

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### Curbside Recycling

**Question:** Why do we have to use clear plastic bags?

**Answer:** Using clear plastic bags has several advantages. First, the clear bags allow the recycling collection staff to verify that there is no contamination in the material being recycled or the correct material is being collected. Second, the bags are easier to lift into the collection trucks. Finally, using the clear bags keep the recyclables dry when it rains, and minimizes wind-borne material being blown from a bin.

**Question:** Where do I buy clear plastic bags?

**Answer:** Clear plastic bags can be purchased from several local stores, such as Food Lion, Kroger, and WalMart.

Also, the bags can be purchased on-line. Just type “30 gallon clear plastic bags” on your internet search engine and several choices come up.

**Question:** Why can't I include cardboard pizza boxes?

**Answer:** Pizza boxes are usually stained with grease and cheese. Adding these food stained products to the recycling stream caused problems by attracting mice and insects when the cardboard is being stored and transported.

Also, one of the first steps in processing the recycled paper is mixing the recycled paper with water to create a slurry. If there are oils or food grease in the recycled paper, it will ruin the entire batch, causing it to be wasted.

However, if it is a frozen food wrapped in plastic inside of a box, then the box can be recycled provided that it has not been in contact with the food.

**Question:** Who do I call if I have more questions?

**Answer:** Please call Botetourt County Public Works at 540-473-8316.