

# BLUE-BAG RECYCLING

## **What is the Blue-Bag program?**

The Blue-Bag program is a voluntary and simple recycling program available to Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal customers. Residents are encouraged to place all *dry, clean* recyclable materials in a special blue plastic bag. The bag should then be placed alongside your garbage can on your normal garbage service day. The recyclables in the Blue-Bag will then be collected and processed at the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) located at the Eastern Regional Landfill/Transfer Station Facility on Cabin Creek Road in Truckee.

## **Why was the Blue-Bag program selected over other curbside recycling programs?**

The Blue-Bag program is easier, more convenient and provides for the recycling of more materials than other types of curbside programs that use separate plastic bins or containers. Other programs require residents to sort materials into a particular bin or container, which can be more time-consuming and occupy more storage space in the home. In addition, this program allows the garbage hauler to use their existing trucks to collect recyclable materials at the same time household garbage is picked up, thus increasing efficiency and reducing traffic. By participating in the Blue-Bag Program, customers remove materials that might otherwise end up in a landfill. Reducing the amount of household waste also has the potential benefit of lowering a participant's garbage costs.



### **What can be placed in the Blue-Bag?**

- \*Magazines and newspaper
- \*Uncontaminated paper products
- \*Plastics containers: #1 thru #7
- \*Glass containers
- \*Aluminum cans, Bi-metal cans.
- \*Steel cans i.e. vegetable and fruit "tin" cans.



### **Examples of items not accepted in Blue-Bags:**

Aluminum foil (including pie tins), contaminated plastics, plastic grocery bags, neon-colored paper, Christmas wrapping paper, ceramics, crystal, window panes, Pharmaceutical bottles, light bulbs, drinking glasses, mirrors, Pyrex, dishes, Styrofoam, wax or plastic coated cartons.

## **Where can I get the "Blue-Bags"?**

Look for Blue Recycling Bags found locally at grocery and hardware stores. To qualify for the program, bags must be blue, sealed, and sufficiently transparent to allow visual inspection of the contents. Sealing is important so as to prevent the recyclable material from mixing with regular garbage during transport to the Materials Recovery Facility. Please be aware, if the contents of the bag cannot be seen or do not qualify as recyclable material, the bag will be counted as regular garbage. Optionally, customers may take items of large size or quantity, such as cardboard, to local community recycling containers or the MRF.

## **Other Recycling Programs**

The above materials, in addition to corrugated cardboard, are also accepted at our drop-off locations or may be taken to the California Certified Redemption Buyback Center at Eastern Regional Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

We offer an annual "Tree-cycle" Program for the recycling of household Christmas trees discarded following the holidays. Residential customers may place their trees out for free collection during the appointed week, which normally occurs during the second or third week of January. To qualify, trees must be cut to four (4) foot segments and free of foreign matter (e.g. tinsel, flocking, lights, stands, and nails). Please note that trees disposed by the customer during weeks other than the specified collection week shall receive an additional charge.

In addition to recycling, we encourage everyone to "reduce and reuse." One person's trash is another's treasure. Before you discard that sofa, you may wish to find a home for it through one of the many local charitable groups or thrift stores interested in those items.

**Please call our office@ (530) 583-0148 for more information on how to "Recycle Now!"**