Pere Marquette Twp.
August 2019
Recycling Program Change Q&A

Q) What Day will my recycling be collected in the new program?
Beginning on September 1, 2019, the recycling collection will occur on the same day as your trash (Monday) but only during the third full collection week of each month.

Q) What are the acceptable items to place in the recycling cart?
Pere Marquette has the complete recycling guide online at www.pmtwp.org or you can pick up a copy at the Township Offices.

Q) Is Glass still not acceptable in recycling cart?
Glass is still not allowed at this point in time. The Township & Republic Services is still exploring other options for glass and it may or may not change in the future. Please do not place glass in your recycle cart.

Q) If I have questions, how do I get an answer?
Please email mbiolette@republicservices.com or call 877-698-7274 for general recycling questions.

Q) What is changing within the Township’s recycling program?
There are several changes happening including:

1. All 18-gallon bin containers will be removed on the last collection of August 26th – 30th.

2. Residents who wish to participate in the recycling program will need to subscribe to receive a 96-gallon recycle cart. Those carts will be delivered initially during that same week of Aug 26th and will continue to be delivered as residents sign up in the future.

3. The collection will modify from weekly cycling to once per month recycling—the cart holds the equivalent volume of five (5) recycle bins. You are also permitted to place flattened cardboard alongside the container for collection.

Q) Why am I now required to have a recycle cart?
There are two primary reasons why the cart was adopted into this new program:

1. Throughout the United States customers are placing more and more non-recyclable items in the container. The rental portion of this change requires your home to make a commitment and provides Republic Services a way to connect with and educate your home more frequently. To understand this issue in more detail, google “wish-cycling”.

2. By registering for a recycle cart, it allows Republic Services to provide better education, enforce and correct any abuse and track the participation.

Q) Can I just buy the cart or buy my own cart?
The quick answer is No. It is a “no” because Republic Services uses automated tipping features on the truck which need a specific style of container to engage in the mechanism. Republic Services does not sell carts because of maintenance and warranty requirements.

Q) Why is this change happening?
Republic Services petitioned the Township for this change in response to local, regional and national changes in recycling and pressures resulting from those changes. There are many factors and a quick google search of “recycling in the United States” will result in a wealth of information. The goal in these changes is to deliver a durable and sustainable program for the residents.
Q) When will this change happen?
Republic Services will send a letter to all residential homes during the month of July which will include a form to complete if you wish to participate in the new 96-gallon recycling cart program.

Any home that completes and submits the form, will receive the new recycling cart during the last week of August (August 26th – 30th). The next collection will then occur on the third week of each month on your regular pick-up day.

All homes currently using the 18-gallon bins will see those be removed following the collection Aug 26th. Please do not remove the bin from the road after it is emptied as a 2nd truck will come along and remove it.

Beginning September 1, 2019, Republic Services will no longer collect recycling placed in the 18-gallon bins and any bins supplied by Republic Services which are placed out for collection, will be removed while all other personally-owned bins will be tagged as non-compliant.

Q) What exactly is “broken” within the recycling system?
There are four main components of the recycling systems that are causing these changes in the local program to occur, including:

1) The global recycling markets have historically been dependent on the export of recyclables to China. Over the last three years (2016, 2017, 2018), China has imposed new sanctions and bans of recycling from entering China.

2) The new rules have caused the United States recycling markets to collapse because of an abundance of recycling materials and no place to send it. While the domestic processors have tried, the resulting increase of collected recyclable materials have saturated those processors, devaluing the materials.

3) With recycling that is collected at the curb having a reduced or negative economic value, there was a breakdown within the entire recycling collection system that depended on those rebates to offset the collection costs at the curb.

4) Many participants in the United States do not follow recycling guidelines and place non-recyclable items in their collection carts & bins resulting in increased costs to separate and dispose of these unacceptable and/or contaminated materials.

Q) If there is no economic value why even separate recycling out from the trash?
Recycling helps protect the environment. Recycling reduces the need for extracting, refining and processing raw materials—all of which create air and water pollution. As recycling saves energy, it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which helps to tackle climate change.