

City of Grand Rapids Recycling Newsletter

FALL 2025 (VOL.10)



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!



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

America Recycles Day

November 15th

Happy America Recycles Day! Started in 1997, America Recycles Day is a time to learn, practice, and grow in recycling. Think about joining a community event or learn more about America Recycles Day: [America Recycles Day is here!](#)



Recycling Reality Check Quiz

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

[Take the Quiz Here](#)

WHY RECYCLE?



CONSERVES NATURAL RESOURCES

REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

PREVENTS POLLUTION

REDUCES WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS

Fall Yard Waste Tips

It is time to start cleaning up yards as leaves fall and plants lose their colors. Check out these tips for a more sustainable clean up this fall:

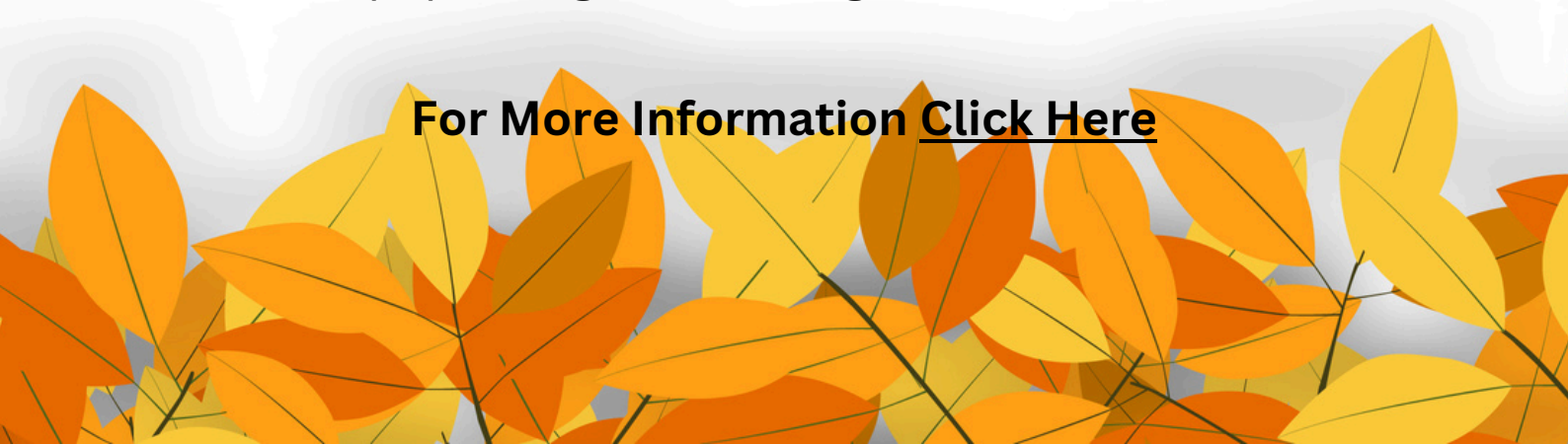
- Try composting your yard waste: Yard waste can be repurpose a few ways, including acting as “brown material” or carbon rich material for your at home compost.
- Keep your yard waste right where it lands! Leaves are great for small animals and insects to live and hibernate though the colder months. Many butterflies nestle in dead leaves to come out to reproduce in spring. The leaves also hold nutrients that plants and soils need. For more information [Click Here](#)

