



## Recycling Surcharge - Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. If a property owner pays their taxes but not the recycling surcharge, can the City or County sell the property for non-payment of the recycling surcharge?**

*No. However, penalties and interest will be added to the unpaid recycling surcharge and will accrue until the recycling surcharge is paid.*

- 2. What does the recycling surcharge support?**

*The recycling surcharge supports recycling, the transfer station, the annual County-wide cleanup day and other special programs such as the hazardous materials disposal program.*

- 3. Will I still be able to use the transfer station on M-32 if I opt-out?**

*No. Only residents who pay the recycling surcharge will be able to use the transfer station.*

- 4. What is the definition of a “recycle unit”? I’m not sure if I even need to opt out.**

*Any parcel with any percentage of Principal Residence Exemption (PRE); any class, commercial, residential, industrial, timber cutover, etc. If it has any PRE it gets the surcharge. Also included is any parcel that is not classed commercial, industrial, or developmental (or is classed agricultural, residential or timber cutover), with water and sewer or well and septic, whether it has a PRE or not. This includes cottages or hunting camps.*

- 5. Where can I get an opt-out form?**

*The forms are available on the City’s website, [www.alpena.mi.us](http://www.alpena.mi.us), or from the City Clerk’s office.*

- 6. What is the deadline for turning in an opt-out form?**

*City residents have until October 21 of each year to turn in an opt-out form.*

- 7. Does the renter have to have the property number on the opt-out form?**

*No. If the renter puts the correct address and apartment number (if appropriate) on the opt-out form, City staff can determine the property number and put it on the form.*

- 8. Will I have to complete an opt-out form every year?**

*Yes. An opt-out form must be completed each year of the program prior to the opt-out deadline.*

- 9. I’m a landlord with vacant units. Can I opt-out for those units? Do I have to file a separate form for each unit?**

*Yes, a landlord can opt out for vacant rental units. Each separate apartment needs to have its own form filled out **if it is occupied**. If a parcel has two vacant units, they can be placed on the same form.*

- 10. I’m a landlord with occupied rental units. Can I, as the landlord, opt out the occupied units?**

*No. If the rental units are occupied and the renters do not want to pay the recycling surcharge, the renters must complete and return an opt out form.*