

CITY OF ERIE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, PROPERTY & PARKS

REGULATIONS GOVERNING MUNICIPAL COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE

These regulations shall govern the City of Erie Recycling Program as empowered by Section 958.04 of Ordinance No. 59-1990.

In general, the goal of any solid waste program begins with waste reduction. Subsequent initiatives are developed to promote reuse of materials and implement recycling programs. These initiatives and programs are all aimed at conserving resources and reducing the amount of waste being disposed of in the landfill. Residents of the City of Erie shall be encouraged to conserve resources and reduce the volume of material being disposed of at the landfill. This can be achieved through the selective purchasing of consumer goods, alternative disposal of yard and garden waste, reuse of postconsumer goods, and recycling materials whenever possible.

SEPARATION OF RECYCLABLES BY RESIDENCES AND STORAGE AND COLLECTION

The City of Erie Municipal Recycling Program began September 1, 1990. This Recycling Program requires residents within the City of Erie to source separate recyclable materials consisting of glass, plastic, aluminum, bi-metal and ferrous containers, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, paperboard, paper food boxes and cartons, paper bags, envelopes, writing, typing, wrapping and computer paper from their household refuse. These residents shall combine and store these recyclable materials together in translucent blue or clear LDPE or HDPE/LDPE mix recyclable plastic bags. These blue or clear recyclable bags are available for purchase by the residents at most large retail stores in the area. Newspapers and magazines may be bundled with twine or placed in blue or clear bags. Corrugated boxes may be placed curbside with smaller boxes inside larger ones or placed in blue or clear bags. The City of Erie shall provide the collection of the recyclable materials every week on the same evening as the regular household refuse collection. A full week shall begin on Sunday and end on Saturday.

Compost collection will begin in April and end in December. Exact dates will be announced annually in the local news media and published in the annual recycling guide. Compost materials include: grass, leaves, hedge trimmings, garden clippings, etc. The materials shall be placed curbside in open hard containers with handles (50 pound limit) on the regular pickup night.

Weekly collection of leaves will begin in October and end in December as part of the compost collection program. Exact dates will be announced annually in the local news media and published in the annual recycling guide. Leaves will be collected in open hard containers with handles (50 pound limit) and/or in green biodegradable plastic bags. Leaves may be combined with other compost materials in open hard containers and/or in green biodegradable bags. No recyclable items (glass, plastic, metal, paper, cardboard, etc.) or household refuse shall be placed in compost collection containers or bags.

The City of Erie will publish an annual recycling guide and calendar in December of each year that will give detailed instructions and schedules for the upcoming year. Residents shall be required to follow these instructions and schedules. Recycling collection will be conducted on the same

evening as the regular collection of household refuse. The residents shall be required to place their recyclables curbside for collection by City of Erie recycling crews.

PROCEDURE FOR RECYCLING MATERIALS SHALL BE:

GLASS FOOD JARS & BOTTLES - ALL COLORS, NO CRUSHING, PLEASE RINSE.

METAL FOOD & BEVERAGE CANS- PLEASE RINSE AND CRUSH THEM TO REDUCE VOLUME.

PLASTIC ITEMS- PLEASE RINSE AND CRUSH THEM TO REDUCE VOLUME.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL HEAVILY SOILED ITEMS MUST BE DISPOSED OF WITH YOUR REFUSE.
ONLY CLEAN ITEMS ARE RECYCLABLE.

DEFINITION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS TO BE COLLECTED:

ALUMINUM CONTAINERS- SHALL MEAN EMPTY ALUMINUM BEVERAGE OR FOOD CONTAINERS.

BI-METAL CONTAINERS - SHALL MEAN EMPTY FOOD OR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS CONSISTING OF STEEL, TIN AND/OR ALUMINUM.

FERROUS CONTAINERS- SHALL MEAN STEEL OR TIN COATED FOOD OR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.

GLASS CONTAINERS- SHALL MEAN BOTTLES OR JARS MADE OF CLEAR, GREEN, OR BROWN GLASS. EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED ARE NON-CONTAINER GLASS, PLATE GLASS, AUTOMOTIVE GLASS, LIGHT BULBS, BLUE GLASS, PORCELAIN AND CERAMIC PRODUCTS.

