

## **Recycling News**

### **Recycling is Required**

Municipal and state regulations require that residents, commercial establishments and non-residential establishments recycle all recyclable materials. Commonly recycled materials include:

- Paper – newspaper, office/copy paper, glossy paper, color paper, cardboard, junk mail, phone books, cereal/cracker boxes
- Plastic – bottles and jugs No. 1-7
- Glass – clear, green and brown containers
- Metal – aluminum, steel, tin, and bimetal cans and containers

You should check with your hauler for a complete list of acceptable recyclable materials.

### **Contaminated Recycle Materials**

Contaminated recycling materials cannot be recycled and usually end of going to a landfill. Here is a list of contaminants that make recycle material non-recyclable:

1. **Plastic Bags:** Do not place your recycle materials in a plastic bag. Plastic bags cannot be recycled. The recycler will either waste time removing the plastic bag or worst, discard the bag and its contents and send it to a landfill.
2. **Food Wastes:** Uncleaned containers with leftover food wastes cannot be recycled. Containers contaminated with food wastes will be sent to a landfill. You need to wash food containers and remove all of the food before placing the containers into your recycle bin.
3. **Bright Colored Paper:** In general, bright colored paper should not be recycled.
4. **Frozen Food Containers:** The coating on frozen food containers make them non-recyclable.
5. **Shredded Paper:** Shredded paper should not be placed into your recycle bin.
6. **Caps and Tops to Bottles, Jars and Containers:** Caps and tops are not recyclable; throw these in the trash, not the recycle bin.

We all want to maximize our recycling efforts, but we need to recycle the correct materials in the correct manner. Otherwise, we mess up the recycling facility and much of our “recycled waste” ends up in a landfill. You should check with your hauler if you have any questions about what materials can be recycled.