

# **City of Brewer**

## **Recycling Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Zero Sort recycling?**

Zero Sort recycling is a system in which a broad array of recyclables are collected together without the need by the resident to separate. Paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum, tin cans and more can be tossed together into one bin.

### **How do I participate?**

Place a free "Recycling" sticker (available at City facilities) on any container, fill it with acceptable materials and place curbside every other week on the same day as your trash pickup. Click [here](#) for a calendar showing recycling collection weeks.

### **Is there a limit to the amount of acceptable material I can recycle?**

No, and it's free! The City encourages residents to recycle as much as they can. The more you recycle, the fewer bags you need to purchase and the more money you save. Also, the more residents recycle, the less the City pays to have trash incinerated.

### **Can I recycle lids and caps?**

Please ensure that you empty and quickly rinse containers first. You may leave lids and caps on the containers. The metal lids on glass jars will pop off when the glass breaks during the collection or sorting process. If you place caps and lids loose with your recycling, our processor has said that due to the small size these items may fall off the line and not make it through the recycling process.

### **How clean do my recyclables need to be?**

According to Pine Tree, recyclable containers or items need only be quickly rinsed before placing in your recycling container. They do not need to be washed or cleaned.

### **What do I do with food waste?**

Food waste is garbage; it is not recyclable under the City's Zero Sort program. If you cannot or do not want to compost it or use your kitchen disposal, food waste should go in a PAYT garbage bag.

### **Can I put my recyclables in clear plastic bags?**

No. Plastic bags are not accepted in the Zero Sort recycling program, because they jam up the conveyor belts at the recycling facility. Unfortunately, the very first informational Zero Sort flyer the City prepared mistakenly indicated that transparent plastic bags were acceptable. We are encouraging residents to repurpose one of the garbage cans they may already have (or another similar type container) for their recyclables. The container should be clearly marked as RECYCLING. Stickers for this purpose are available for free at most City buildings, including City Hall, the Library, Public Works and the Landfill.

### **Why aren't plastic bags accepted?**

Plastic bags are not accepted in the Zero Sort recycling program, because they jam up the conveyor belts at the recycling facility causing costly delays and repairs. Click [here](#)

for a brochure that describes the mechanical process that separates the recyclables. Click [here](#) to access a 6 minute video that describes the process.

### **How can I recycle plastic bags?**

Plastic bags are not accepted in the Zero Sort recycling program, because they jam up the conveyor belts at the recycling facility causing costly delays and repairs. Many grocery and retail stores, including the Brewer Hannaford and Walmart stores, offer plastic bag recycling.

### **Are old clothing and shoes recyclable?**

No, not under the City's Zero Sort program. You can consider donating these items to Goodwill or another similar organization. Ideas if they are past their wearable life:

- use as rags
- donate to a local art program
- use for quilting
- put in a "Free Box" at your next garage sale.

### **What happens to the recyclables once they are collected?**

Click [here](#) to access a Casella video that shows how Zero Sort recycling works and how the recyclables are separated.