

City of Grand Rapids Recycling Newsletter

SUMMER 2024 (VOL. 5)



The City of Grand Rapids Public Works Department Recycling Program makes it easy to recycle! Since 2010, Grand Rapids has been a single-stream recycling program. This means that all clean recyclable materials are able to be recycled together in one cart.

Recycling is available to all residents of Grand Rapids. For more information on how to start, stop or change your service and to find the recycling pick up schedule, click on the City of Grand Rapids Public Works link below.

Recycling does not need to be a chore. There are so many ways you can recycle. Donating clothes, reusing plastic bottles and cups, or even turning old materials into new art projects. With recycling the possibilities are endless!



We aim to make sure the City's environment is healthy. To do this, we use the latest cutting edge technology for waste, recycling, and street management. We are also committed to making the City of Grand Rapids one of the most sustainable cities in the U.S.

Each recycling cart is made with 40% recycled plastic and the program is available to all residents who have access to public streets.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are several items that **cannot** go into your curbside recycling cart. Check out the resources below to help you find the right home for those sneaky items!

- Hazardous Waste Drop- Off at Safe Chem: 1045 Wealthy Street SW. You can drop off household hazardous waste **FREE!** [Click Here](#)
- Electronics can be tricky to dispose of properly. Check out the [Reimagine Trash website](#) to search locations that you can drop off electronics safely.
- Disposing of your unwanted or expired medicines at a participating [SafeMeds Drop-Off location](#) will prevent drug abuse, overdose, and environmental damage.
- Have Styrofoam you need to take care of? [Drop off Styrofoam](#) at one of several companies in Grand Rapids.

Recycling Reality Check Quiz

Have you taken the Recycling Reality Check Quiz yet? Test your knowledge today!

[Take the Quiz Here](#)

Take the
Grand Rapids
Recycling
Survey [HERE](#)

4 FACTS ABOUT COMPOSTING

Composting Combats Climate Change

Composting is the decomposition of organics by microorganisms that break down the material. This process reduces methane emission and recycles nutrients and carbon back into the soil.

Composting Can Be Done at Home

Home composting is when you use household food waste (such as fruit and vegetable peels) to create compost in your backyard. All you need is a container to collect food scraps in and a designated area to collect, turn and monitor your pile. Remember to keep the area secure so animals do not make a mess of your hard work!

Compost Can Be Used as Fertilizer

After your compost is completed, you can use the nutrient rich soil to fertilize your garden beds and potted plants. No need to go out and purchase soil when you can make it in your own backyard.

Give Scraps a New Life

Did you know that in the United States, food waste is estimated at between 30-40% of the food supply. By composting food scraps, you are creating a new purpose for uneaten food and lessening your impact on landfills.

For more information click [HERE](#)

FEET ON THE STREET 2.0: RECYCLING TRUCK EDUCATIONAL PILOT



The City of Grand Rapids has joined the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), The Recycling Partnership and Saskatchewan-based Canadian clean tech startup Prairie Robotics to launch a six-month pilot project that uses high-tech cameras, global positioning systems, and computers on 3 city recycling trucks to check the contents of curbside recycling carts for contaminants.

Such items are flagged in real-time, allowing for a personalized postcard or digital notification to be sent to a resident with information about exactly what contaminants were found in the recycling cart and how they can recycle better. The intent of this project is to help change behavior and educate people on what items are acceptable in Grand Rapids recycling carts.

When we emptied your recycling into the truck—our team noticed these “NO” items in your cart.

Cuando vaciamos su reciclaje en el camión, nuestro equipo notó algunos materiales que “NO” deberían estar en su contenedor.

OOPS!

KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING:

- **Do not Bag Recyclables**
(no garbage)
*No coloque artículos que se puedan reciclar en una bolsa.
(no reciclar basura)*
- **No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap**
(return to retail)
*No reciclar bolsas de plástico
(devolver a la tienda)*
- **No Tangles, Cords, Hoses, or Chains**
No reciclar mangueras, cables ni cadenas
- **No Food or Liquid**
(empty and dry)
*No reciclar alimentos ni líquidos
(vacíe todos los recipientes)*
- **No Yard Waste**
No reciclar residuos de jardinería



grandrapidsmi.gov/feetonthestreet
616.456.4091 or publicworks@grcity.us



Funded in part by
The Recycling Partnership
SOLVING FOR CIRCULARITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM [CLICK HERE!](#)

Community Clean-Up Season Is Here!

A big goal of this year's Community Clean Up days is to sort and divert as much waste from going into the landfill dumpster as possible -- can we count on you to help? Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids are partnering up to bring you educational presentations about your communities clean ups! These presentations are open to all residents. Please sign up [online here](#) to reserve your spot.



