



Town of Amherst

Office of Refuse Control

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The Town of Amherst Residents Recycle CLEAN!

C

Clean and rinse out all plastic containers! It is vital that we all try to reduce contamination levels to help the environment!

L

Leave out any colored glass! Colored glass is no longer recommended for curbside pick-up since it's hard to recycle, you may take colored glass to various private recycling centers around Town for better opportunities.

E

Empty cardboard boxes of all plastic wrap, film, and Styrofoam! before breaking them down. Extra cardboard can be placed next to your tote.

A

Add Food Scrap Recycling to Your Home! Our food scrap recycling program helps divert waste to landfill by composting food and giving the finished product back to residents, FREE. See www.amherst.ny.us for more!

N

No plastic bags or plastic film from packaging of any kind!!! Plastic bags can go to various retailers across WNY for recycling package materials.

The global recycling crisis affecting the United States is finally hitting home. Recycling markets are in an unprecedented downward spiral, especially for paper products. All of this is because China, the country processing the majority of the world's recyclables, closed its doors to most materials, citing too high levels of contamination.

In Amherst and all over the Country, communities are getting less money for their recycling commodities. This means everyone is paying more for recycling and in some places, they actually stopped recycling because it was too expensive!

What does the crisis mean for you?

Since the Town of Amherst began recycling in 1991, we have insulated the community from any market fluctuations by absorbing costs during weak recycling markets. Currently analysts predict this crisis to last for 2 years or more and the Town of Amherst cannot continue to support recycling without help.

Amherst is exploring all funding options, including grants and community partnerships to try and continue to be leaders in recycling in Western New York, but yet cost efficient at the same time. We've considered a mix of options, but we are still working on a solution. **The one thing that is certain is the cost to recycle is going up and your wallet may be impacted in the future.**

So, what can you do?

- 1. Keep Recycling-** recycling conserves natural resources, gives items new life, and supports jobs in the community. Now is not the time to give up! Residents like you have worked too hard and are too successful at recycling to stop. We must remain committed to the environmental benefits enabled by waste reduction and recycling. **It's time to reenergize, not quit!**
It's more important than ever to recycle "CLEAN". The cleaner our recycling stream is, the more valuable it is! So now is the time to revisit the recycling rules at www.amherst.ny.us . Make sure you're putting the right things in such as plastic bottles and jugs, and keeping the wrong things out, such as plastic bags and "crack able" plastic berry cartons.
- 2. Relish your success!** Each year, the Town of Amherst recycle close to half the waste we produce. Last year our diversion rate was 47%, that's almost 15% higher than the national average!! More new programs are in the works to get us even higher, but we need you to keep it up!!
- 3. Know the rules-** Review the new list of recyclables from the Town and Modern Disposal (things have changed in the last few years); learn what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in our recycling totes. **And, when in doubt? Throw it out; put it next to your totes and our professionals can make sure it goes to the right place.**

YES:

- Cardboard and paper food boxes (pasta and cereal boxes)
- Office paper, junk mail
- Phone books, paper bags, newspapers, magazines and catalogs
- Plastic Jugs and bottles with small top openings
- Steel and tin cans
- Aluminum cans
- Metal cookware
- CLEAR bottles and jars (no more colored glass please!)

NO:

- **PLASTIC BAGS-** Never bag your recyclables in plastic; they need to be loose.
 - "Tanglers" or anything that can wrap around sorting equipment and cause downtime, which increases the cost to process recyclables (includes hoses, wires, cords, ropes, chains, belts, etc.).
 - Plastics that might crack apart when you step on them including drinking cups and berry containers.
 - Styrofoam of any kind.
- 4. Pass it on-** Please share this information with your friends and family (verbally or digitally); working together we can help find better and closer markets for our recycling. Thank you for helping save the planet a little each day!