

## **Recycling Changes Make Good “Cents”**

These modifications to our recycling program are necessary because the market for recyclable materials has changed dramatically over the past several years. China, the world’s largest importer of recyclables, is no longer accepting materials they once did. The countries that are reliant on imported recyclables are not able to process the excess created by China’s tightened restrictions. This has resulted in a reduced demand for materials and the materials which are being accepted need to be of ‘higher quality’ to reduce the processing expenses. The changes we have made will allow us to continue our recycling program in Alexandria, with little or no inconvenience to our residents.

Some will argue that recycling costs us more money than merely hauling it to a landfill; and that the demand for the replacement goods has an equally favorable impact on the economy and our country’s growth. Short-term that is probably true; however, long-term, failure to responsibly recycle will result in greater expense to process our trash and depletion of our natural resources. Why? We are running out of space to dispose of our trash. As local landfills reach capacity and close, new landfills must be created to handle our waste. These new landfills are in sparsely populated areas of the country, meaning that trash from the more populous areas will need to be hauled greater distances, resulting in higher costs. Alexandria has just recently begun to feel the pressure as local landfills begin to reach capacity.

Although many people don’t think of recycling as an industry unto itself, it is. The recycling industry conducted a study in 2016 analyzing the numbers of jobs, wages and tax revenues attributed to recycling. The study found that in a single year, recycling and reuse activities in the United States accounted for:

- 757,000 jobs
- \$36.6 billion in wages; and
- \$6.7 billion in tax revenues.

This equates to 1.57 jobs, \$76,000 in wages, and \$14,101 in tax revenues for every 1,000 tons of materials recycled. The industry is keeping people gainfully employed, off the welfare rolls, and contributing to the economic growth of our country.

Natural resources are not an endless commodity, even those so-called “renewable resources” are being pushed to the limit – trees, for example, are now cross pollinated to produce ‘hybrids’ that mature much faster; however, arguably, produce a lower grade of lumber. More and more building (and other) materials are being produced synthetically using recycled materials. We need recyclable materials, and with the emerging technological advances, the market will rebound. By practicing responsible recycling, you are providing employment for many, protecting our resources, and promoting a vibrant community. Your support and cooperation are very much appreciated.

## Changes to our Recycling Program Effective 1 October 2018

### GLASS



#### We Accept

Glass Bottle & Jars ONLY

#### We No Longer Accept (Put in Bulky Waste)

Window Glass  
Ceramics  
China  
Pottery  
Toilets/Sinks

### PLASTICS



#### We Accept

Plastic Bottles  
Jars  
Food Containers  
Laundry Detergent Bottles  
Milk Jugs  
Shampoo/Conditioner Bottles

#### We No Longer Accept (Put in Bulky Waste)

Toys  
Outdoor Furniture  
Package wrapping  
Flower Pots/Trays  
Styrofoam  
Bags (return to store for recycling)

### Tin Cans



#### We Accept (New Container)

All Tin Cans Except Those Used  
To store Hazardous Material Such  
As Petroleum Products, Cleaning  
Solutions, or Paint & Varnishes.

#### We Do Not Accept (Ask Attendant)

Paint Cans –empty Latex paint cans  
with any paint dried can be placed in  
Bulky Waste; all other paint should  
be donated or taken to a HWS.

### Cardboard & Paper



We no longer are accepting Cardboard and Mixed Paper for recycling. Large Cardboard should be broken down and placed in the Bulky Waste container; Paper should be placed in the Compactor with the household non-recyclable trash.