

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – Every Other Week Recycling Valparaiso City Services

How is the residential curbside recycling program changing?

The City of Valparaiso is changing the **recycling collection schedule** for customers to every other week starting the week of January 1, 2023. The new schedule will still provide recycling for residents.

Will my pickup day for recycling change?

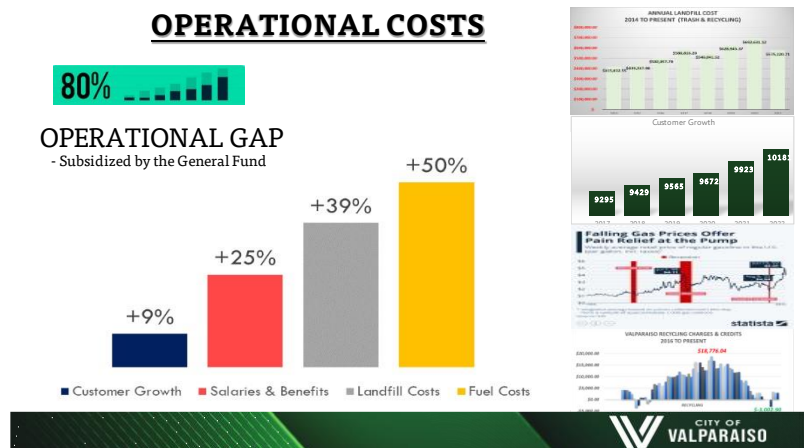
No - Recycling collection will continue the same day of the week as your current service but will be done every other week instead.

When is the schedule change happening?

The service change begins the second week of January 2023. Refer to new recycling schedule link below.

What prompted this change?

Rates for solid waste and recycling collection have not been increased in Valparaiso since 2012. Rising costs of fuel, labor, landfill and a volatile recycling market triggered the City to evaluate the program by establishing a committee. The committee evaluated the services provided, costs for those services and compared these services of neighboring communities and private services. It was determined that Valparaiso was the lowest cost in the region and provided a higher level of frequency of recycle collection compared



to others but at a yearly financial loss for these services. The City provided public presentations in August and September of 2022. On September 12, 2022, the Valparaiso City Council approved this change to every other week recycling to help manage escalating costs of the recycling program while providing a reasonable rate that was competitive and lower than neighboring Northwest Indiana communities. The increased costs are the result of:

- More garbage (improper recyclables) in the recycling totes, causing the costs to process material to rise.
- And a dramatic drop in the commodity prices received for selling recyclables.

Those commodity prices were greatly influenced by China’s decision to no longer purchase most recyclables from the U.S. because of high contamination rates. As of today, it costs significantly more per ton to collect and process recyclables versus the collection and processing for trash.

Will I need an additional 96-gallon recycling tote?

You might, however you should wait to see before ordering. Our research determined that many residents are not maximizing space, placing the proper recyclables in the totes, and they are less than full. Your current tote might work just fine (See Below).

Can I pay for an extra dump on a non-collection week? If so, what is the cost?

Extra collection on a non-collection week will not be available at this time. You can always take extra recyclables FOR FREE to the Porter County Valparaiso Recycling & Waste Reduction site. For hours and additional information please go to <https://portercountyrecycling.org/>. The City may add additional recycling collection throughout the year at no cost.

What can I do with recyclables if they don't fit in my 96-gallon tote?

If you are placing the proper items in your tote and it is still full before your collection day, here are a few options:

- Make sure to flatten all boxes to give you room. Larger boxes should be cut down 2ft x 2ft to maximize space. Make sure boxes are not contaminated with food waste.
- Take extra recyclables to the Porter County Valparaiso Recycling & Waste Reduction site for FREE.
- As of today, you can subscribe for a second **96-gallon OR 64-gallon** recycling tote for FREE. A third recycling tote will involve an extra monthly charge of \$14.65 (limit 3). Due to the volatility of the recycling market, the City will assess these fees on a yearly basis.

I am a resident already paying for an extra tote. Will my service day change too? Will I pay the same?

Yes, you will also go to every other week pickup; however, your service day will remain the same.

Basic recycling rules as provided within the amended Valparaiso Ordinance:

1. Recycle bottles, cans, paper and cardboard. Make sure paper and cardboard is not wet or contaminated.
2. Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.
3. No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

How to Recycle Right - Recycling Right requires a few easy steps:

- ✓ Only put in items that are empty, clean and dry.
- ✓ Make sure items are loose in the cart.
- ✓ Don't guess about what goes in the tote. If it is not on the list, don't put it in the tote. Please go to <https://portercountyrecycling.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/currentrecyclingguidelines18.pdf> for additional information.

How do I make room in my tote so I can make it last two weeks?

Make sure you are only putting in what is accepted. Save room by only including what belongs and collapse cardboard boxes, cartons, and crush aluminum cans.

Future Recycling Education for the Public:

The committee determined that a more robust Recycling Education Program for the community is needed. The City will embark on this campaign in 2023 that will include working with the Porter County Valparaiso Recycling & Waste Reduction team.

Other important links:

1. **To view the 2023 every other week recycling schedule please visit:**
<http://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/DocumentCenter/View/9054/2023-TRASH-RECYCLE-PICKUP-CALENDAR>
2. **Qualified residents may apply for reduced rates by visiting:**
<http://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/DocumentCenter/View/8903/Low-Income-Garbage-Discount-Application-FINAL>
3. **To view the trash and recycling committee process please visit:**
<https://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/1716/Trash-and-Recycling-Committee-Process>

If you have any additional questions, you may email us at cityservices@valpo.us or contact the Valparaiso City Services customer service center at 219-462-6174.

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