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## **GLENDALE ANNOUNCES FIRST EXPANSION OF RECYCLING PROGRAM IN 11 YEARS**

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – On April 4, the city of Glendale will begin accepting additional plastics in its recycling collection program, the first expansion of curbside recycling since the city launched the program 11 years ago.

Previously the city recycled only plastics 1 and 2, which includes items such as PET products (water and soda bottles) and HDPE products (milk jugs, coffee creamers, juice bottles, detergent and fabric softener bottles).

Starting April 4, residents can also recycle plastics 3 – 7 which means most hard plastics will now be part of the program. Manufacturers mark the bottom of plastic items with a recycling symbol along with a number in the middle. According to Debbie Coy, Glendale’s recycling coordinator, the most common items in the 3-7 category are:

- beverage cups
- margarine and sour cream tubs
- plastic food packaging such as take-out food containers
- yogurt containers.

“As with all recycled plastics, we encourage our residents to make sure the items are clean, dry and empty before tossing them in the recycling bin,” said Coy.

Sanitation officials estimate that expanding the program will keep an additional 150 tons of waste out of the landfill each year. That’s the equivalent of filling a 5,000 square foot home. Plastics 1 and 2, at more than 800 tons, will remain the bulk of the plastics that are collected in the city recycling program.

(more)

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## Recycling Plastics

### Add 1-1-1-1-1-1-1

Although most plastics will now be recyclable in Glendale, some items will still not be collected. These include low-density polyethylene (dry cleaning and grocery bags, produce bags, shrink-wrap, bubble wrap) and Styrofoam (egg cartons, hot beverage containers, packing for electronics, packing peanuts). While not allowed in home pick-up, plastic grocery and dry cleaning bags can be recycled at major grocery chains that have collection bins.

Recycled items from homes are picked up and transported to the city's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where they are sorted, bundled and sold to a plastics commodities buyer.

"We're pleased to have the capacity at our existing Materials Recovery Facility to expand the program for residents and that we have been able to find a buyer who will accept the additional plastics," said Christina Betz, Glendale's solid waste superintendent. The new plastics are expected to add \$12,000 in revenue to the \$350,000 currently collected by the city for the sale of recyclable plastic commodities. There will be no additional operating or processing costs to expand the program.

However, city officials say the bigger motivator is simply that "recycling is the right thing to do." Research shows it takes 100 to 400 years for plastics to breakdown in a landfill. In addition to keeping waste out of the landfill, recycling has other benefits – including a major reduction in oil consumption. It is estimated that recycling one ton of aluminum saves 37 barrels of oil; recycling one ton of plastics can save almost 48 barrels of oil. At those rates, plastic and aluminum recycling in Glendale reduces the consumption of oil by 1.9 million gallons annually.

City staff is working to get news of the expansion out to residents in a variety of ways and to remind them of the full scope of the recycling program which includes aluminum cans, cardboard, chipboard, mixed paper, newspaper and steel and tin cans.

Refrigerator magnets that list the items that the city recycles are available by calling the Sanitation Department at 623-930-2660. More details on recycling are available at [www.glendaleaz.com](http://www.glendaleaz.com).

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**Caption:** *A refrigerator magnet, like the one pictured here, is available to help keep straight what materials are recycled in the home pick-up program. To order one, call 623-930-2660 or log on to [www.glendaleaz.com](http://www.glendaleaz.com)*