

**BOROUGH OF OAKLAND**

**NOTICE OF CHANGE  
TO RECYCLABLE MATERIALS**

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Dear Resident,

Over the past two years the market for plastic recyclables has changed dramatically. For many years most plastic recyclables in the U.S. were sold to Chinese manufacturers. Their ever increasing demand for raw materials resulted in an expansion of the types of plastic materials that were accepted, even if those items were of marginal quality or contaminated. This eventually led to an expansion in the types of products the Borough was able to recycle.

Last year the Chinese government began enforcing policies (their ‘Green Fence’) aimed at rejecting any materials that were contaminated or contained non-recyclable items. Due to these stricter regulations, there is now an oversupply of recyclables at the domestic mills in the U.S.A. and Canada and not enough market demand for certain types of materials. As a result, the Borough’s recycling marketer will **not accept** the following:

- Plastics numbered 3, 4, 6 or 7
- Plastic bags, including, shopping bags, garbage bags and Ziploc bags
- Plastic film wrapping, including garment bags
- Styrofoam of any kind
- Rigid plastics such as toys, crates, lawn furniture
- Hoses
- Pesticide containers
- Frozen microwave trays or food platters, even if stamped 1, 2 or 5
- Wax cardboard boxes

In addition, the Borough's marketer will not be able to accept shredded paper.

**Unfortunately, the above materials must now be placed in the trash or recycled by using the alternatives specified later in this notice. If they continue to be put in curbside recycling, they will be rejected by the marketer, sent to a landfill for disposal and the Borough will be charged a disposal fee greater than what we currently pay to dispose of our own garbage. Please note that Oakland can no longer pick up recyclables placed in plastic bags and they will be left at the curb. Plastic bags are now considered a contaminant that must be removed from recycling material.**

If you need a container, the Oakland D.P.W. sells a 32 gallon blue recycling barrel for \$15.00 (check or exact cash only). The larger wheeled barrels are too heavy to lift and not permitted for use.

**Single Stream Recycling** continues to include all allowable paper/cardboard and allowable commingled recyclables put out together for recycling collection every Wednesday. In addition, electronics and white goods will continue to be collected as they have been.

### **Acceptable Materials for Single Stream Collection**

#### Paper

All mixed paper, newspapers, junk mail, phone books, magazines, paper bags, and office paper. Soft cover books (hard covers on books must be removed.). Cardboard boxes of all types including cereal boxes and paper towel rolls. Pizza boxes (must be clean). Remove any plastic, foam, packing peanuts or food scraps from the boxes before putting them out for recycling.

#### Glass and Metal

Glass bottles and glass jars of all colors, steel and tin cans, aluminum cans, and clean aluminum foil. All containers must be free of any liquid, debris or residue.

## Plastics

**Plastic bottles and containers of grades 1, 2 and 5.** Please look on the bottom for the number inside of the recycling emblem. Any other numbered plastic is no longer acceptable. All containers must be free of any liquid, debris or residue.

## **Other Disposal Options**

Plastic bags: Shoprite and Stop N Shop collect clean and dry grocery bags

Ink and Toner Cartridges: May be disposed of through the Borough's electronics recycling program. Staples also accepts used cartridges for free.

Shredded Paper: Our new marketer, Atlantic Coast Fibers, has advised us that they will not be able to accept shredded paper with single stream recycling because it contaminates the co-mingled recyclables (glass, metal and plastics). However, the Borough will continue to run periodic paper shredding events to help residents properly dispose of sensitive and confidential materials.

The Borough understands that these changes are inconvenient and seemingly run counter to our efforts to 'go green'. However, they are unfortunately necessary at this time to maximize the amount of materials that can be recycled given current market conditions. As soon as markets improve we will revert back to collecting more types of materials for recycling.

If you have any questions, please call the Department of Public Works at 201-337-8103/8104. You may also contact the Recycling Coordinator, Eugene MacMahon, directly at 201-405-7732, or e-mail [recycle@oakland-nj.org](mailto:recycle@oakland-nj.org). Thank you for your cooperation in recycling properly.

## **RECYCLING NOTICE**

**Borough of Oakland  
Recycling Department  
1 Municipal Plaza  
Oakland, NJ 07436**

**PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL**

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER  
OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY 07436**



**Practice the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**