



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

Web: <http://www.a2gov.org>

Printed on recycled paper

November 2008

Dear Refuse Dumpster Customer:

The City of Ann Arbor has been working with business representatives to identify ways to increase recycling in the commercial sector in a cost-effective manner. **Recycling makes business sense: the city's recycling program costs less than the price for trash collection and landfill burial. By increasing recycling, these economies can be used to minimize trash hauling prices across the city.**

The proposed business recycling plan is summarized online at www.a2gov.org/recycle. **The two primary components of the plan are:**

1. **Provide a citywide commercial franchise with a competitively-selected private refuse vendor.**
2. **Facilitate recycling at all commercial locations at no additional cost to businesses** through expanded services from the city and Recycle Ann Arbor.

Please join us for coffee and cider to review and discuss these proposals at any of the following drop-in informational **Open Houses**:

- **Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 7:30-10:00 a.m. City Hall**, 100 N. Fifth Ave., 2nd Floor Council Chambers (1-hour free parking structure pass available)
- **Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Community Television Network, 2805 S. Industrial** near Eisenhower www.a2gov.org/ctn (free on-site parking)
- **Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 7:30-10:00 a.m. City Hall**, 100 N. Fifth Ave., 2nd Floor Council Chambers (1-hour free parking structure passes available)

How these recommendations will affect you:

The implementation of the first of these recommendations will result in a gradual increase in your refuse dumpster billing amount, phased in over the next four years. The first increase would not appear until July 2009. City staff and advisory business representatives compared the rates and services available from a citywide franchise approach to commercial waste hauling and found that pooling dumpster services across the city results in better service for less money through efficient routing and billing.

Your location has been receiving refuse dumpster service at a subsidized rate. This practice does not make sense to continue as a sustainable citywide approach.

Q: What will the proposed new trash hauling service offer that is better than the city's current dumpster collection service?

A: The recommended waste hauler, Waste Management, would be contracted to provide and maintain the trash dumpsters (kept in good repair and graffiti-free); offer a range of dumpster sizes and collection options (so businesses can pay for a smaller quantity of trash, collected less frequently); open storage gates; and offer other services. The selected vendor is required to provide a Customer Service phone line to provide quick turnaround for return visits, with oversight by the city to insure accountability.

Q: What happens to my current trash dumpster that I own?

A: The city is interested in purchasing your A-frame trash dumpsters at a fair market price, and to retrofit for use as recycling dumpsters. The older dumpsters with rust can be hauled away and recycled by the city at no charge to you. The goal is to support a smooth transition trash dumpster at reimbursement levels that are fair to business owners and taxpayers alike.

Q: What are the proposed rates for dumpster pickups?

A: Once per week service of a standard six cubic-yard dumpster (pending Council approval) will be:

July 2008 – June 2009: \$39/month (current subsidized rate)

July 2009 – June 2010: \$50/month

July 2010 – June 2011: \$75/month

July 2011 – June 2012: \$95 to \$110/month* (*depending on type of material*)

**This price is still lower than what Waste Management customers are currently paying.*

The second recommendation of the city's proposed commercial recycling plan is to facilitate recycling at all business locations by July 2011. The consensus of our advisory group is that many businesses will be able to shrink their trash service needs—and costs—and their recycling activities increase. The enclosed brochure provides an overview of the recycling collection services available to you immediately, at no additional charge.

Please check www.a2gov.org/recycle for additional information and to sign up for free periodic e-mail updates on the city's commercial waste and recycling programs.

Recycling offers an economic win-win for businesses and the city. Recycling also conserves natural resources; creates jobs; reduces greenhouse gases; and supports Michigan's paper, plastic, and metal industries. I look forward to meeting with you at one of the scheduled drop-in Open House sessions or by phone or e-mail.

Sincerely,

Bryan Weinert, Solid Waste Program Coordinator (734) 994-4195

2007-2008 Commercial Recycling Implementation Advisory Committee Members have included:

Ms. Tracy Artley, The University of Michigan; Mr. Steve Bean, Environmental Commission; Ms. Wendi Felgner, Ann Arbor Learning Center; Ms. Maggie Ladd, South University Area Association; Mr. Kyle Mazurek, Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Doug McClure, Conlin, McKenney & Philbrick; Ms. Rachel Murphy, Borders Group; Ms. Kristin Pedersen, Unibar Maintenance Services; Ms. Susan Pollay, Downtown Development Authority; Ms. Kristie Profit Martin, Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Scott Rosencrans, Behnke Construction; Ms. Nancy Rucker, Zingerman's; Mr. Tim Stark, 1-800-GOT-JUNK; Mr. David Stead, Environmental Commission; Ms. Margie Teall, City Council/Environmental Commission; Mr. John Teeter, First Martin Corp.; Mr. Jay Uzoigwe, Google-Ann Arbor