PLASTIC ITEMS - SHALL MEAN ITEMS MADE FROM PLASTIC MATERIALS WITH A RECYCLING NUMBER DESIGNATION OF 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, OR 7 ON THE BOTTOM, SUCH AS:
#1- EMPTY SODA BOTTLES (POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE-PETE),
#2- EMPTY MILK JUGS AND SHAMPOO BOTTLES (HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE-HDPE),
#3- FOOD WRAP (POLYVINYL CHLORIDE-PVC),
#4- PLASTIC BAGS AND BOTTLE CAPS (LOW DENSITY POLYETHYLENE -LDPE),
#5- FOOD CONTAINERS (POLYPROYLENE-PP),
#6- CUTLERY AND TAKEOUT CONTAINERS (NON-FOAM POLYSTYRENE-PS),
#7- CITRUS JUICE AND KETCHUP BOTTLES (SOME OTHER PLASTIC OR A MIX OF THE ABOVE NUMBERS).
EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED ARE ALL OTHER PLASTIC ITEMS AND STYROFOAM.

SEPARATION OF RECYCLABLES BY MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROPERTIES
(MORE THAN 4 UNITS) AND STORAGE AND COLLECTION

All occupants of multi-family dwellings shall be required to source separate a minimum of three of the following materials in addition to leaf waste: clear and colored glass containers; aluminum, steel and bi-metal cans; high-grade office paper; newsprint; corrugated paper; and plastics with numbers 1-7. It shall be the responsibility of the owner, landlord, or agent of an owner or landlord of multifamily housing properties to ensure that the recyclables are collected for recycling. Collection for the recyclable materials other than leaf waste must be provided at least one (1) day each month.

An owner, landlord, or agent of an owner or landlord or multi-family housing properties shall comply with the requirements of Act 101 by establishing a collection system for recyclable material at each property. The collection system must include suitable containers for collecting and sorting the materials, easily accessible locations for the containers, and written instructions to the occupants concerning use and availability of the collection system. Owners, landlords and their agents who comply with this section shall not be liable for the noncompliance of occupants of their buildings. If recyclable materials are collected by a collector other than the municipality or its authorized agent, the owners, landlords, and agents of owners or landlords shall submit an annual report to the Municipality that indicates the tonnage of all materials recycled during the previous year. These annual reports shall be submitted no later than January 30 of each year.

SEPARATION, STORAGE AND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES BY COMMERCIAL, MUNICIPAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND AT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

All commercial, municipal and institutional establishments and community activities shall be required, at a minimum, to source separate high grade office paper, aluminum, corrugated paper, and leaf waste. It shall be the responsibility of the commercial, municipal and institutional establishments and those in charge of community activities to provide for the storage and collection of these recyclable materials. Collection must be provided for materials other than leaf waste at least one (1) day each month or in the case of community activities which last less than one month a minimum of one time preferably at the completion of the event.

Proof that these materials have been recycled must be submitted to the City of Erie in the form of an annual recycling report. This report shall indicate the tonnage of all materials recycled during the previous year. These reports shall be submitted no later than January 30 of each year. This will allow the City of Erie to submit this information to the County of Erie by February 15 of each year in accordance with the provisions of Act 101.

SEPARATION AND COLLECTION OF LEAF WASTE

The disposal of leaf waste in a landfill or a resource recovery facility shall be expressly prohibited. All leaf waste generated within the City Of Erie must be composted. All other establishments within the City of Erie shall be required to separate and collect leaf waste for composting at some specific site. This separation and collection shall be the sole responsibility of the owners of multi-family, commercial, municipal and institutional establishments within the City of Erie.

The residents of the City of Erie shall have the option of participating in the City of Erie Composting Program or developing a backyard composting pile within their own property. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of any residence within the City of Erie to separate and store leaf waste

collected from their property. This responsibility may be assigned through agreement to individual private contractors with the assurance that the leaf waste shall be disposed of in an acceptable manner. The City of Erie shall provide for the collection of leaf waste for all residents who elect to participate in the City's Composting Program. The actual collection schedule for this pick-up effort shall be established each year by the Department of Public Works. This collection schedule for leaf waste shall be published or broadcast by the local news media. All residents electing to participate in the City Composting Program for leaves must place their leaf waste, at curbside, in open hard containers or green biodegradable plastic bags only on their regularly scheduled collection night. At no time shall leaves be placed loose at the curb or raked into the streets. This activity can cause hazardous road conditions from wet leaves and enables leaves to be washed into storm drains which can also cause environmental problems by overburdening local streams and lake and depleting oxygen supplies.

