Multifamily Recycling Workshop

June 23, 2020
GOAL
Reduce trash overall, but not at the expense of quality recycling
Multifamily challenges

• Higher turnover
• Knowledge varies; education provided by property varies
• Signage varies greatly
• Shared recycling containers makes it difficult to provide feedback directly to individuals
• Language barriers
• Inadequate service capacity (dumpsters too small or not serviced often enough)
St. Louis Park multifamily recycling ordinances

Property management requirements (Ch. 22)
- **Minimum capacity** ➔ Minimum of 20 gallons of recycling per unit per week. 
  This is equal to one cubic yard of recycling per ten (10) units.
- **Recycling location** ➔ Must be available to tenants at all times and be located in close proximity to garbage containers.
- **Education** ➔ Need to provide a recycling guide to all residents upon move-in and annually thereafter. Print or digital.
- **Signage** ➔ Recycling chutes or containers not provided by hauler must be labeled

Hauler responsibility (Ch. 8)
- **Signage** ➔ Recycling carts/dumpsters must have labels with pictures
Signage that meets requirements

- Minimum 8”x11”
- Recycling symbol
- Pictures
- Text “recycling/recycle”
Signage that does not meet requirements

- No pictures
- Too small
Hennepin County multifamily recycling ordinance

• Ordinance 13, changes effective January 1, 2020

• Education Requirements:
  • Managers must provide written information about recycling at move-in and then annually thereafter

• Containers and Labeling Requirements:
  • Conveniently locate waste containers
  • Ensure adequate service for the amount of waste generated
  • Appropriately label containers
Why is it important to recycle the right stuff?

Safety

Operational

Contamination
Bagged stuff

• Issue: Contamination, operational
• What to do?
  • Unbag it!
  • If not – trash 😞
Tiny stuff

Loose bottle caps, paper smaller than a post-it, “bits” of stuff

• Issue: Contamination
• What to do?
  • Trash
  • Bottle caps – leave plastic on plastic
Big stuff

• Issue: Operational, contamination
• What to do?
  • Reusable – donate, give away
  • Repairable – county Fix-it clinic
  • Beyond repair - trash
Dirty or full stuff

• Issue: Contamination
• What to do?
  • Clean/empty it!
  • Trash
Recycling vs Wishcycling

**RECYCLING**
Act of recycling items that are accepted by your local program, to be collected, sorted, and marketed to manufacturers who will make new products from them.

**WISHCYCLING**
Act of recycling other stuff that you hope will be accepted by your local program, stuff you’re not sure about but trust someone else will sort it out if it can’t be recycled.
What to recycle
Paper – YES!

- Mail
- Office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Cardboard
- Cereal boxes
- Shoe boxes
Paper – No

- Shredded paper
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- Paper cups and plates
- Paper egg cartons
- Freezer boxes
- Ice cream tubs
- Wrapping paper
**Metal – YES!**

- Food cans
- Beverage cans
- Tea canisters (all metal)
- Cookie tins
- Aluminum trays/pie plates
Metal – No

• Pots, pans, cookie sheets
• Shelving
• Propane tanks
Glass – YES!

- Food jars
- Beverage bottles
Glass – No

- Drinkware
- Dishes
- Mirrors
- Windows
Plastic – YES!

• Water/soda bottles
• Milk and juice jugs
• Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
• Detergent jugs
• Shampoo bottles
• Yogurt cups
• Cottage cheese, margarine containers
Plastic – No

• Bags
• Utensils
• Plastic tubes (shampoo, toothpaste)
• Styrofoam™
Numbers matter

Many plastics have the chasing arrows with a number inside it. Unfortunately, it’s NOT a “recycling” symbol.

- Resin ID Code (RIC) identifies the type of plastic
- Different plastics have different markets, several are very limited and cannot be recycled **in our region**
  - **YES:** 1, 2, 4, 5
  - **NO:** 3, 6, 7

### Plastic Resin Identification Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resin ID Code</th>
<th>Polyethylene Terephthalate</th>
<th>High-Density Polyethylene</th>
<th>Polyvinyl Chloride</th>
<th>Low-Density Polyethylene</th>
<th>Polypropylene</th>
<th>Polystyrene</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PETE</td>
<td>HDPE</td>
<td>PVC</td>
<td>LDPE</td>
<td>PP</td>
<td>PS</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cartons – YES!