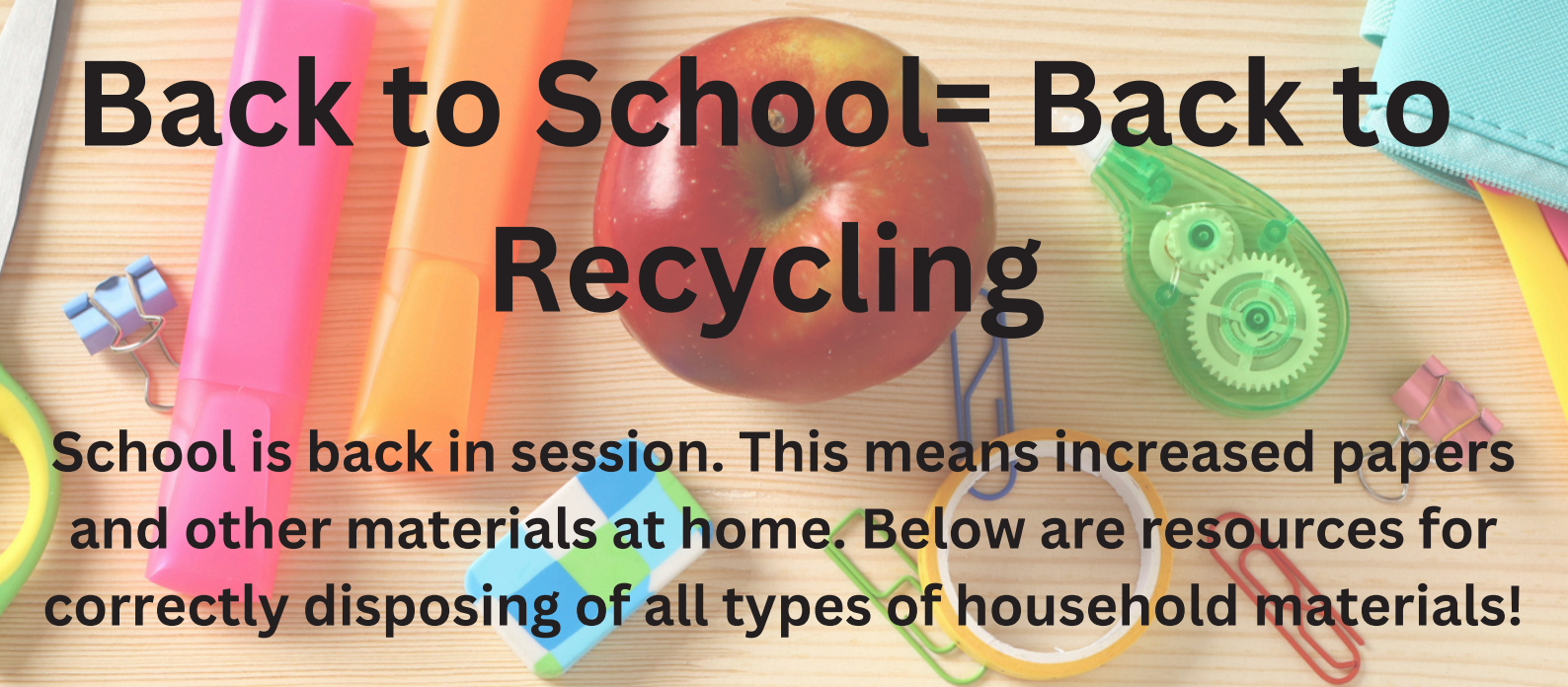


WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS FOR YARD WASTE DISPOSAL?

- City Yard Waste Cart: A curbside cart can be purchased like a trash cart and each time you would like your cart emptied, attach a yellow Yard Waste Tag to the cart and put it out on your regular pick up day!
- City Yard Waste Paper Bags and Bulk Tags: These bags and tags for yard waste items can be purchased and put out to the curb on your regular pick up day. Remember, the yard waste paper bag can't weigh more than 30 pounds and bundled branches and twigs shouldn't be more than 4 feet long or 2 inches in diameter.
- Yard Waste Drop Off Site: We have a resident drop off site located at 2001 Butterworth St SW. This is offered to Grand Rapids residents only for no out of pocket cost, so bring your ID for proof of residence. Residents may drop off up to 4 cubic yards each week, at no out of pocket cost. Yard waste must be loose or in a paper bag. Plastic bags are not allowed.

For More Information [Click Here](#)





Back to School= Back to Recycling

School is back in session. This means increased papers and other materials at home. Below are resources for correctly disposing of all types of household materials!

- Back to school means back to packing school lunches! Remember to try to use reusable containers and bags. If you must use a plastic sandwich bag remember that **flexible plastics like grocery store bags and sandwich bags CANNOT go in your recycling cart!**
- School means increases of papers coming home! If your recycling cart is too full of other recyclable items, try dropping off your papers at local **Paper Gator drop off sites** around Grand Rapids. Paper placed in the PaperGator® bin is recycled within a few weeks of it being collected into environmentally friendly pet and lawncare products right here in West and Mid Michigan.
- Cold and flu season are back! After you recover from your illnesses remember to dispose of your unused or expired medications properly! Disposing of your unwanted or expired medicines at a participating **SafeMeds Drop-Off location** will prevent drug abuse, overdose, and environmental damage.

What Items Can Go In My Recycling Cart?

Not all items that are reusable or able to be donated can go into your recycling cart. Check out this guide for what items can go in your recycling cart and what items should be donated, reused or tossed.

