the Recycling Center or viewed on the website. I encourage you to recycle all your cardboard, papers, plastic jugs and bottles, brown and clear glass, tin and aluminum cans. Items such as aerosol cans, aluminum foil, and phone books can be recycled curbside as well. Note that it is not necessary to wash out containers, remove labels, or sort items. Just like throwing an item in the trash, put recyclable items in the bin and forget about it! Knowing what is and is not accepted makes recycling easier for you when choosing products and determining proper disposal method. If you have questions about an item call the recycling hotline.

Don’t stop when the bin is full; our program allows for an unlimited amount of recycling. We encourage you to set out other containers along with your curbside bin. Converted trash cans, plastic totes, and crates are acceptable containers to set out next to the bin. To eliminate it being confused with trash we ask that you do label extra containers with “recycle” or “recycling.” Bagged recycling is not acceptable, unless it is shredded office paper and it is in a clear or translucent bag.

If you want to know your pick-up day or would like to know how to start recycling curbside call the Recycling Hotline 989.773.9631 or visit us at www.isabellacounty.org/recycles and click on Curbside Pickup.

If you live in the City of Mount Pleasant and have questions about your curbside services, please call the City of Mount Pleasant Department of Public Works or go to www.mt-pleasant.org.

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