

KBCB NEWSLETTER

RECYCLING 101

Recently it's been brought to my attention that there is some confusion about what is and is not recyclable in Brunswick County along with how and where to recycle. So I'm going to go over recycling practices and facts during this issue.

I know a lot of my readers already know most of this information but I'm hoping that you will take this opportunity to pass this information forward to those who may not know the proper recycling practices. This is also an excellent issue to post in traffic areas, waiting rooms and office break rooms. Please help me get this information out to the public. It's very important that we make every effort to reduce our waste stream in Brunswick County.

Where do I recycle???

There are only a few communities in Brunswick County that have curbside recycling collection for their residents. The rest of the County residents must rely on using one of the County Convenience sites or County Parks to drop off their recycling. The difference between a convenience site and park recycling container is that at the parks **you may only drop off household recycling**. A convenience site offers more than just household recycling collection.

All of the county convenience sites accept commingled household recycling along with scrap metal recycling. This is for household appliances and basically any scrap metal. There is no charge to drop off commingled recycling or scrap metal at the convenience sites or at the County landfill. All of the convenience sites, including the landfill, have a designated area for oyster shell recycling. The convenience sites in Leland, Southport and the County landfill also have a collection container for tires, limit 5 tires per resident/per visit, and there is no charge for this service. Convenience sites accept yard debris, household garbage, construction debris and brown goods (furniture). There is a charge for the disposal of these items at the conveniences sites and landfill.

Brunswick County Convenience Sites and Landfill

1. Brunswick County Landfill

172 Landfill Rd NE Bolivia (910) 253-8101

(hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 8 am until 4 pm)

2. Hwy 904 Convenience Site

736 Seaside Rd. Sunset Beach (910) 579 – 9932

3. Oxpen Convenience Site

1709 Oxpen Rd. Supply (910) 842-9523

4. Southport Convenience Site

8392 River Road Southport (910) 457-9484

5. Leland Convenience Site

9921 Chappell Loop Rd. Leland (910) 371-9471

Hours of operation at the County Convenience sites are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 8 am until 6 pm

Brunswick County Park Recycling

Lockwood Folly Community Building
Leland Community Park
Lockwood Folly District Park
Shallotte District Park
Town Creek District Park
Waccamaw Elementary School
Brunswick River Park

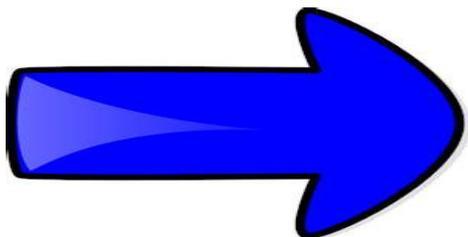
Hours of Operation Vary - Call (910) 253-2520

What can I recycle???

In Brunswick County the recycling is collected in what is considered a commingled or single stream collection. This means that all recyclable household items (paper, plastic containers, aluminum, steel/tin cans, and glass bottles and jars) are placed in the same container.

After Brunswick County's recycling is collected it is transported to Sonoco Recycling in Raleigh. Sonoco is a sorting facility for recyclables. They use state of the art automated equipment to do a large portion of the sorting however some items are sorted by hand. This is one reason that we ask residents to please make sure food and drink containers are empty and rinsed out. These items may be handled by individuals even after the collection process. Left over food or drink is not only messy for those operating the sorting line but it can breed bacteria (not to mention odors). So before placing a container in the recycling bin please empty and, if necessary, rinse the container out.

In the column to the right of this page is a description of the items that should be recycled through the household recycling program and the do's and don'ts for each category. You will probably find that by following these simple steps it will actually simplify your recycling process. In many cases people over work the program, making it harder and more inconvenient than it has to be. Even if your very familiar with the recycling program please take time to review each item. You might be surprised at what you learn . . . Even as a recycling coordinator I learn new things about the program and recycling process every day.



Plastic Containers #1 through #7

- No plastic bags or plastic wrap - these items cause a problem when going through the sorting line. Plastic bags should be returned to the grocery stores. Most stores have a collection bin at their entrance for the bags.
- Make sure all containers and bottles are empty and rinsed out.

Aluminum & Steel/Tin Cans

- You do not need to remove the labels.
- You do not need to crush the containers.
- Make sure all containers are empty and rinsed out. (Never put your hand in a container to remove food. These containers are very sharp and can cause a serious injury.)

Glass Bottles & Jars

- Remove the lids. They may be placed in the recycling bin but must not be left on the container.
- All colors of glass are accepted.
- You do not need to remove the labels.
- Make sure all containers are empty and rinsed out.

Paper

- Paper items such as junk mail, magazines, writing paper, paperboard (food boxes), phone books, and paper milk and juice cartons should be placed in the recycling bin.
- Cardboard boxes must be flattened and, if available, placed in the cardboard collection bin. If a cardboard collection bin is not available flatten the box and place it in the regular recycling bin.
- You do not need to remove staples, tape or the windows out of the windowed envelopes.
- You do not need to remove the "pouring spout" from the milk/juice carton.
- Remove any personal information that may be on junk mail or magazines before placing them in the recycling bin.
- We do not recycle paper towels, tissues or toilet tissue. These items are commonly used to clean up messes and used for personal hygiene. Recycling these items is not hygienically safe.
- Items that are contaminated with left over food (such as paper plates) must not be placed in the recycling bin.
- Pizza boxes may be recycled if they do not have left over food, grease stains or melted cheese in them. Simply shake the box out to remove crumbs, flatten and place in the recycling bin.