Can Go In Your Recycling Cart

Plastic Juice and Milk Jugs

Metal Pop Cans

Loose Paper

Glass Bottles

Metal Foils

**Learn More About
Recycling and Play
the Recycling
Sorting Game Here!**

Can NOT Go In Your Recycling Cart

Adirondack Plastic Outdoor
Chairs

Clothing

Bedding

Scrap Metal or Tires

Electrical Cords or Wires

Foam Plastics



We now offer Styrofoam™ drop-off for recycling at our
North Kent Recycling & Waste Center!
Styrofoam™ can only be brought to this drop-off
location, and not put in your curbside bin or other
single-stream recycling drop-off sites.

[Click Here For More Information](#)



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

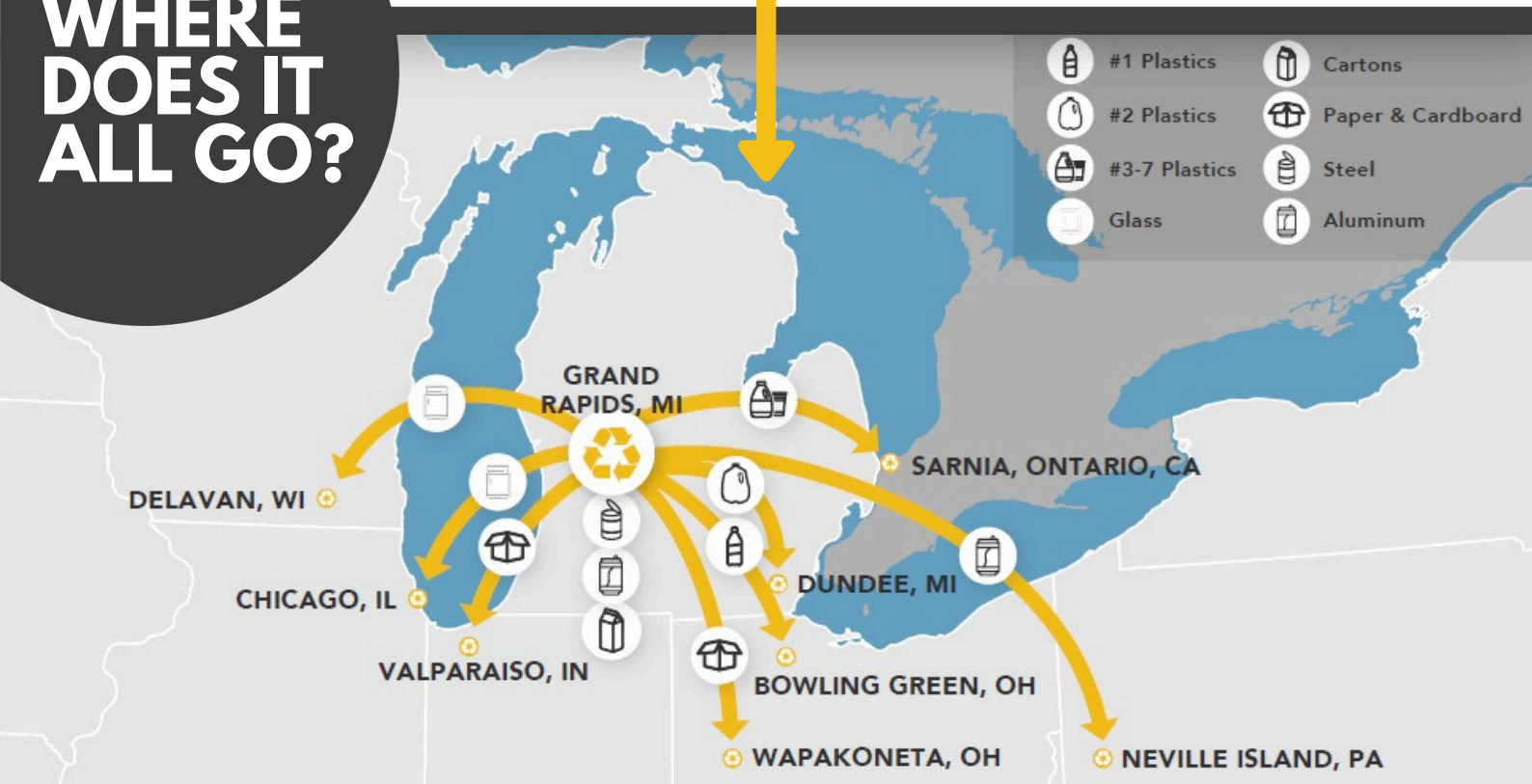
DO YOU RECYCLE?

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