Compost collection will begin in April and end in December. Exact dates shall be announced annually in the local news media and published in the annual recycling guide. Compost materials include: grass, leaves, hedge trimmings, garden clippings, etc. The materials shall be placed curbside in open hard containers with handles (50 pound limit) on the regular pickup night.

Weekly collection of leaves will begin in October and end in December as part of the compost collection program. Exact dates shall be announced annually in the local news media and published in the annual recycling guide. Leaves will be collected in open hard containers with handles (50 pound limit) and/or in green biodegradable plastic bags. Leaves may be combined with other compost materials in open hard containers and/or in green biodegradable bags. No recyclable items (glass, plastic, metal, paper, cardboard, etc.) or household refuse shall be placed in compost collection containers or bags.

PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

The City of Erie Recycling Program began September 1, 1990. The Public Education Program for the City of Erie recycling began in August of 1990. This on-going program is designed to educate the public about the City of Erie municipal recycling programs. Long-term public education programs will be designed to educate the public on waste reduction and resource conservation.

General information is available to the public regarding the recycling efforts in the City of Erie. This information is available by contacting the City of Erie, Department of Public Works, Property & Parks (814) 870-1450.

Any person, firm, organization or corporation who is convicted of violating any of the provisions of the recycling ordinance shall be fined not less than twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars and no more than three hundred (\$300.00) dollars for each offense.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION

All municipal household refuse generated by residences within the City of Erie shall be collected and disposed of by the City of Erie, Department of Public Works, Property & Parks, Bureau of Refuse. This service is provided by the City through an annual per household service fee billed

quarterly. This service fee partially funds the collection and disposal of an unlimited amount of household refuse, yard waste and recyclables.

RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL COLLECTION

HOUSEHOLD BULK ITEMS

All bulk items generated within the City of Erie shall be collected and disposed of by private rubbish haulers contracted by individual residents as needed. Periodically, the City of Erie may announce and provide a special large item collection program. Details of such a program would be announced in the local news media.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas tree collection will be provided each year by the Department of Public Works, Property & Parks as part of the City of Erie Compost Collection Program. The collection schedule for Christmas trees will be determined each season by the Department of Public Works, Property & Parks and published or broadcast in the local news media. All residents electing to participate in the City Composting Program for Christmas trees must place their trees at curbside on their regularly scheduled collection night. Trees shall be chipped and incorporated into the leaf/grass compost material or shall be set aside separately to be used as mulch.

TIRES WITHOUT RIMS

All scrap tires generated within the City of Erie shall be collected by residents and authorized private rubbish haulers contracted by individual residents as needed and properly disposed of by such authorized rubbish haulers or automotive and tire retail locations. Periodically, the City of Erie may announce and provide special tire collection days. Whenever scheduled, these dates shall be announced in the local news media.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers a substance hazardous if it can catch fire, can react or explode when mixed with other substances, if it is corrosive, or if it is toxic. The average household contains between three and ten gallons of materials that are hazardous to human health and/or the natural environment. Collectively, these materials can poison our soil, water, and air, if they are not stored carefully and disposed of properly.

One of the worst ways to dispose of many hazardous materials is to "dump them down the drain". The wastewater treatment plant is not designed to handle certain types of hazardous wastes. In addition, without special design, even modern landfills are not equipped to accept hazardous waste. Improperly disposing of hazardous waste can pollute the environment through groundwater, surface water and air. Prior to the disposal of any household hazardous waste, contact either the City of Erie Wastewater Treatment Plant (814) 870-1360, the City of Erie Recycling Hotline (814) 870-1450, the Erie County Recycling Hotline (814) 451-6019 or the Waste Management-Lakeview Landfill (814) 824-7800 to determine the proper disposal method.