

A Message from Supervisor Mary F. Holtz...

Cheektowaga has Changed the Way We Recycle

CONGRATULATIONS CHEEKTOWAGA!! After one year with our new totes, we increased our recycling volume by 16%. Let's try for 25% this year!! Recycling saves tax dollars and protects our environment.

Along with our new covered, wheeled totes, we changed the recycling pickup schedule from weekly to every other week and there are more items to recycle. Because we changed from the small, open top, 18-gallon, blue bin to a larger tote it may appear to some that it will never get filled. But, when you consider the two-week time frame between pickups and the increase in the amount of recyclable items, the need for the larger tote becomes clearer. We are asking everyone to drop those recyclable items that previously were perhaps too inconvenient to place in the blue bin, into the deeper, covered recycling tote.



Every recyclable item that doesn't make its way into our weekly garbage tonnage saves us money. On the one hand, we pay a tipping fee for every pound of garbage disposed, but, with recyclables, we are paid money for the value of those materials. Also, going from weekly pickup of recyclables to a two-week cycle has provided us with the opportunity for significant savings under our contract with Republic Services.

Another change has been the way the two-week pickup cycle works. While all the streets on a daily route continue to place their garbage totes out each week for our Sanitation crews to pick up, only half of a daily route's streets at a time have a recyclable pick up by Republic Services. In other words, only one-half of the streets on each daily route have their recyclables picked up. The following week, the other half of the daily routes have a recycling pickup. You will receive a mailer, annually, which will let you easily identify the exact weeks your recyclables will be picked up throughout the year. Please keep it in a handy place. For your convenience, that listing is also provided on our website's homepage www.tocny.org under "Let's Talk About Totes."

If you still have the small blue recycling bin we used to use and it's in good shape, please find a new purpose for it that will meet your needs. If its useful life is gone, just place it in your recycling tote with your other recyclable items. You must use the brown tote with the green lid for recycling.

At several community meetings Councilmember Jerry Kaminski and I held in the months leading up to the change in recycling, there was enthusiastic acceptance by those who attended and the increase in recycling volume shows we have made the correct choice. Let's all continue to make it work.....because RECYCLING WORKS!