

# New at Plymouth this Fall: Organic Recycling Bins!

Draft of 8-11-2009

Starting this September, Plymouth will dramatically reduce the amount of waste we send to local landfills and incinerators. For the first time, our food scraps and other organic waste will be recycled into compost, a precious resource used in gardens and landscaping projects. Although all of our organic waste and trash will still be hauled offsite, separating the organic material from our trash actually lowers our monthly bill.

The most visible sign of the change will be the recycling bins which will show up in Katy's Diner, Guild Hall, and a few other locations throughout the church. Our immediate challenge is to keep the materials sorted, and to reduce the amount of trash. You will encounter 4 types of bins:

- Cans and Bottles
- Paper and Cardboard
- Organic Recycling
- Trash

Each of us will need to change our old patterns and create new ones regarding what we throw out. Think about what you put in the trash!

To help with the process, here is an overview of what goes into each bin:



## Cans and Bottles

- Metal food and beverage cans
- Glass containers (any color)
- Plastic bottles (with neck)

Note: Plastic bottle caps are permitted, but NO plastic lids, NO margarine/yogurt containers, NO foil cartons, NO aluminum foil, and NO microwave meal containers. Accepted plastic types: # 1- 4



## Paper and Cardboard

- Church bulletins, mixed mail, office paper
- Magazines, newsprint
- Bundled cardboard

Note: Staples are okay. Paper bags are okay. NO plastic bags. NO ring binders.



## Organic Recycling: Food scraps & food-soiled paper products

- Food Scraps, including:
  - Fruits and vegetables
  - Meat, fish and bones (permitted as this is commercial composting)
  - Bread, pasta and baked goods
  - Egg shells
  - Dairy Products
  - Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags
- Food-soiled **Paper products**, including:
  - Paper towels (including towels from rest rooms), napkins, tissues
  - Paper plates and cups
  - Paper milk and juice cartons (NO juice boxes)
  - Pizza boxes, boxes from frozen and refrigerated foods
  - Egg cartons (boxboard, NOT Styrofoam)
  - Waxed paper and paper containers

- Bio based products, such as cotton balls and biodegradable bags
- Unusable, non-synthetic clothes
- Floral trimmings, and house plants
- Full vacuum cleaner bags, dryer lint, pet hair
- Tooth picks, wooden coffee stirrers and popsicle sticks

The following items are NOT ACCEPTED in organic bins:

- Plastic cups, plastic plates, plastic utensils (place in trash)
- Foil-lined containers (juice boxes) (place in trash)
- Condiment packets, chip bags, candy wrappers (place in trash)
- Recyclable paper (put in paper/cardboard bin!)



### **Trash – Please place the following items in the trash, NOT the recycling bins:**

- Styrofoam, packing peanuts
- Plastic bags (in the future, we might collect them separately)
- Broken glass, window Glass
- Aluminum foil, aerosol cans, oil cans or bottles
- Porcelain, ceramics
- Leather, plastics, glass or metal
- Diapers and wipes, kitty litter, pet droppings
- Anything not listed as recyclable on the other bins.

Recycling practices vary by community and hauler. Some co-mingle everything. At Plymouth, we need to separate the recyclables into 3 bins because the paper and cardboard are sold, the organic waste is composted, and the rest is sorted by the waste hauler. If we mix them, our rates will go up!

Each month, we will receive a statement from Randy's Sanitation, our new waste hauler, showing the weight of our trash, and the weight of our recycled organic material. As we explore ways to increase the organic portion of our trash, this will provide our congregation with a way to measure progress.

This recycling project has its roots in the Environmental Sustainability Statement that our congregation adopted last year. The Caring for Creation team has worked with Plymouth staff to make this possible. Your participation will be vital to its success.

Living sustainably involves thinking about the choices we make, and considering what we purchase and bring into this building. If you are holding a special event, try to make it a zero waste event! Avoid the use of Styrofoam and plastic. Buy and use organic materials whenever possible. Choose products which are durable and non-toxic.

We are called to serve as stewards of the earth, to protect and nurture the environment, and to engage in sustainable practices on behalf of our children and future generations.

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 RECYCLING COLORS ARROWS © Nataliaferrari | Dreamstime.com

**Note:** To become involved, or learn more about this recycling effort and other projects, please free to attend a meeting of the Caring for Creation working group. Visitors and new members are always welcome. We generally meet the first Sunday of every other month from Noon to 1:30pm. Our next regular meeting will be in the Nancy Baltins room on Sunday, September 6.