

Questions and Answers for Curbside Recycling.

(9-17-09)

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

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. These residents may continue to use the Recycling Center located at 3241 Park Drive, Kansas City, Kansas.

Why must I have a green Unified Government recycling bin to participate? You must have a green 18-gallon recycling bin to participate in curbside recycling. Deffenbaugh will have two trucks running on trash day: one for trash and one for recycling. The green bin will tell the recycling truck to stop for recyclables.

Where can I pick up one of the green Unified Government recycling bins? If you don't already have your green recycling bin, you can pick one up from the Wyandotte County Community Recycling Center located at 3241 Park Drive in Kansas City, Kansas. The Recycling Center will be the permanent location in which residents can get a recycling bin. The hours of operation for the Recycling Center are Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm and on Fridays and Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm. During the Recycling Center's hours of operation, their number is 913-371-2034. To pick up a bin you need to show proof of residency in Kansas City, Kansas.

Can I get an additional recycling bin? At this point in time, households will be given one container per house for weekly curbside recycling. It should be noted that if you have extra recyclables you can place them in another plastic container, label it recycling, and place behind your green recycling bin.

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 am.

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 bin, this makes it easy and convenient for you.

What materials will be collected at curbside for recycling? We will be picking up paper, paperboard, aluminum and steel cans, corrugated cardboard, 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 types of plastics do we collect? Deffenbaugh has expanded its curbside recycling to include an assortment of #1 - #7 plastics in the curbside recycling program in February 2009. Deffenbaugh had previously limited plastics to #1 and #2. 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 now 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. (The Recycling Center accepts glass)
- 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.

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 truck should be labeled Recycling. 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 all the recyclables 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 311 or 913-573-5311. 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 am 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 311 with your name and address and report that the recycling container was not picked up.

What happens if my green bin is stolen? If your green recycling bin is stolen, call 311 to report this along with your name, address and phone number.

What happens if my recycling bin breaks? If your recycling bin breaks, you need to call 311 to report this with your name, address, and telephone number.