

Curbside recycling — frequently asked questions

What you need to know about the new curbside recycling program coming to some Lethbridge County communities in fall 2026.

About the program

What is curbside recycling and why is it coming to Lethbridge County?

Curbside recycling is a service that allows residents to place recyclable materials at the curb for pickup, instead of driving to a recycling trailer to drop them off. Starting October 1, 2026, curbside recycling is coming to six Lethbridge County communities as part of Alberta's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulation. EPR requires the companies that produce packaging, single-use plastics, and paper products to take financial responsibility for recycling — meaning this program is not paid for by taxpayers.

Who is running the curbside recycling program?

The program is administered by Circular Materials, a national not-for-profit organization managing Alberta's transition to EPR recycling. The City of Lethbridge has been contracted to provide collection services to County residents. Lethbridge County's role is to ensure residents are aware of this program.

Will this cost me anything?

No. The EPR regulation requires producers — the companies that make packaging and single-use plastics — to fund recycling collection. This program does not cost municipalities or taxpayers. Your property taxes are not going up because of this program, and you will not pay a fee to receive this service.

Which communities are receiving curbside recycling?

The following six communities will have curbside recycling starting October 2026: Deer Run Estates, Diamond City, Fairview, Monarch, Mountain Meadows, and Shaughnessy.



Why are these communities receiving curbside recycling services?

For a community to receive curbside recycling, Circular Materials requires that it have existing curbside collection infrastructure (garbage pickup). The six communities listed above already receive curbside garbage pickup, which makes adding curbside recycling routes practical and efficient. Communities without existing curbside service are not included in this phase of the program. Residents in non-eligible communities will continue to have access to recycling trailers and transfer stations.

Will more communities be added to the curbside program in the future?

There are currently no plans to expand the program in the near future, but we will continue to monitor the program to determine if more communities could receive curbside services. In the meantime, recycling trailers and transfer stations will continue to serve all County residents.

Are businesses part of this program?

No. Only residential properties will receive curbside pickup services.

For residents receiving curbside recycling

When does curbside recycling start?

Curbside recycling pickup begins the week of October 5, 2026. The first pickup day is Monday, October 5 for Deer Run Estates, Diamond City, Fairview, Mountain Meadows, and Shaughnessy. For Monarch, first pickup is Tuesday, October 6.

When will I receive my cart?

Carts will be delivered to eligible households between September 16 and 30, 2026 by City of Lethbridge crews. Your cart will arrive with a latch (to keep your bin's lid closed on windy days) and a guide to accepted materials from Circular Materials. If your cart has not arrived by the end of September, contact the City of Lethbridge at 403.320.3111.

How often is recycling pickup?

Recycling is collected every two weeks (biweekly). You can find your schedule on the Lethbridge Loop app, available for download starting September 1, 2026.

Will my garbage pickup schedule change?

Last updated:

Wednesday, August 5, 2026



No. Your curbside garbage pickup schedule is not changing. Garbage collection continues as it always has, provided by the Town of Coalhurst. For any questions about garbage pickup or a missed collection, contact the Town of Coalhurst at 403.381.3033.

What time does my cart need to be at the curb?

Please have your cart at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Collection happens between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Where do I place my cart?

Place your cart in the same spot you place your garbage bin for pickup (usually at the front curb) with the lid closed (use the latch provided on windy days). Make sure the collection truck has room to pick it up, and it is not blocking driveways, fire hydrants, or other obstacles.

What can go in my recycling cart?

For the full accepted materials list, visit circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/alberta or download the [Lethbridge Loop app](#) (starting September 1, 2026).

What cannot go in my recycling cart?

Items that are not accepted in your curbside cart include: books, toys, diapers, pots and pans, hazardous materials, batteries, and oversized items. These can be brought to a [County transfer station](#). When in doubt, check the [Circular Materials guide](#), the [Lethbridge Loop app](#) or call 403.320.3111.

Do I need to sort my recycling for the curbside bin?

No. Your curbside cart is single-stream — all accepted materials can go in together. You do not need to sort by material type.

What if my cart is full before pickup day?

[Recycling trailers](#) and [transfer stations](#) across the County remain available for all residents, including those who have curbside service.

What happens if I put the wrong thing in my cart?

If the collection crew finds non-accepted items in your cart, they will leave a notice for you. Here is how it works: on the first occurrence, your recycling will still be collected and a note will be left.



On the second occurrence, your pickup will be refused and a note will be left. If you are unsure what belongs in your cart, check the [Circular Materials guide](#) or [Lethbridge Loop app](#) before your next pickup.

Who do I call if my cart is missed, damaged, or was not delivered?

Contact the City of Lethbridge at 311 (or 403.320.3111) — they are the service provider for curbside recycling. The County is not the service provider and cannot resolve collection issues.

What if I don't want a recycling cart?

We encourage you to try it out for the first few collections — it is a free service and allows you to recycle more materials than before. If you still do not wish to use your cart after trying it, contact the City of Lethbridge at 311 (or 403.320.3111) for next steps.

What is the Lethbridge Loop app?

The [Lethbridge Loop app](#) is provided by the City of Lethbridge. It gives residents collection reminders, schedule information, and details about accepted materials. It will be available for County residents to download starting September 1, 2026.

What happens if my pickup falls on a holiday?

Download the [Lethbridge Loop app](#) starting September 1 for updates.

For residents not receiving curbside recycling

I am not in one of the communities receiving curbside recycling pickup — what changes for me?

Your recycling options are not going away. You will continue to use the recycling trailers and transfer stations across the County. Starting October 1, 2026, you will be able to recycle more materials at trailer and transfer station locations — including glass, foam packaging, flexible plastics, and aerosol containers. Sorting will also no longer be required.

Are any recycling trailers being removed or moved?



Yes. The recycling trailers at Shaughnessy and Picture Butte are being removed this fall. All County transfer stations will have large recycling bins available for residents affected by these removals. We will communicate the timing and exact dates before the change takes effect.

Where can I find my nearest recycling trailer or transfer station?

A map of recycling trailer and transfer station locations is available on the County website at [Lethbridge County - Transfer Stations](#).

What can I bring to recycling trailers and transfer stations starting October 1?

Starting October 1, 2026, the list of accepted materials expands province-wide under Alberta's EPR program. For the full list, visit circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/alberta.

Do I still need to sort my recycling at the trailer?

Starting October 1, 2026, sorting will no longer be required at recycling trailer and transfer station drop-off locations. All accepted recyclables can go in together.