



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CAPS OFF FOR RECYCLING: PLEASE REMOVE AND DISCARD TOPS BEFORE RECYCLING

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Jan. 28, 2011 — When plastic containers are compressed in the recycling truck, their (detachable) caps and lids can pop off and shoot out of the truck at high speeds. These projectiles are dangerous to the recycling truck drivers and bystanders, and pose similar risks to recycling plant workers. Please help avoid this problem by removing (detachable) caps and lids from all containers prior to recycling and place in the trash; metal jar lids and bottle caps continue to be recyclable. Clear plastic “berry” boxes with attached hinged lids are fully recyclable as-is in Ann Arbor. If you have any questions, please call Recycle Ann Arbor at 734.662.6288. Information on recycling is also available on the City of Ann Arbor’s Web site at www.a2gov.org/recycle.

Plastic caps and lids cause multiple problems during recycling collection, sorting, and marketing. Lids and caps left on plastic containers create additional problems for the city’s recycling plant, the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). A MRF video showing the sorting process is posted at www.a2gov.org/mrf. Closed containers may not be empty and the residue will contaminate surrounding clean recyclables. Enclosed bottles often trap a liquid, which confuses the computerized optical scanner designed to sort plastic bottles by resin. Please do not place loose plastic tops in the recycling bin because the detached lids and caps are often mechanically sorted at the MRF onto the paper line (for flat lids) or routed with broken glass (for plastic caps) and cause extra work to remove. Finally, the markets used by the Ann Arbor MRF for plastic recycling do not want lids or caps, which are created with a different plastic blend than the container.

For people interested in 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.recyclemyplastics.com. For 24-hour information on the city’s solid waste services, please phone 99-GREEN or consult the city’s Web site at www.a2gov.org/recycle.

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. ###