

## **2018 CITY OF LUDINGTON CURBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE CHANGES**

Effective August 1, 2018, Republic Services alerted the City of Ludington, and surrounding communities, that they will no longer be accepting glass in curbside recycling bins for collection. Their processing facility informed Republic Services that because of changes in the recycling markets some hard decisions have had to be made to keep the facility operating. With the value of recycling plummeting Republic Services has selected GLASS as the first item to eliminate within the City's recycling program.

### **Republic Services has cited several reasons why they are no longer accepting GLASS:**

- Glass breaks and it is difficult to sort at most recycling centers.
- Glass is hard on equipment, resulting in higher maintenance costs at recycling centers where glass is processed.
- Glass mixes with paper and cardboard and lowers the value of the fiber that is being sold, or increases the risk of deductions at the mill for quality issues.
- Glass is heavy and expensive to transport.
- The markets for glass are limited. In our region there are no viable, long-term outlets for glass.

Matt Biolette of Republic Services made this comment; "The choice and instruction by the processor to stop accepting glass is difficult to realize for many people. I believe the important message we need to hear today is that recycling products that do not have durable market locations (a.k.a. places to go) is hurting recycling as a whole". Mr. Biolette also stated that he believes that it is not common knowledge by residents that glass has either a \$0.00 value, or a negative value, which presents a real issue for these processing facilities. Glass is also heavy and the facilities that process the sorted glass are either in Ohio or Chicago, making it a costly material to transport. Those are just some of the reasons glass has been added to the unacceptable items lists. At this time Republic Services is asking that this material to go into the trash, as there is not another home for the material (through Republic Services) that is cost feasible today. For more information on this issue Mr. Biolette recommends that residents search online for the topic "recycling crisis in the U.S."

For more info please contact:

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We'll handle it from here.™

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