



4R Times

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WINTER 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- WARNING STICKERS
- \$.05 PAPER BAG FEE
- FEE CHANGES FOR 2020
- HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
- INCLEMENT WEATHER RECYCLING

Did You Know...

Styrofoam is not recyclable, and is one of the most common contaminants in recycling bins.



Fee Changes For 2020

Starting in January, new fees will go into effect for the recycling and disposal of certain types of materials at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC). Notably for residents, yard waste and electronic televisions and monitors will now require a solid waste permit and a fee. Yard waste can be paid for by the bag or can with a yard waste punch card or at the scales, and televisions and monitors will cost \$15 each.

	Residential Users	Commercial Users
Trash	\$93 per ton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1 (0-333 lbs.) flat fee: \$15 • Tier 2 (334-666 lbs.) flat fee: \$30 • Tier 3 (667- 999 lbs.) flat fee: \$45 	
Single-Stream Recycling	No Charge	\$30 per ton
Food Scraps	No Charge	\$20 per ton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1 (0-499 lbs.) flat fee: \$5 • Tier 2 (500-1000 lbs.) flat fee: \$10
Tires	\$285/ton or \$3 each (for up to 10 tires)	
Yard Waste	Punch card \$12 for 6 punches (bag or can) \$90 per ton (\$15 minimum)	
Televisions and Monitors	\$15 per television or monitor	

“Fee increases have been necessitated by an increase in the overall cost of disposal and recycling,” said Recycling and Materials Management Director Barbara Eckstrom. “This is due to lower revenues from the sale of recyclable materials, and increased contract costs for waste transportation and recycling operations.” Other fee increases going into effect include trash, commercial recycling, commercial food scraps, and tires.

Holiday Closings

Christmas Day and New Years Day

- RMM Office and RSWC closed
- Curbside recycling on one day delay for rest of week

MLK Jr Day Jan 20

- RMM Office Closed

Presidents Day Feb 18

- RMM Office Closed

What Do I Do With...?

Do you have an item you aren't sure is recyclable? Head to recycletopkins.org and search for it in the What Do I Do With? Tool.

We're Hiring!

Consultants are needed to staff our Food Scraps Recycling Drop Spots. Visit recycletopkins.org for more information, including how to apply.

Paper Bag Fee

When New York State's plastic bag ban goes into effect on March 1st, 2020, it will be accompanied by a \$.05 fee on paper carryout bags. The fee is intended to incentivize the use of reusable bags, which have the best environmental impact over time. The fee on paper carryout bags is part of a local law passed by the Tompkins County Legislature. Some types of paper bags are exempt, and SNAP and WIC recipients will not be charged. Revenue from the fees will be used for the state's Environmental Protection Fund and for purchasing and distributing reusable bags to low- and fixed-income residents in our community.

Recycling Contamination Warning Stickers

Items that don't belong in the recycling stream are contaminants, and they can slow down recycling operations, degrade the quality of recycled material, and ultimately lower the value of recyclable commodities. Recyclables with contamination can be outright rejected by markets, causing otherwise perfectly good materials to go to a landfill at great expense. Common sources of contamination include plastic bags, Styrofoam, padded envelopes, coffee cups, and cigarette butts. Beginning in December, recycling bins with contamination will receive orange "Warning" stickers, giving residents an opportunity to take note of recycling mistakes they made. By April, residents who put unacceptable items in their recycling container will receive a red "Rejected" sticker and the contents of their bin will not be collected. Information about what items are accepted for recycling can be found at recycletopkins.org, and in the 2019-2020 Curbside Recycling Guidelines.



The recycling that arrives at the RSWC is often contaminated with plastic film, food, and styrofoam.

Recycling in Inclement Weather

Poor road conditions due to inclement winter weather can cause delays in curbside recycling collection. Here are ways residents can help prevent delays:

- Remove snow and extra materials from around their recycling bins
- Place recycling bins in accessible locations
- Secure materials by placing heavier items like cans and bottles on top of paper or other items that could blow around

Updates on the status of curbside recycling collection are posted at recycletopkins.org. Collection calendars from the "Find My Recycling Day" tool and automatic reminders will be updated to reflect any change in schedule.

Contact Us...

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