



The City of Glendale is committed to protecting and preserving our environment while also providing our residents with the most efficient and cost-effective services possible. In past bulletins, I have discussed Glendale's state-of-the art recycling program as well as other projects and programs that we have established in an effort to be more environmentally responsible.

One question that I am often asked is why we do not accept glass as part of our curbside recycling program. It is important to note that our residents do have the option of recycling their glass products by bringing those materials to the Recycling sorting facility at our Glendale landfill, but we do not accept glass in curbside receptacles.

Glass products do not easily bio-degrade and recycling glass products can create potential benefits for the environment. However, there are many others factors that have led us to the conclusion that including glass in our curbside recycling program is not the responsible decision at this time. Some of those factors are listed below.

- Glass represents less than 5% of the total waste stream nationally and is dwindling with many manufacturers transitioning to plastic containers for packaging.
- Paper-related products represent over 85% of all the recyclable material that Glendale sells by weight annually and 70% of the revenue from the sale of recyclables. Glass is a very harmful contaminant as the small shards of glass can easily get imbedded into the paper fibers, thereby reducing the value of the paper products.
- Glass, and particularly broken glass, is very hard and abrasive on the automated sorting equipment and can create safety-related issues for the staff who sort the materials.
- In addition to making environmental decisions, we need to make good business decisions. The value of each commodity can vary widely in a given month or year depending on world economics. Listed below were the average values in July and August 2010 for various recyclable commodities:
 - Newspaper \$132/ton
 - Cardboard \$155/ton
 - Phone books \$44/ton
 - Aluminum cans \$1,355/ton

- PET plastic \$468/ton (soda bottles, water bottles)
- Mixed plastic \$70/ton
- Glass mixed \$5/ton
- Glass sorted by color (brown, clear, green) \$15-25/ton

Because of its lower value, its incompatibility with our other primary recyclable items, and the safety challenges in handling glass, the decision was made to exclude it from our curbside pick-up. Just like with any of our programs, we will continually re-evaluate the costs and benefits based on new factors and new information, and we will be open to change if it will benefit our residents.