The graphic features logos for Kent County Public Works and the City of Grand Rapids at the top. Below them, the words "DUMPSTER DAY" are written in large, brown, cardboard-textured letters. The central illustration shows a yellow recycling bin with a recycling symbol, surrounded by various household items: a broken television, a chair, a power strip, a coffee mug, a water bottle, a cardboard box, a lamp, and a red bag. The bottom section of the graphic is a brown cardboard-textured area with the text "RSVP to your choice of the Dumpster Day & Recycling Presentations below:" followed by a table of dates and formats.

**RSVP to your choice of the
Dumpster Day & Recycling Presentations below:**

Thursday May 16 5-6pm Virtual	Tuesday June 4 5-6pm In-Person	Thursday July 18 5-6pm In-Person	Thursday Aug. 8 5-6pm Virtual	Thursday Sept. 5 5-6pm In-Person
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[Click Here](#) to learn what neighborhood association you live in!

Yard Waste Resources

As beds are cleaned and trees pruned, residents need to be aware of where to dispose of yard waste:

The City of Grand Rapids offers residents a FREE drop-off site for their yard waste. You can drop-off up to 4 cubic yards each week of leaves, brush, and tree branches at 2001 Butterworth SW at no out of pocket cost. This is offered to Grand Rapids residents only, so bring ID for proof of residence. Yard waste must be loose or in a paper bag. Plastic bags are not allowed. People with hydraulic dump-trailers will be required to manually empty the trailer for safety reasons.

Hours of Operation

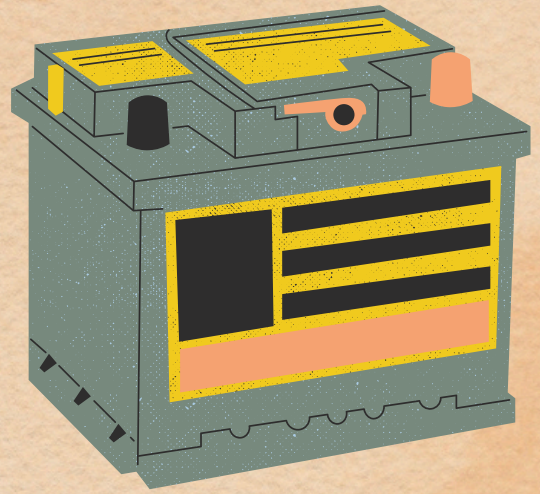
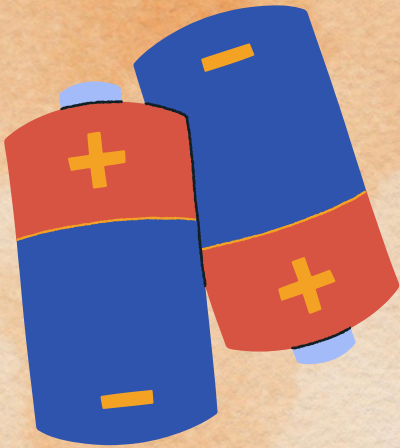
April- Mid December: Monday- Saturday 7:30a-4:30p

Winter: Monday- Friday 7:30a-4:30p

For more information about yard waste services [Click Here](#) and scroll down to the Yard Waste Services tab

Curbside yard waste collection operated from Early April until the 2nd Friday in December! Collection is the same day as your regular waste collection.

Where Can Batteries Go?



Batteries DO NOT belong in your trash or recycling curbside carts!

Lithium or other corrosive batteries such as those in: e-cigarettes, vape pens, car batteries and any other lithium-ion batteries should NEVER be put in your curbside trash and recycling carts!

These electronics are not able to be conventionally recycled and have the potential to destroy trucks, machinery and hurt employees.

To find an appropriate place to dispose of batteries [Click Here](#)



RECYCLING GUIDE

Kent County Recycling & Education Center | reimaginetrash.org



KENT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

CLEAN, EMPTY & LOOSE (NOT BAGGED OR BUNDLED)

CARDBOARD & PAPER



PLASTIC BOTTLES, CUPS & CONTAINERS

Rigid plastics #1-7; no foam or flexible plastics



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



METAL CANS, BOTTLES & FOIL



MILK, JUICE & SOUP CARTONS



If the cap/lid and container are the same material, keep them attached. If they're different materials, detach and recycle separately.

KEEP OUT OF RECYCLING CONTAINERS!



**SEPARATE
OUT
RECYCLING
TRASH**



No hazardous waste or chemicals:
Batteries, electronics, propane tanks, fuel, chemicals, ammunition or other hazardous waste.



