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Countywide recycling to launch

By Jennifer P. Brown, New Era Deputy Editor
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It's going to get a little easier for Christian County residents to "go green."

Local waste management officials are launching a countywide recycling program, and they expect to have more than 20 drop-off bins in place at various locations in Hopkinsville and Christian County within a couple of months.

Residents who want to participate will have to take their recyclable materials to one of the drop-off bins. The material then will be transported to a new recycling center on Mount Zoar-Latham Road, where it will be baled in large quantities to be sold.

Until the new drop-off bins are in place, residents can use the drop-off bin at the Hopkinsville Public Works building on North Main Street.

The recycling program is a joint effort of the Hopkinsville and Pennyriple solid waste management authorities.

The purchase of two baling machines and the construction of the new recycling center were the keys to making the program work, said Todd Peters, recycling coordinator and program manager.

"When it's in bulk form, as long as it's clean, we can sell (the materials)," Peters said.

Materials that are being accepted are plastics, aluminum cans, tin cans, newsprint (newspapers and magazines), office paper, corrugated cardboard and paper board.

Items that will not be accepted include plastic bags, medical waste such as syringes, motor oil or antifreeze jugs, paint containers, plastic cutlery and Styrofoam.

A survey is being conducted online to help officials determine where the drop-off bins should be placed, said Angela Satterlee, a planner with the Hopkinsville-Christian County Planning Commission.

Residents using the recycling bins should put items in the bins in loose form. If items are inside bags, workers who run the baling machines will have to stop to open the bags before sorting the items, Peters said.

In addition, employees at the city dump will be pulling out some recyclable items at the transfer station to take to the baling facility, which is located near the dump.

Officials hope the recycling program will eventually reduce the amount of waste that goes to a landfill, Satterlee said.

The survey can be taken by going to the city's Web site at hoptown.org and clicking on "Recycling Program Needs Survey" or by going to the Kentucky New Era Web site at kentuckynewera.com and clicking on "Take the Hopkinsville Recycling Survey" under the Community section.

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