



Recycling by Multi-Family Residences Creates Jobs, Saves Energy, Reduces Pollution And . . . It's the Law!

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Since 1996, in accordance with state law, the City of Buffalo has required all multi-family residences to recycle paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, and metal.¹ Each complex must provide and maintain a recycling collection area, and occupants must then put their recyclables in the appropriate receptacles. Violations are punishable by a fine between \$25 and \$250, and/or imprisonment for 15 days or community service.²

Many property owners and managers may not be aware of this law, and they may not be recycling at all, or they may be recycling only some of their recyclable materials.

Recycling Creates Jobs

- Landfilling creates one job for every 10,000 tons of waste. Recycling creates ten jobs in processing and 25 jobs in manufacturing for every 10,000 tons.³

Recycling Saves Energy

- By recycling 30% of our waste, Americans save the equivalent of 11.9 billion gallons of gasoline and reduce the greenhouse gas equivalent of taking 25 million cars off the road.⁴
- Recycling aluminum is 95% more energy efficient than using raw materials.⁵

- Each ton of mixed paper that is recycled saves the equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline, and each ton of aluminum cans saves the equivalent of 1,665 gallons.⁶

Recycling Reduces Pollution

- Producing recycled white paper creates 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution than using virgin fibers.⁷
- Using recycled cans instead of new ore for aluminum cans produces 95% less air pollution and 97% less water pollution.⁸
- Landfills are the largest source of human-caused methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.⁹
- Paper and cardboard make up 73% of materials in landfills.¹⁰
- Roughly 20% of the sites on the Superfund list are solid waste landfills.¹¹



NOTES

¹ City of Buffalo Code, § 216-43

² City of Buffalo Code, § 216-50

³ Eco-Cycle, “Why Recycle?” available at www.ecocycle.org.

⁴ Id.

⁵ “Environmental Benefits of Recycling,” National Recycling Coalition, 2005.

⁶ www.epa.gov

⁷ Eco-Cycle, “Why Recycle?” available at www.ecocycle.org.

⁸ Id.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ www.epa.gov

¹¹ Eco-Cycle, “Why Recycle?” available at www.ecocycle.org.