

Updates to the City of Long Beach Curbside Recycling Program

The City of Long Beach recently updated the list of acceptable items for the City's Curbside Recycling Program. These changes are largely due to the implementation of China's National Sword Policy, which resulted in a stark decline in the exporting of recyclable materials and continues to have drastic impacts to the global recycling market. After consultation with Potential Industries, Inc., which handles the City's recyclable materials, and Waste Management, the City's Residential curbside recycling hauler, the City of Long Beach decided to make changes to the Curbside Recycling Program to align with the changes in the recycling industry.

The City of Long Beach Curbside Recycling Program is only accepting the following items: paper, cardboard, metals, empty paint and aerosol cans, glass bottles and jars, plastics PETE 1, HDPE 2, and PP 5. Paper items accepted include computer paper, ledger paper, mail, flyers, telephone books, notecards, newspaper, magazines, file folders, paper bags, catalogs and all envelopes. Cardboard items accepted include all cardboard boxes and chipboard, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, dry food boxes, shoe boxes, and detergent boxes. Metal items accepted include all aluminum, tin, meat cans, soda cans, juice cans, soup cans, vegetables cans, pet food cans, pie tins, and clean aluminum foil. Glass items accepted include soda bottles, wine bottles, beer bottles, sauce jars, and pickle jars. Polyethylene Teraphthalate (PETE 1) items accepted include plastic soda bottles, plastic juice bottles, and plastic water bottles. High Density Polyethylene (HDPE 2) items accepted include milk jugs, laundry detergent, and planters. Polypropylene (PP 5) items accepted include yogurt tubs, plastic bottles tops, and margarine tubs. All accepted materials need to be clean and dry for collection.

The City of Long Beach will no longer be accepting the following items in the Curbside Recycling bins: plastics PVC 3, LDPE 4, PS 6, Other 7 and cartons. Examples of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC 3) items that will no longer be accepted are plastic food wrapping, children's toys, and teething rings. Examples of Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE 4) items that will no longer be accepted

include plastic bags, produce bags, shrink wrap, dry cleaner garment bags, squeezable bottles, and plastic bread bags. Examples of Polystyrene (PS 6) items that will no longer be accepted include cups, plates, take-out “clamshell” food containers, egg cartons, cutlery/utensils, foam packaging, and packaging peanuts. Other plastics (7) that will no longer be accepted include compostable plastics and any other plastic material that is not a 1-6 types of plastic. Finally, examples of cartons that will no longer be accepted include all refrigerated, shelf-stable, aseptic packaging boxes and cartons, such as juice boxes and cartons, dairy and non-dairy boxes and cartons, wine boxes, and egg substitute boxes.

For more information on these changes please visit <http://www.longbeach.gov/lbrecycles>.

