

Questions and Answers for Curbside Recycling.
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

(11-17-14)

Who will receive curbside recycling services? All residents, up to a four-plex, who receive residential trash service by Deffenbaugh, who reside in Kansas City, Kansas shall have curbside recycling services available to them. This residential recycling program does not include businesses, apartments, trailer courts or home associations that privately contract for trash services.

What about recycling bins? Currently, we are out of green recycling bins but you do not need a green recycling bin to participate in curbside recycling. Homeowners can use their own containers, including trash barrels for recycling. These containers need to be well marked with “RECYCLING” or the universal recycling symbol on all sides of the container. Please place these containers away from your trash. If your recycling container is not picked up, contact the Public Works Department at 913-573-5400 and explain that your marked container was missed.

When will curbside recycling be picked up at my home? Pickup of curbside recyclables will occur on the same day as your trash day each week. Normal collection hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Deffenbaugh may come at any time during the day so have your recyclables out by 7 a.m.

When can I place my recyclables to the curb? It shall be unlawful for a person, owner, owner’s agent or occupant to set out or allow to be set out any garbage, trash, or recyclables for collection before 4 p.m. of the day prior to the day of collection.

What happens to recyclables on Holidays? There are holidays in which trash and recyclables are not picked up and they include New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. On these holidays, pickup of everyone’s trash and recyclables are moved back one day.

Where should your recyclables be placed? Place your bin at least five feet away from your trash/garbage if possible. If you are limited by space, separate your recycling bin from your trash as much as possible. Place your recycling bin 3 feet or closer to the curb for collection.

Do I have to separate recyclables? No! Just place all your recyclables into the same container, this makes it easy and convenient for you. This is called single stream recycling.

What materials will be collected at curbside for recycling? We will be picking up paper, paperboard, aluminum and steel cans, corrugated cardboard, cartons, and assorted plastic containers labeled #1 thru #7. Place your recyclables in your recycling bin and place it to the curb on your regularly scheduled trash day each week by 7 a.m.

What types of paper will be collected? Examples of paper that will be picked up will be newspapers (including inserts and ads), office paper, junk mail, magazines, catalogues, and phone books. Put paper in your recycling bin. Try and place heavier items on top of loose paper

so it does not blow out of your bin. (If you recycle your paper at your local school or church as a fundraiser, we encourage you to continue to do this.)

What is paperboard? Paperboard refers to the packaging material used to make cereal, cracker, beverage, shoe boxes, etc. Breakdown your paperboard and place paperboard in your bin.

What types of aluminum and steel cans are collected? Empty soda and beverage aluminum cans are accepted for collection. Empty soup, fruit, vegetable, food, and beverage steel cans are also accepted. Please rinse out and if possible crush prior to putting them into your bin.

What do you mean by corrugated cardboard? Corrugated cardboard refers to shipping boxes that have the “wavy middle layer”. Boxes should be flattened and placed into the bin or cut to pieces no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet and tied together and placed on the ground near or under the bin. You can also fold and stuff multiple boxes into one box and set next to the recycling bin.

What about cartons? Cartons are accepted in curbside recycling. Cartons are a type of packaging for food and beverage products you purchase at the store. They are easy to recognize and are available in two types—shelf-stable and refrigerated. Examples of shelf-stable cartons include those for juice, milk, soy & grain milk, soup & broth, and wine. Examples of refrigerated cartons include those for milk, juice, cream, egg substitutes, and soy & grain milk. Please rinse these cartons thoroughly before placing them in your recycling bin. It is OK to leave labels on the cartons.

What types of plastics do we collect? Curbside recycling also includes an assortment of #1 - #7 plastics. Residents are asked to rinse out all plastic containers. Plastics can be identified by checking the bottom of containers and looking for the number inside the chasing arrows recycling symbol. Plastics that can be recycled at curbside include:

- Yogurt and margarine tubs.
- Deli or salad bar “Clamshells”.
- #3-#7 plastic containers.
- In addition, you can recycle the following plastics curbside: soft drink bottles, water bottles, juice bottles, sports drinks bottles, mouth wash bottles, and plastic containers used for milk, water, juice, cosmetics, shampoo, dish & laundry detergents.

Even though Deffenbaugh can accept #1 through #7 plastics, not all plastics may be taken. In addition, it should be noted that it is impossible to have an all-inclusive list of acceptable plastic items or unacceptable plastic items.

There are some **plastics** that **will not be taken**. They include:

- No plastic bags.
- No plastic toys.
- No motor oil containers or other auto products such as brake fluid, transmission fluid, windshield washer fluid, etc.
- No household hazardous waste such as herbicide and pesticide containers.

- No expanded #6 polystyrene materials including Styrofoam “peanuts”, packaging blocks/sheets, and cups.
- No plastic cereal box or cake box liner bags.
- No plastic lids or 6-pack holders.
- No plastic pipe, PVC pipe.
- No plastic building materials or plastic sheet materials.

Other items we DON'T Recycle with our Curbside Recycling Program.

- No glass. (Take to Ripple Glass Drop Off Containers)
- No shredded paper.
- No hardback or soft back books.
- No take home delivery pizza boxes which have cheese & food stuck to them.
- No tissue, paper towels, or paper plates.
- No Styrofoam.
- No disposable diapers.
- No plastic cups and tableware.
- No motor oil bottles, auto product bottles, or lawn chemical bottles.
- No plastic bags. (some grocery stores collect them)
- No egg cartons
- No flowerpots.
- No toys.
- No pipe and tubing.
- No materials contaminated with food or liquids.
- No aluminum foil.

Why does the recycling truck look like a trash truck? Don't be alarmed when you see a large Deffenbaugh truck similar to their trash truck picking up your recyclables. The recycling trucks will look similar to trash trucks. All recyclables will be picked up together at the curb and taken to a facility on S. 88th in Kansas City, Kansas where they are separated out and processed. This is called single stream recycling.

Do I have to recycle? Participation with curbside recycling is up to each individual and is voluntary for them to participate, but everyone will be paying the same amount for trash pickup services whether they recycle or not.

What happens if my recycling bin is not picked up? Call the Public Works Department to report this at 913-573-5400. There are two questions that need to be asked if your recycling bin wasn't picked up by Deffenbaugh. First, did you get your recycling bin out after the recycling truck came by? Remember, trucks may start running at 7 a.m. of your pickup day. Second, did you place items in your container that are not accepted? If the answer to either one of these questions is yes, you need to pull your recycling bin from the curb and put it out correctly next week. If the answer to the two above questions is no, call the Public Works Department, 913-573-5400, with your name and address and report that the recycling container was not picked up. In addition, if you are using your own container for recycling and Deffenbaugh does not pick it up, please call the Public Works Department at 573-5400 to report this.