

## Recycling 101 this Green Tuesday



(Crystal A. Proxmire, 11/7/2011)

Only 8.55% of residents in Ferndale recycle, and DPW (Department of Public Works) Parks & Forestry Supervisor Shaun Slocum is working hard to change that. "We do so much in this community to be green, but we're near the bottom of the list with recycling," he said. "It's important because it's good for the environment, but that's also money that the city could be getting if people would recycle more. I want to get that number into the double digits in the next year."

According to Slocum, it costs the City \$25 per ton to dispose of regular trash, but recycling actually earns the City about \$37.50 per ton. Ferndale's rebate would grow if more plastics, metals, and papers were put out to the curb in the special recycling bin that the City has available for a low cost to residents.

 SOCRRA is the Southeast Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority, a collaborative effort of twelve communities to recycle and earn money for member communities. The rates of recycling for member communities are as follows, according to the FESC who reviewed SOCRRA's spreadsheets:

HUNTINGTON WOODS 18.90%

BEVERLY HILLS 15.93%

PLEASANT RIDGE 14.25%

BIRMINGHAM 12.98%

BERKLEY 12.79%

TROY 10.79%

ROYAL OAK 10.62%

CLAWSON 8.86%

LATHRUP VILLAGE 8.85%

FERNDALE 8.55%

OAK PARK 5.75%

HAZEL PARK 5.64%

Normally bins cost \$12 each, but through the month of November the bins are just \$6, and Slocum will deliver it to your door. They go out on the curb on trash day, and it's easier than some may think. Just stop by the [Library](#) (222 E. 9 Mile) on Tuesday for the Green Tuesday Workshop, which is all about recycling, to order your bin. You can also call the DPW at (248) 546-2519 to request one be delivered to your home.

Those who attend the free workshop will learn a wealth of information that even a seasoned recycler may not know. Slocum and representatives from the Ferndale Environmental  Sustainability Commission and SOCRRA will be there to teach the public about what they can recycle and can't recycle, what packaging they should look for when shopping, and just how much recycling can affect the bottom line.

The Recycling 101 Workshop is from 6:30pm-8pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at the Ferndale Public Library (222 E. 9 Mile). Green Tuesdays are a monthly workshop series put on by the FESC to encouraging environmental education in the community. It's Check them out on [Facebook](#) to keep up with the latest, or browse through our [Green News](#) page to find stories about some of their past activities.