



500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
troymi.gov

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Date: July 8, 2020

To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager

From: Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager
Kurt Bovensiepe, Public Works Director

Subject: SOCRRA Drop-Off Center

SOCRRA's Drop-Off Center (DOC) has been closed since March 17, 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Even before the pandemic, the organization had serious concerns about resident safety and traffic control at the DOC. The high volume of residents using these services while large trash and recycling trucks are bringing material into and out of the site has been problematic for a long time. The pandemic has provided the opportunity to reassess how the organization should be operating the DOC and its inherent traffic concerns, while also considering the current social distancing requirements.

SOCRRA's goal was to find a method of providing the DOC services to residents while not interfering with its top priority of providing continuous curbside trash and recycling service. Managing this top priority involves ensuring that the collection contractors' commercial vehicles and trailer trucks have continuous access to the facilities while also minimizing potential COVID-19 exposure to its employees and contractors. If there was a COVID-19 outbreak at this facility, it could potentially cause an additional public health concern with removing and processing refuse from the member communities.

SOCRRA has coordinated several alternatives for residents to use while the DOC is closed and can be found at <https://www.socrra.org/household-hazardous-waste-1>. These alternatives are outlined below. The alternatives provide outlets for almost all the materials that had been previously collected at the DOC. Having these alternatives available allows demand to be spread out over space and time.

- Electronics can be brought to e-Cycle Opportunities (JVS) in Southfield or ERG in Livonia.
- Household Hazardous Waste can be brought to ERG in Livonia.
- Paper, cardboard, scrap metal and paper shredding can be brought to GFL Environmental in Royal Oak.
- Plastic bags can be returned to the Target, Kroger and Kohl's stores located immediately north of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), in the Meijer store immediately east of the MRF and at other Target, Kroger, Kohl's and Meijer stores in the area.



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Future plans for the DOC include:

- The DOC will be limited to residents of the SOCRRRA communities and residents of the communities that have made previous arrangements with SOCRRRA (Bingham Farms, City of Bloomfield Hills, Franklin, Rochester and Rochester Hills).
- Use of the DOC will require an appointment. This will allow control of the number of residents on site at any one time. This will begin later in July. Initially, it is anticipated to limit the appointments to six every 30 minutes, which will allow about 450 residents to use the DOC per week. The number of appointments and hours of operation can easily be adjusted up or down as conditions warrant.
- SOCRRRA will discontinue accepting hard to recycle items that cost a significant amount of money to recycle. At the current time, those items include rigid bulky plastics, CDs/DVDs/VHS tapes and plastic bags. SOCRRRA staff will periodically revisit this list to determine if the economics of recycling these materials has changed or if additional items should be added to this list.
- SOCRRRA will conduct at least one annual drop-off event in each member community. The parameters of the drop-off events (type of materials collected, date, times of operation, whether the event will be limited to community residents or open to all SOCRRRA residents, etc. will be determined by the community and SOCRRRA).
- SOCRRRA will continue to use the alternatives previously listed to provide other outlets for most materials collected at the DOC.
- SOCRRRA staff is currently working with Oak Park and Troy to plan drop-off events in July.