

Lax Recyclers Beware - Sanitation Fines Coming

By Craig McGuire

While no date has been set on when the Department of Sanitation will officially begin issuing summonses to New Yorkers for improper recycling, it may be safe to say that the honeymoon is drawing to a close.

Each sanitation district receives a six-month warning period after a residential recycling program begins, or expands to collect a new material. During the warning period, no summonses are issued. Enforcement agents only give out warnings to buildings exhibiting violations of the recycling regulations.

However, enforcement in Brooklyn, where curbside recycling became borough-wide on June 1, 1993, has been greatly delayed.

Once the warning period is over, any building may receive a summons even if it has never received a warning.

For each building, the summons carries a \$25 fine, followed by a \$50 fine for the second summons, and a \$100 fine for the third summons.

Buildings that receive four or more summonses in a six-month period will be fined \$500.

Buildings with more than nine apartments that receive four or more summonses within a six-month

period will be fined \$500 for each garbage bag that violates recycling regulations, up to a maximum of 20 bags within a 24-hour period. This translates to a maximum fine of \$10,000 per day.

Warnings or summonses are left at the building where the violation occurred, and a copy is mailed, along with educational material, to the building's owner.

There are many possible violations that homeowners can identify to avoid being ticketed.

Landlords subject themselves to fine by failing to distribute or post required information about the building's recycling program. Residents and landlords should check the facilities they have for recycling.

Improper curbside recycling containers and improper mechanized recycling dumpsters will expose the occupant or owner to a penalty.

Inadequate accessibility of curbside recycling containers and mechanized recycling dumpsters are also subject to fines.

Not only can residents be fined for inappropriate recycling procedures and receptacles, but also for not properly maintaining a recycling area.

Fines will be imposed for having the recycling storage area located outside of the property line, and for not providing residents with an accessible recycling storage area.

Know What To Recycle

The rest of the offenses deal directly with recycling practices.

Residents or landlords who neglect to rinse or clean recyclables, or fail to properly tie, bundle, and collapse corrugated cardboard, newspapers, magazines, or catalogs, are subject to fines.

Residents and landlords must also make sure to place their recyclables in the appropriate containers, and place them out at the appropriate times to ensure they will not be ticketed.

New Yorkers should be aware that there are some materials that should not be put on the curbside for recycling collection.

They include, but are not limited to, batteries, wire hangers, looseleaf paper, toilet tissue, computer paper, aerosol and paint cans, pizza and detergent boxes, light bulbs, deli containers, ceramics, mirrors, bottle tops, egg cartons, and Chinese food take-out boxes.

Also, failure to use alternative disposal means, such

as transparent blue bags, as required by the Department of Sanitation, also may bring fines.

What is recyclable? In one container, place glass and plastic bottles and jugs,

as well as aluminum (rinsed of food matter). Newspapers should be piled and secured with cord. Magazines should be tied in a separate bundle, as should corrugated cardboard.

If you have any questions on recycling enforcement or on tickets you have received, call the Sanitation Action Center weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at (212) 334-8590.

Academically Talented Kids Win Distinction

One third of the seventh graders at The Packer Collegiate Institute have been recognized by the Center for the Advancement of Academically Talented Youth of The Johns Hopkins University.

Their distinguished per-

formance on the Scholastic Achievement Test, normally taken by high school juniors and seniors as part of the college application process, qualifies them for advanced summer study at colleges across the nation. According to the introduc-

tion to its program, The University's Center for Talented Youth has "gained international recognition for identifying and working with mathematically- and verbally-talented students of elementary-, middle- and

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Packer's seventh grade state and regional winners in The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Contest are front row, left to right: Josh Segal, Lisa Fisherfeld and Jessica White. At center is Catharine Critchlow. Back row, left to right: Matthew Motley, Robert Impollonia, Dyla Patterson, Alex Patterson, Gavin Duncan, Jackson Rice, Michael Winton and Fong-Yen Lin.

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