



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647
www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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A2 BUSINESSES INVITED TO REVIEW CITY'S PROPOSED COMMERCIAL RECYCLING PLAN INCLUDING A WASTE HAULER FRANCHISE

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – November 12, 2008 – The City of Ann Arbor in conjunction with an advisory group of business representatives are presenting their strategy to increase citywide commercial recycling and reduce waste hauling costs for businesses. The proposed commercial recycling plan is summarized on the city's Web site at www.a2gov.org/recycle. Public review and discussion sessions are scheduled at the following drop-in Open Houses this fall:

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

The primary components of the commercial recycling plan are to:

1. **Facilitate recycling at all commercial locations at no additional cost to businesses** through expanded services from the city and Recycle Ann Arbor. Businesses are eligible for recycling pickups, recycling collection containers (outside paper carts, steel crates, or dumpsters, inside storage bins), educational materials, and support services. All businesses would be required to have a recycling program in-place by July 2011.
2. **Provide a citywide commercial franchise with a competitively-selected private refuse vendor.** Rates for a typical 6 cubic yard refuse dumpster will likely range from \$95 to \$110 per month for once-per-week service (pending City Council approval). These prices are 10-30 percent below local private-sector commercial trash hauling rates.
3. **Streamline the city's permit-process** to provide quick authorization of new solid waste space configurations without the time and expense of a new site plan.



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Exemptions to the above requirements would be available to businesses with national franchise hauler agreements as long as the business could demonstrate annually that recycling pickups are occurring.

Ann Arbor's current citywide recycling rate is at 15-20 percent, in contrast to the residential waste recovery rate of nearly half the waste, with over 90 percent household participation. Most commercial locations will easily be able to cut their trash in half by recycling! The shift of the materials from waste into recycling bins will allow many locations to downsize their current trash pickup costs (either by switching to smaller dumpsters or less frequent waste pickups), which will also save money to local businesses.

Interested businesses are encouraged to review the commercial recycling plan at www.a2gov.org/recycle and to sign up for free periodic e-mail updates on the city's commercial waste and recycling programs. Please direct specific questions about the commercial recycling strategy to Bryan Weinert, Solid Waste Program Coordinator, 734.994.4195, bweinert@a2gov.org.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. 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 fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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The direct link to the commercial recycling Web page is:

<http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/solidwasteunit/Pages/BusinessRecyclingandWasteNews.aspx>