Nothing that would tangle:
Plastic bags, flexible plastics, string lights, extension cords, clothing, hoses, tarps, hangers, etc.



No bundled or bagged recycling:
Recyclables need to be loose in order to be sorted properly.



No foam plastics:
Foam take-out containers or cups, blocks of styro-foam, packing peanuts, foam coolers, etc.

Have an item you'd like to recycle that's not on this guide? We can help!
www.reimaginetrash.org | recycle@kentcountymi.gov | 616-632-7920

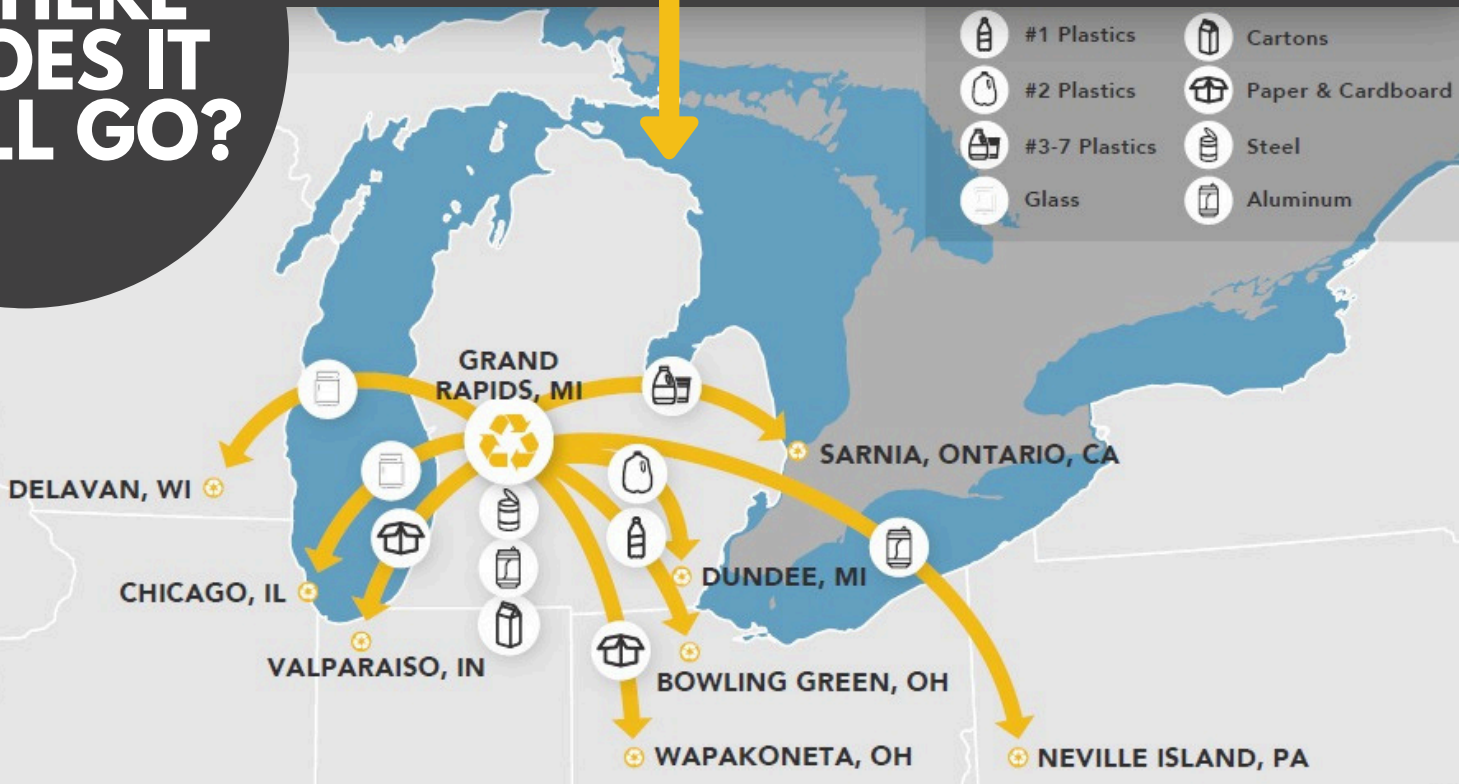
DO YOU RECYCLE?

Economic Benefits Environmental Benefits

- Recycling creates American jobs in the recycling industry
- Recycling supplies American manufacturers with raw materials
- Recycling keeps valuable materials out of landfills

- Recycling conserves natural resources and energy
- Recycling is an investment in our community's environmental health
- Recycling prevents pollution and other environmental impacts from raw materials extraction

**BUT
WHERE
DOES IT
ALL GO?**



TO START RECYCLING

www.reimaginetrash.org/recycle