



January 15, 2015

To owners and/or managers of multifamily dwellings

The City of Des Moines has an ordinance directing that owners or managers of a multifamily dwelling supply an opportunity for tenants to recycle waste material. The ordinance, while on the books has not been strictly enforced. The Neighborhood Inspection Zoning Division is now implementing phased in compliance. Compliance with this ordinance is tied to rental certificates.

A copy of the recycling ordinance, Section 98-116 of the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, is enclosed for your review. Recycling efforts and reduction of materials being diverted to the land fill is a priority for the City of Des Moines. Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. Collecting used bottles, cans and paper generates a host of financial, environmental and social returns. Currently 40% of everything going to the landfill can be recycled. Occupants of rental units should be offered easy options for recycling. Your compliance with the ordinance is a first step in reaching this goal.

By March 31, 2015 managers and/or owners of multifamily dwellings will be asked to provide the Neighborhood Inspection Zoning Division with a written implementation plan including a Multifamily Recycling Plan and site plan for review. The plan will be reviewed by Community Development staff and comments will be returned regarding the plan prior to your next rental certificate inspection. A year from the issuance of your rental certificate, you must have an approved Multifamily Recycling Plan and be in compliance with the plan one year following issuance of a rental certificate issued after June 1, 2015. Within the year you should seek any variances, exceptions or waivers you feel you need to accommodate compliance.

A meeting has been scheduled for January 29, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers to provide you with the opportunity to ask specific questions regarding the implementation of the recycling program. Staff from the Community Development Department will be available to answer your questions regarding the review process, appeals and general compliance questions. Since each plan will be different staff will not be able to answer specific site related questions. Staff will be happy to meet with you individually to discuss site specific questions or concerns.

Enclosed you will find a guideline for Multifamily Property Managers, outlining what you need to do to comply with this ordinance. Additionally, you will find enclosed a Multifamily Recycling Plan. We are asking this to be submitted to assist in tracking success of the recycling effort. We are requesting this be submitted with your site plan and updated if you change your waste hauler contract.

Sincerely,

SuAnn Donovan  
Neighborhood Inspection Administrator  
Deputy Zoning Enforcement Officer  
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