- Milk cartons
- Soy/nut milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup/broth cartons
Other problem materials

- Batteries
- Sharps and needles
- String lights, electrical cords
- Multi-layer packaging
- Snack bags/wrappers
Resources

St. Louis Park

- Website [www.stlouispark.org/MFrecycling](http://www.stlouispark.org/MFrecycling)
- *Park Perspective* articles/guides
- Multifamily e-newsletter
- Social media
- MF organics drop-sites (food waste)
- Recycling Champions
- Tabling at events

Recycling guide

**Paper**
- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Paperback books

**Bottles and Jugs**
- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles

**Cups and containers**
- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Clear disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other containers
- Produce, Jill and takeaway containers

**Metal**
- Food and beverage cans
- Aluminum foil and trays
- Decorative tins and picture frames

**Glass**
- Food and beverage bottles and jars

**Plastic**
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**Bags of recyclables**
- Don’t put your recycling in bags. Recyclers can’t tell what’s in the bag, so your items won’t get recycled. Place recycling loose in your cart.

**Plastic bags and film**
- These items get tangled in the equipment at sorting facilities and interfere with the recycling process. Remove all plastic and film from recycling bins.

**Large plastic items**
- Plastic lounge furniture and toys are difficult to sort at recycling facilities and there aren’t good markets for recycling them.

**Random metal items**
- Tools, pipes, hinges, bolts and other random metal items can damage equipment and harm workers at sorting facilities. Scrap metal can be recycled, just not inside your recycling cart. Visit [www.stlouispark.org/recycling](http://www.stlouispark.org/recycling) for more options.

**Batteries**
- Batteries can cause fires in recycling trucks and at sorting facilities. Bring batteries to a Equalizer Center drop-off facility in Bloomington or Minnetonka Park to be recycled.

**Paper cups and plates and plastic straws and straws**
- These items are often contaminated with food, are difficult to sort at recycling facilities and don’t have good recycling markets. Avoid them by opting for reusable items.

Preparation instructions

Items should be clean and empty – glue them a quick time before recycling. Don’t bag your recyclables – place them loose in your recycling cart. Don’t crush cans, plastic bottles or cartons.

St. Louis Park Public Works
[www.stlouispark.org/recycling](http://www.stlouispark.org/recycling)
100 N. LTVS 2012
Recycling Resources
Hennepin County Recycling Resources for Multifamily Properties
Resources Overview

- Reusable totes for storage and transport of recycling materials
- Recycling guides
- Bin and dumpster labels and signs
- In-person technical assistance, presentations & outreach
- Grants for bins & infrastructure improvements
Limitations due to COVID-19

Hennepin County Environment and Energy

Recycling tote bag
Guía de reciclaje

Papeles
- Cartas, documentos de oficina y trabajos de la escuela
- Revistas y catálogos
- Periódicos y suplementos
- Directorios telefónicos

Cajas:
- Cajas de cartón
- Cajas de cereales y galletas
- Cajas de zapatos, obsequios y regalos

Plásticos
- Botellas y jarras:
  - Botellas de agua, refresco y jugo
  - Jarras de leche y jugo
  - Botellas de ketchup y aderezos para ensaladas
  - Botellas de líquido lavaplatos y envases de detergente
  - Botellas de champú, jabón y loción

Copas y envases:
- Copas de vino y copetes de plástico

Papeles
- Papelería, oficina y revistas
- Diarios y periódicos
- Catálogos de productos
- Libros y revistas

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Cups and containers:
- Yogurt, pudding, and fruit cups

Educational materials
Signs and Labels
Technical Assistance

• Site Visits
• Presentations
• Personal resource
• Grants
Limitations due to COVID-19

- Mailing/delivery of physical resources is on hold
- Safety protocols for site visits in-progress
- Can conduct virtual presentations
- Can connect via phone or email
- Can still apply for grants
Thank you!

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