



## **Recycling in Apartment and Condo Complexes in Northeast Ohio**



Currently, most residents living in single or two-family dwellings within in Cuyahoga County have the opportunity to recycle through their community's curbside recycling program. As most cities do not extend this curbside service to residents living in apartments, townhomes and condominiums, it may not be so easy for these people to recycle. Many apartment dwellers make use of the paper recycling or community-sponsored recycling drop-off bins located throughout the County.

### **Recycling Drop-Off Locations in Cuyahoga County**

- For drop off locations in the City of Cleveland, visit [Where to Recycle in Cleveland?](#)
- For paper recycling locations, visit <http://www.cuyahogaswd.org/en-US/Paper-Retriever-Recycling-Locations.aspx>
- For suburban drop off locations in Cuyahoga County, visit <http://www.cuyahogaswd.org/en-US/community-recycling.aspx>

### **Tips on Establishing a Recycling Program in an Apartment or Condo Complex**

Recycling needs to be more convenient in order to increase participation and divert valuable resources from our landfills. One way to make recycling convenient is to establish a recycling program within apartment complexes to offer residents the opportunity to recycle their cans, glass, plastics and paper. While establishing an apartment recycling program is the responsibility of the property manager or property owner, apartment residents have a role in encouraging and assisting their landlord to offer this service. Property managers and property owners will benefit from a recycling program by paying less for waste disposal and being able to offer an additional amenity to their residents. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District has developed the following step-by-step process to help property managers evaluate the option of providing recycling services.

#### **STEP 1: Add Up Your Waste Disposal Costs**

A good way to start is to add up a year's worth of trash bills to determine what you currently pay to landfill your waste. In addition, estimate the amount of waste currently produced. Ask your hauler to calculate this figure for you. They should be able to do this easily. Next, review your current

contract to see if there are any restrictions to hiring another hauler to provide recycling if your current hauler does not.

### **STEP 2: Contact Your Waste Hauler**

Contact your current waste hauler to see what recycling services they are able to provide and what they charge. They may be able to offer recycling at the same or at a lower cost than waste disposal. While there is typically an additional cost for recycling dumpster or cart service, a good recycling program could reduce the number of weekly trash pulls by 30% or more. These reduced dumpster pulls will lower waste disposal costs. If your current waste hauler does not offer recycling services, consider contacting one of the following waste haulers that does provide recycling:

- **Waste Management Inc.**, contact: Ken Deininger (216) 276-0502 / [kdeining@wm.com](mailto:kdeining@wm.com)
- **Republic Waste Services**, contact Bill Wilk (216) 244-6115 / [wwilk@republicservices.com](mailto:wwilk@republicservices.com).
- **J&J Refuse**, contact Don Johnson (330) 963-5493
- **Rumpke Waste**, contact Shane Leftridge, (888) 786-7531
- **City of Cleveland**, Commercial Waste Division, contact Victor Rucker (216) 664-2333 [vrucker@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:vrucker@city.cleveland.oh.us).

### **STEP 3: Evaluate Costs by Projecting Recycling**

Once you have obtained prices for recycling services, estimate how much recycling your residents may produce then calculate your waste disposal savings. A well designed recycling program could divert a minimum of 30% of waste from your dumpsters. The District has a calculator that can help you with this. See the District's *Less is More: A Guide to Recycling in the Workplace* (Appendix A: Waste Collection Worksheet), available online: <http://www.cuyahogawd.org/en-US/recycle-at-work.aspx>.

### **STEP 4: Set up Your Recycling Collection System**

Once you have determined that you want to proceed with recycling, determine what type of container(s) your facility has space for and what works best for your residents. Possible choices are additional dumpsters in a central location and/or wheeled 96-gallon carts on each floor. The key is to make it easy for your residents to recycle. A cart located in each trash room or on each floor is likely going to collect the most recyclables. A good hauler can help determine your needs and work with you to make recycling happen. Once you establish your collection infrastructure, start service!

### **STEP 5: Educate Your Residents and Your Custodians**

Education is key to making sure residents and custodians alike understand what is recyclable and how the recycling system works. Your recycler can provide you with a list of acceptable recyclables and recycling guidelines that can be provided to residents and posted throughout your complex. Make sure your custodians know what is expected of them and how to use the new system so that separated recyclables do not end up in your trash dumpster.

### **STEP 6: Expand Your Program**

Non-traditional materials like fluorescent bulbs, electronic waste, furniture, appliances, yard trimmings and food waste can also be recycled. For assistance, call the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District's Business Recycling Specialist at 216-443-3749.

### **STEP 7: Track Your Success**

Monitor your progress and share your results. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District has an annual awards program to recognize outstanding waste reduction, recycling and composting programs – let us know what you are doing so that we can celebrate your success!

**For help with apartment recycling questions, contact the District's  
Business Recycling Specialist at 216-443-3732**