



City of Milwaukee "Recycle for Good!" Fact Sheet

- In 1989, the City of Milwaukee began curbside recycling for 36,000 residential households. The program was expanded each year until it began serving all single-family to 4-unit households in 1995.
- Currently, the City collects recyclables from approximately 185,000 households.
- Recycling is mandated by state law and City ordinance.
- In 2010, the City of Milwaukee recycled 22,317 tons through its curbside program. That's up from 22,174 tons in 2009 despite the continuous decline of newspaper generation.
- Recycling pounds per household increased by 4% from 2009 to 2010.
- In 2010, the City of Milwaukee saved over \$800,000 in avoided landfill fees and generated \$988,000 from the sale of household recyclables.
- The most valuable commodity in the curbside recycling program is aluminum cans, based on price per ton.
- The largest three commodity types in terms of their contribution to overall revenue are papers, plastics and aluminum, respectively. Plastics will continue to climb with the addition of #4 and #5 ("tubs & lids"), while printed papers will continue to decline.
- The recyclable producing the most revenue is newspaper since that commodity currently makes up one third of the tons recycled through the program.
- Mixed paper, like junk mail, paperboard food boxes, and even paper egg cartons are the recyclable items most often mistakenly thrown in the trash.
- By adding cartons to its accepted recyclables, the City dramatically increases carton recycling access statewide from 23% to 35%

Recycling Tips

- Visit MilwaukeeRecycles.com to learn more about what you can and cannot recycle.

- In the kitchen, place a bin or a bag near your indoor garbage can so it's easy to sort the recyclables from the trash.
- Keep a bin, box or paper bag next to where you open and read your mail.
- Encourage your neighbors to recycle.
- Be aware of increased recycling opportunities, especially during the upcoming holidays.
- Recycle everywhere. If you see items on the street, sidewalk or at a park that can be recycled, take them to the nearest bin.
- Take overflow recyclables to a recycling drop-off site.
- Check out recycling opportunities for a wide variety of materials beyond curbside recyclables through the two Department of Public Works Self-Help Centers.

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