

# 2024 CART TAGGING REPORT

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Cart tagging is a method of helping gauge contamination trends and the usage of recycling in our community. City staff do quick visual inspections and log data of contents observed in carts. If households are found to have a contaminant inside their cart an "Oops" tag is left on the household's front door to help inform and educate on what was found.

## SUMMARY STATISTICS

### 849 HOUSEHOLDS AUDITED

Out of 3,250 households in the **Monday** Service area. This led to a sample size of 26 percent. Households were audited over a seven week period from June to July.

### 80% SET-OUT RATE

On average, **8 out of every 10 households** were utilizing their recycling cart.

### 55% CLEAN RECYCLING RATE

Households that used their recycling cart had no contamination present a little over half the time. This equates to **4 out of every 10 households** having no contamination present.

## TOP CONTAMINANTS FOUND

### 40% BAGGED RECYCLABLES

124 total "Oops" tags were given out for instances of recyclables being inside a plastic bag. Recyclables should not be bagged because the recycling facility is not able to sort the material inside. Keep materials as loose as possible.

### 39% PLASTIC BAGS & FILM

122 total "Oops" tags were given out for instances of plastic bags or flexible plastic packaging. Flexible plastics are not accepted in the recycling program and can get wrapped around and clogged in sorting equipment at the recycling facility.

### 12% BULK ITEMS

35 total "Oops" tags were given out for instances of households placing bulky items (furniture, large storage containers, etc.) into the recycling carts. Recycling facilities are designed to collect and sort smaller containers; bulky items should be donated or scheduled for a Special Pickup.

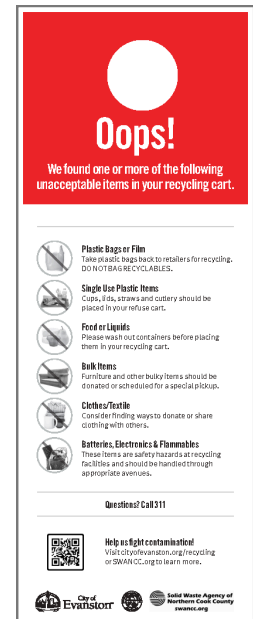
### 12% FOOD & LIQUID

39 total "Oops" tags were given out for instances where households didn't properly clean out their recycling containers, put soiled napkins or used tissues, and had loose leftover food in the recycling carts. Food and liquids reduce the quality of recycling that can be sold.

## RESOURCES

Numerous resources are available for residents to learn what to do with their items:

- Check out City's ["What Goes Where?" webpage](#)
- Check out [SWANCC's Reuse & Recycling Directory](#)
- Call 311 with any additional questions

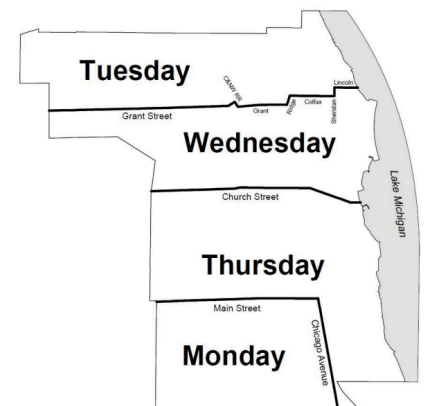


"Oops" tag that is applied to households that had contaminations found.



Example of a contamination (bagged recyclables) found in a recycling cart during this year's audit.

## AUDIT AREA



This year, the audit area was in the Monday collection area. This primarily included Wards 8, 9, and parts of 2.