

City of Grand Rapids Recycling Newsletter

SUMMER 2025 (VOL. 9)



Department of Public Works CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

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](#)

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.

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.

Composting In Grand Rapids

We want to hear your input on food scrap drop off and composting in the Grand Rapids. Where would you like to see drop off locations throughout the city? Check out this survey and come to Commission Night Out on July 29th at Gerald R Ford Academic Center to voice your opinion! [Click Here](#) to check out the survey!

For more information click [HERE](#)

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 a residential 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.

You can even pick up nutrient rich compost material that is created by the yard waste from the city.

Hours of Operation

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

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

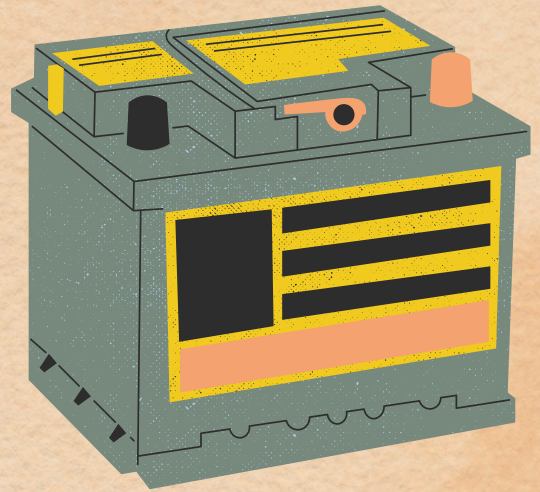
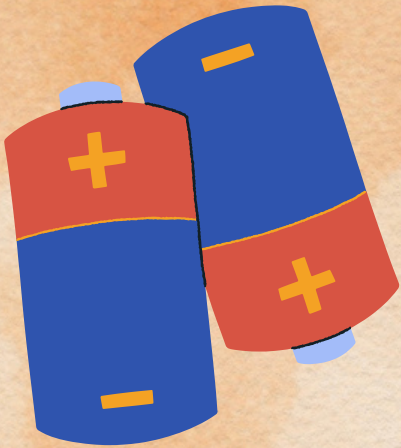
For more information about yard waste services [Click Here](#) and scroll down to the Yard Waste Services tab

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

More Yard Waste Resources

- Yard Waste Cart – The cart is \$30 to order. Each time you would like your cart emptied, attach a yellow Yard Waste Tag to the cart. Each tag is \$6.50
- Yard Waste Bags and Tags - You can use a city yard waste paper bag for leaves, grass clippings and small twigs. Bags are \$2.75 each or come in packs of 5 for \$13.75.
- Items in the yard waste paper bag can't weigh more than 30 pounds.
Yard Waste Bulk Tag – You can use a green yard waste bulk tag for bundles of larger twigs or branches. You may also attach this tag to a non-city paper yard waste bag. These tags cost \$2.75 each. Bundled branches and twigs shouldn't be more than 4 feet long or 2 inches in diameter.
- You can buy City yard waste cart tags, paper bags, and green bulk tags at City Hall. You can also buy them at select supermarkets.
- Mulch and Compost Pickup -- 2001 Butterworth St SW 2,000 yards of mulch and compost will be available each season. City resident will be allowed to pick up to 1 cubic yard each season on a first come basis. Material is available each Saturday, April - June, each season.
Additional material may be purchased directly from our vendor WeCare Denali.
 - WeCare Compost - \$28 per cubic yard
 - Woodchips - \$7 per cubic yard
 - WeCare Spring Soil - \$32 per cubic yard
 - Natural Wood Mulch - \$10 per cubic yard

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

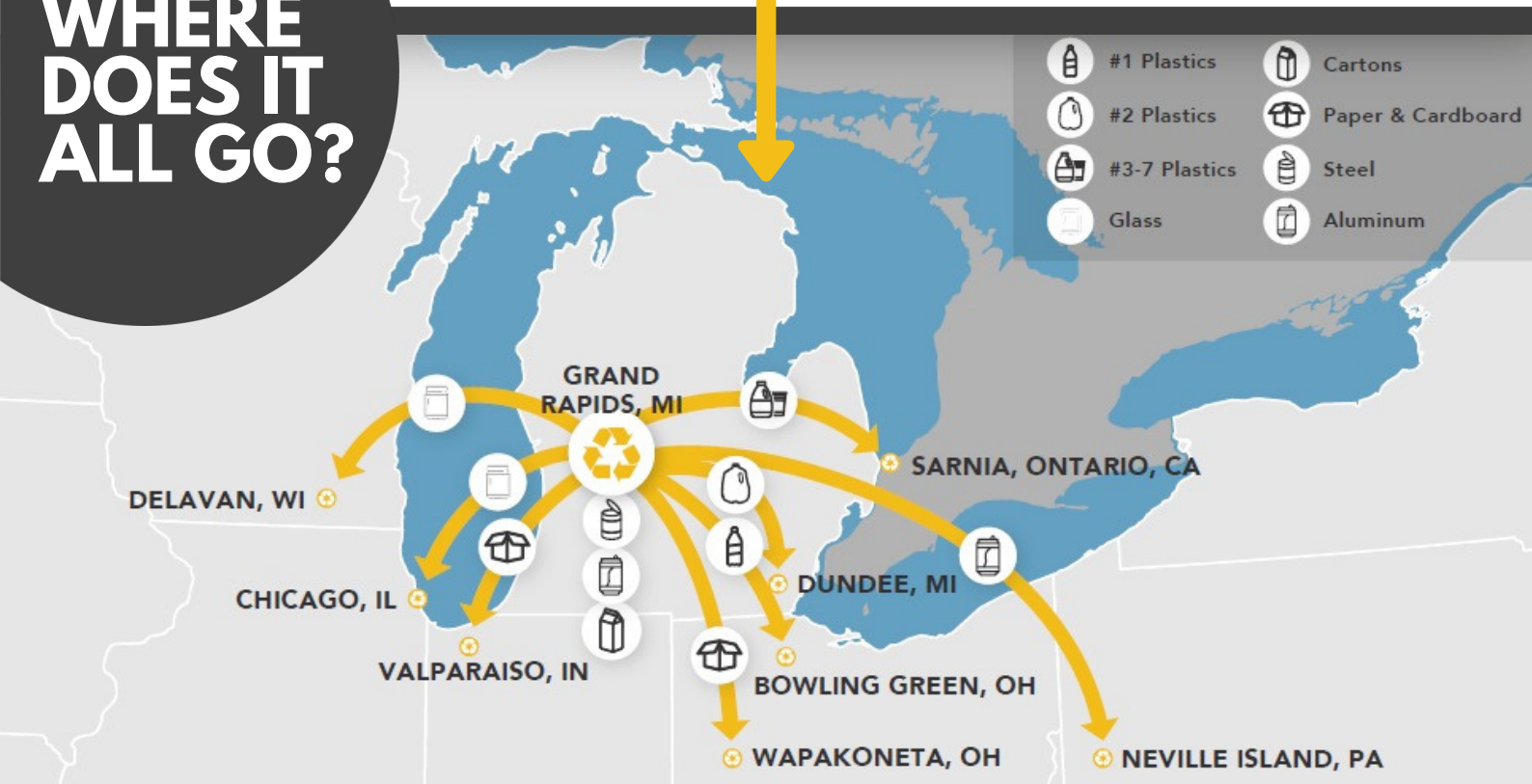
DO YOU RECYCLE?

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