Please continue reading on page three to learn about other materials that may be recycled in Brunswick County.

Did you know that can be recycled???

Brunswick County offers recycling outlets for many other items besides the regular household items discussed on page two. Below is a description of such items and the location for where they may be recycled.

Used Oil, Oil Filters, Antifreeze and Fuel

- These items/liquids may be recycled at the Brunswick County landfill year round.
- There is no charge to recycle these items.

Latex Paint

- The Brunswick County landfill accepts latex paint year round at no charge.
- The paint must be emptied into the container located beside the landfill scale house. The paint can should be discarded once emptied. Metal cans may be placed in the scrap metal pile.

Electronics/Televisions

- All electronics are accepted at the Brunswick County landfill year round at no charge.

Scrap Metal

- Metal household appliances and various scrap metal is accepted at the landfill and the County convenience sites at no charge.

Tires

- Old tires are collected at the Brunswick County Landfill, the Southport Convenience Site and the Leland Convenience Site at no charge.

Oyster Shells

- Oyster shell are accepted at the Brunswick County Landfill and all of the Convenience Sites. There is no charge to drop off oyster shells.

Carpet & Carpet Pad

- The Brunswick County Landfill has a container for carpet and carpet pads to be recycled. At this time we are unable to waive fees for the carpet disposal. If this changes we will notify the public.



Garbage removed from the recycling container located at the Brunswick River Park

The Facts About Contamination

Recycling is a wonderful way to reduce our waste stream, preserve natural resources and conserve landfill space but what happens when people don't respect proper recycling practices or just disregard that the containers are labeled "for recycling only". Have you ever wondered what happens when a recycling container becomes contaminated with garbage, construction debris or yard waste? When people put non recyclable material in the recycling container does it ruin the whole load? When a load is contaminated where does it go?

In Brunswick County we have recycling containers located at our County landfill, convenience sites and at most of the County parks. We rely on the good conscience of our residents to respect these containers and use them for recycling only. When someone decides to use the containers for the disposal of items other than recycling the container is considered contaminated. When this happens one of two things may take place:

- 1) We are able to remove the item(s) from the load, saving the remainder for recycling.
- 2) The entire load has to be disposed of and sent to a landfill.

In either case this is costly to the County. When a load comes in and it has to be sorted and items removed it becomes time consuming thus increasing labor costs. When a load has to be disposed of the County must pay the landfill fees for the weight of the material. This expense may run \$300.00 or more per container.



Where does the money come from to cover this expense? Taxpayers. When a load is contaminated you and I cover the cost for that individuals irresponsibility and all of our recycling efforts are lost.

Contamination is not just costly for the taxpayers. Time and again items that should not be placed in the recycling stream slip past our gates and end up at Sonoco, which is the company we send our commingled recycling to for sorting. Items such as plastic shopping bags, garden hoses, rope, industrial strapping and the list goes on and on can completely halt production at the sorting facility. When these items make it onto the sorting line they may tangle up in the conveyor belt causing it to derail at times. When this happens the entire facility must shut down until the item causing the problem is removed and the conveyor is repaired. Most of the time this causes a minimum of 20 minutes lost time. Twenty minutes of lost time is equal to approximately \$2500.00.

Please be very careful to adhere to the proper recycling practices outlined in this newsletter. Recycling only works if it is done properly. When you see a container that is contaminated or see someone abusing the recycling container notify the County Solid Waste Department by calling 910-253-2524. If you are able to, without risking confrontation, get a license plate number. This helps us track down the person committing the violation. Please remember to never put yourself in danger and do not confront the violator. Brunswick County appreciates your help with this problem.



Household garbage pulled from a recycling container in Brunswick County.



The following items have been recently dropped off at the Swap Shop:

- King Size Mattress and Box Spring Set*
- Movie Camera*
- Blinds*
- Miscellaneous Vases and Dishes*
- A Box of Record Albums*
- Plastic Coat Hangers*
- NordicTrack Exercise Machine (ski machine)*
- (and of course lots and lots of paint!)*

Stop by the Swap Shop/Paint Exchange Building and see if there is something you could use. Since you're going to be there why not take in that chair or table you've been wanting to get rid off but you think it's too good to throw out. Somebody probably needs it.

There is no charge to place items in the Swap Shop or to remove items from the Swap Shop. We can not hold items for individuals or guarantee that a specific item is in the building. This program operates on a first come, first serve basis. County employees can not check the building to see what is available. Brunswick County is not responsible for the condition or performance of items taken from the Swap Shop.



Questions or comments concerning the KBCB Newsletter should be directed to the editor, Kimberley Thompson at kthompson@brunscosco.net or by calling 910-253-2524

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