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Collection of Glass for Recycling Will Stop as of January 5, 2009

Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) will stop collecting glass for recycling beginning Monday, January 5, 2009. High production costs at EK Industries' local plant, particularly in the winter, and a significant decrease in demand for the end product make it uneconomical to continue collection at this time.

All three glass drop-off containers at the Anchorage Recycling Center off Dowling Road (Smurfit-Stone Recycling), the Anchorage Regional Landfill and at Brown Jug Warehouse on Old Seward will be removed on January 5. Recyclers are asked to stop bringing glass immediately and dispose of it along with their garbage.

“We will continue to take glass through the holidays to give residents sufficient notice that glass will no longer be accepted, but it’s necessary to stop the flow until markets for the glass recover and the economics improve,” says Mary Fisher, ALPAR Executive Director. She said recyclers are asked for their patience and reminded to never leave materials on the ground when bins are removed.

ALPAR made the decision to close glass recycling after consulting with EK Industries who owns the glass plant, Alaska Waste, Smurfit Stone Recycling and Municipality Solid Waste Services. EK Industries will continue to operate through the winter with glass they have in stock. All parties are actively working to explore options for viable glass recycling and reuse in Alaska.

“Although recycling glass has been very difficult there are still a number of avenues to evaluate for using the glass by both the public and private sector,” says Fisher. “All of us are committed to exploring new opportunities for glass recycling that are sustainable long-term. One of the keys will be finding viable markets for the end product.”

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About ALPAR

ALPAR manages the drop-off sites for glass recycling in Anchorage. ALPAR is a business-supported, non-profit organization formed in 1983 dedicated to eliminating litter and increasing economically viable recycling in Alaska.