

Many of you are aware that Isabella County Recycling is extending our program to offer curbside recycling. The township and village officials have been offered curbside recycling for \$15.00 per year per household. We are excited to be starting this program on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Reservation, Lincoln Township, Rolland Township, and Lake Isabella. Deerfield Township has approved the program, but a start date has not been set at this time.

Studies show that recycling programs are better utilized when curbside recycling is available. Curbside recycling is usually quite expensive, but with the support of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Isabella County is able to provide this service at a low cost. With this support the Isabella County Recycling Center purchased a curbside recycling truck and curbside bins. The \$15.00 per household per year will support vehicle maintenance, gas, and driver salary.

The curbside recycling pickup began in October and will continue every other week from your start date. The following schedule shows the next few months of curbside pick-up for the participating municipalities.

Municipality	November	December	January	February	March
Lake Isabella South, East, North Side of Lake – Tuesday West side Lake from Queensway - Wednesday	1 14-15 28-29	12-13 26-27	9-10 23-24	6-7 20-21	6-7 20-21
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Reservation	2 16 30	14 28	11 25	8 22	8 22
Lincoln Township North South Roads – Tuesday East West Roads – Wednesday	7-8 21-22	5-6 19-20	2-3 16-17 30-31	13-14 27-28	13-14 27-28
Rolland Township North South Roads – Thursday East West Roads – Friday	9-10 24-25	7-8 21-22	4-5 18-19	1-2 15-16	1-2 15-16 29-30

The next is a list of common questions and their answers.

- **Q.** Why is recycling important?
 - ▶ **A.** Recycling is important environmentally, economically, and socially. Recycling reduces waste sent to landfills, conserves energy and resources, and utilizes our waste products for new material. Recycling is economically important by making our waste not only an environmental issue but also about material value. Our municipality is investing in our future from both an economic perspective and environmental. The county collects the material, processes it, and sells the material, making commerce out of our waste products, thereby supplementing our programs with our revenue. Recycling has also become a social issue involving many community members. It is an environmental issue that has economic value, bringing diversity to the recycling table.
- **Q.** Why is curbside recycling important?
 - ▶ **A.** Studies show that curbside recycling increases material collected by 15-25%. So if we offer curbside recycling in our county it will increase our material sales by 15-25%. Let's do some calculations...

- We currently recycle around 6500 tons of material every year. With curbside recycling we have the potential to increase that to over 8000 tons of material per year.
 - We sold a lot of material last year (2004) about \$630,000 worth of material. The increase in material collected could generate \$787,500.
- Q. Do items in the bin need to be sorted?
 - ▶ A. All items can be placed into the bin unsorted, except for office paper. Office paper needs to be placed in a plastic shopping bag or a clear plastic bag and tied closed.
- Q. How will I be billed?
 - ▶ A. This is a county program so it will be billed on your county taxes.
- Q. Does everyone in the municipality have to pay for the service?
 - ▶ A. Yes. All residents of the municipality agreeing to the service will pay the \$15.00 per year.
- Q. If I don't want this service do I still have to pay for it?
 - ▶ A. Yes.
- Q. How can I be assessed for this tax if I did not vote on it?
 - ▶ A. Based on Michigan statute the Solid Waste authority for a county can assess up to \$25.00 per household per year to support alternative waste programs, such as recycling. This statute dictates your elected representatives contract this service on your behalf.
- Q. If I would like this service, but my municipality is not listed what can I do?
 - ▶ A. Call the Recycling Hotline for information on recycling near you (989)773-9631. If you are inquiring about your township getting this service please call your township office.
- Q. What will happen with the recycling depots that have been open for years around the county?
 - ▶ A. The depots will remain open. We have six depots around the county and the MRF in Mt. Pleasant. The locations of the depots are Rosebush – beside the fire department, Winn – across from the Judge's Bench, Weidman – in the Lion's Club storage building, Blanchard – East of town in the Road Commission lot, Shepherd – in the DPW parking lot, Broomfield – next to township hall. The MRF is located east of Old Mission on East River Road just north of Mt. Pleasant. All of these locations will maintain the same schedule as always.

If you have questions about recycling programs please call the recycling hotline (989)773-9631 or email cschalm@isabellacounty.org.