



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-8647
www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Nancy Stone, Communications Liaison, Public Services,
nstone@a2gov.org, 734.794.6000 x 43112

RECYCLE CLEAN PLASTIC FLOWER POTS & TRAYS (BUT NO THIN “CELL PACKS” OR CERAMIC/TERRACOTTA POTS)

ANN ARBOR, Mich., May 9, 2011 — As planting season ramps up, local gardeners may be glad to learn that clean plastic flower pots and plant trays can now be recycled in curbside collection carts. Thanks to the July 2011 upgrade to the City of Ann Arbor’s single-stream recycling facility, an expanded range of plastic bottles, tubs, deli-trays, and cup-shapes can be put into recycling carts. Acceptable plastic gardening containers include clean plastic pots used for holding plants, shrubs, and trees; clean trays that hold flats of plants (please discard the flimsy plant “cell packs”); and clean hanging planters (with the hangers removed and discarded).

Clean garden trays and plastic flower pots to be recycled need to be sturdy in order to be mechanically separated from papers during the automated sorting process at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Flimsy, thin plant holders (often often called “cell packs” and hold 12-48 plants within a sturdy tray) are not acceptable. Flimsy containers are sorted as flat paper by the machinery at the Ann Arbor MRF, as shown in the 5-minute MRF video posted at www.a2gov.org/mrf (specifically at <http://a2civitv.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=ed99e392f29b33c23d1a217a6767d7f6>). Additionally, some cell-pack type containers contain chemical properties which can contaminate other recycled plastics in re-manufacturing, even if they have an “acceptable” recycling number. Please clean all containers before they are placed in a recycling bin. Dirt and debris left on recyclables cause contamination in the sorting process and also in the material to be re-manufactured.

Please do not place terracotta or ceramic flower pots into recycling carts. Terracotta and ceramics—as well as Pyrex®, plate glass and mirrors—have different melting points than glass bottles and jars, and therefore are not desired.

For 24-hour information on Ann Arbor’s solid waste services, please phone 99-GREEN (734.994.7336) or consult the city’s web site at www.a2gov.org/recycle. For information on plastic recycling options beyond what is offered through Ann Arbor’s recycling collection program, a list of drop-off or mail-back programs for specific materials is compiled by Washtenaw County and posted online at www.recyclemyplastic.com.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city’s mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that foster fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.###