



## **(July 16, 2022) Working to Improve Recycling Options in Barry County**

We spend a lot of time talking about how and what to recycle, but how do you know if recycling is available in your area, and what can you do if access to recycling services are limited? First, find out what recycling services are available near you by visiting the Barry County Interactive Recycling Map at [www.barrycountyclecyles.org](http://www.barrycountyclecyles.org). If you don't see any recycling options near you, you aren't alone. Many rural areas in Michigan have no access to curbside recycling and may not have a community drop-off center available to them.

If you are in a single-family home and are unable to get recycling through your regular trash service, ask your provider how many neighbors would need to request it in order to receive access. If your hauler doesn't offer curbside recycling at all, you may need to seek an alternative provider for recycling services.

If you live in a multifamily home, you can start by requesting recycling through the rental company where you stay. Talk with your neighbors to see if they are interested in getting recycling as well, it is often more impactful if there is a group that is requesting the service rather than a single unit.

If curbside is not an option and your community doesn't have an existing recycling drop-off site, speak to your township, village, or city council and let them know you would like to see another option, such as a community drop-off. Encourage your neighbors to voice their interest as well.

If your township, village, or city would like to improve residents' access to recycling, the Barry County Solid Waste Oversight Committee (BCSWOC) currently has a great mini-grant program available that can help fund these improvements. The BCSWOC established this mini-grant program to promote and facilitate recycling and the reduction of solid waste and other materials going to landfills. This grant opportunity is available thanks to the generous support of Barry County and the Barry Community Foundation.

Eligible applicants for the mini-grant include local units of government, non-profit organizations, civic groups, state-licensed businesses, and other groups as approved by the BCSWOC.

Mini-grant applications can be found online at [www.barrycountyclecyles.org](http://www.barrycountyclecyles.org), requested via email at [recycle@barrycounty.org](mailto:recycle@barrycounty.org), or through the Barry-Eaton District Health Department at 330 West Woodlawn Avenue in Hastings. Applications will be accepted throughout the year. Qualified applications will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds have been expended.

*Rachel Frantz serves as Barry County's Recycling Coordinator and writes columns to answer commonly asked recycling questions. Rachel is also available to help local townships, villages, and cities apply for the BCSWOC mini-grant program. Email [recycle@barrycounty.org](mailto:recycle@barrycounty.org) or visit [www.barrycountyclecyles.org](http://www.barrycountyclecyles.org) for more information!*