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City of Huntsville  
Solid Waste and  
Recycling Department

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# CURBSIDE RECYCLING GUIDELINES





In fiscal year 2016, the City of Huntsville transferred 40,342.37 Tons (80,648,740Lbs.) of garbage to the landfill.



The average person in our region produces 8 pounds of trash daily.

That's 8.2 million tons of trash from our region in one year!

Up to 70% of this trash is buried in the landfill.

Recycling is one of the most important actions you can take. Only about 1/10<sup>th</sup> of garbage gets recycled but OVER HALF could be. ~ HGAC





How long does it take for items to breakdown (biodegrade) in the landfill?

- Plastic Bottles 1 Million Years
- Glass 1 Million Years
- Aluminum Cans 50 to 200 Years
- Paper 1 to 5 months
- Disposable Diapers 500 years
- Batteries 100 years

- Instead of burying recyclable items in the landfill, these items can be processed for reuse. The items are sorted, broken down and put back into circulation.
- With your help, the City of Huntsville is making every effort to reduce, reuse and recycle.



# *BLUE Recycling Carts*

*Only acceptable recycling items  
can be placed inside the BLUE  
cart.*

## *Acceptable Items to be Placed in Your Blue Cart*

- ✓ Small Cardboard Boxes
- ✓ Aluminum Cans
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Steel Cans
- ✓ Office Paper
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Plastics #1 thru #7

# YES! Blue Cart

Plastics  
#1 thru #7





## Unacceptable Items that Cannot be Placed in Your Blue Cart

The following items are either too bulky, unsuitable for processing or too dangerous for curbside collection:

- Garbage
- Aluminum Foil
- Appliances
- Toys
- Batteries
- Hangers
- Plastics other than #1 thru #7
- Film Plastic, Plastic Bags
- Cell Phones
- Styrofoam
- Large Cardboard
- Electronics
- GLASS (of ANY kind)
- Loose Shredded Paper



## Unacceptable Items that Cannot be Placed in Your Blue Cart

Although these items can't be placed into your BLUE recycling cart, they can still be dropped off at the City's Recycling Center located at 590 I-45 North.

- Large/bulky Cardboard:

Any cardboard that doesn't fit loosely into your BLUE cart.  
Large boxes such as moving, refrigerator and TV boxes.

- GLASS:

Brown, Green, and Clear glass only. NO glass panes.

- VEHICLE OIL, VEHICLE OIL FILTERS,  
ANTIFREEZE, AND COOKING OIL

# Preparing Items for Recycling

Acceptable recycling items are loosely placed in the BLUE recycling cart



**Plastic Bags** - Please do not place recycling items into plastic bags. During processing it is more time consuming to remove them from these bags.

**Paper Bags** – These can be used to separate paper items.



# Preparing Items for Recycling

**Small cardboard boxes** – Include any small cardboard items that will fit loosely into your Blue cart:

- Food boxes
- Pizza Boxes-must be clean  
And grease free
- Medicine boxes
- Shoe boxes
- Toilet paper rolls
- Paper towel rolls





These should be empty, broken down and flattened in order to save space in your BLUE cart.

# *Preparing Items for Recycling*

## Aluminum cans



These should be rinsed and then flattened in order to save space in your BLUE cart.

# Preparing Items for Recycling

Steel cans – Canned foods



These should be rinsed and the lids must be thrown away before placing them into your BLUE cart. Removing the wrapper is very helpful but not necessary.

# Preparing Items for Recycling

- Office Paper – White and colored paper
- Newspaper
- Magazines



These items can be bagged in PAPER bags before placing them into the BLUE cart.

# Preparing Items for Recycling

**Plastics** – Numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 are acceptable, NO Styrofoam. 80% of all plastic containers from the grocery store are recyclable.

Look for these symbols:



These symbols are usually located on the bottom portion of your recyclable plastics. Any plastic matching any one of these symbols can be placed in the BLUE cart for recycling.

# *Preparing Items for Recycling*



These should be rinsed and the lid thrown away before placing them into your BLUE cart. Removing the wrapper is very helpful but not necessary.

## *BLUE Cart setting out for pickup*

- The BLUE recycling cart must be at the street's edge by 6:00 AM on your scheduled collection days. You may set your cart out as early as 8:00 PM the evening before.
- Keep your recycling cart five feet away from all obstacles such as parked cars, mailboxes, telephone boxes, water meters, fences and walls.
- Your recyclables must fit easily into your BLUE cart. The lid of your cart must be closed to prevent spillage.
- Don't forget to remove your recycling cart from the street's edge after pickup on your collection days.
- *The cart should be placed in the same manner and position as your trash cart BUT only on your scheduled recycling days.*



*Thank you...*

*Remember the three R's:*

**REDUCE** – the amount of products you use.

**REUSE** – a product instead of throwing it away.

**RECYCLE** – products whenever you can.



What's the #1 Question we get?

# Is the City making money off of the Citizens of Huntsville?

Curbside Recycling for the City of Huntsville	Revenue Received from Recycling Vendor	# of Tons Hauled for That Month	# of Loads	Cost of Hauling	Cost Difference
October-14	\$ 17.21	19.31	2	\$ 2,050.00	\$ (2,032.79)
November-14	\$ 48.66	0	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 48.66
December-14	\$ -	31.51	3	\$ 2,025.00	\$ (2,025.00)
January-15	\$ (140.56)	28.61	3	\$ 2,025.00	\$ (2,165.56)
February-15	\$ (313.96)	32.69	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,013.96)
March-15	\$ (774.26)	36.61	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,474.26)
April-15	\$ (640.84)	33.25	3	\$ 2,025.00	\$ (2,665.84)
May-15	\$ (618.74)	40.86	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,318.74)
June-15	\$ (567.06)	28.39	3	\$ 2,025.00	\$ (2,592.06)
July-15	\$ (375.88)	43.96	5	\$ 3,375.00	\$ (3,750.88)
August-15	\$ (567.72)	38.4	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,267.72)
September-15	\$ (576.98)	35.61	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,276.98)
<b>REVENUE FY 2015</b>	<b>\$ (4,510.13)</b>	<b>369.2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$ 27,025.00</b>	<b>\$ (31,535.13)</b>
October-15	\$ (734.31)	34.99	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,434.31)
November-15	\$ (738.21)	10.87	1	\$ 675.00	\$ (1,413.21)
December-15	\$ (221.22)	31.89	3	\$ 2,025.00	\$ (2,246.22)
January-16	\$ (692.84)	37.73	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,392.84)
February-16	\$ (914.90)	33.66	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,614.90)
March-16	\$ (903.65)	19.74	2	\$ 1,350.00	\$ (2,928.65)
April-16	\$ (583.79)	44.19	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,283.79)
May-16	\$ (1,009.82)	26.39	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,709.82)
June-16	\$ (528.63)	42.98	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,228.63)
July-16	\$ (411.74)	46.24	5	\$ 3,375.00	\$ (3,786.74)
August-16	\$ (432.99)	35.54	4	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (3,131.99)
September-16	\$ (285.86)	44.22	5	\$ 3,375.00	\$ (3,660.86)
<b>REVENUE FY 2016</b>	<b>\$ (7,456.96)</b>	<b>420.96</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>\$ 29,700.00</b>	<b>\$ (37,156.96)</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ (11,967.09)</b>	<b>790.16</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>\$ 56,725.00</b>	<b>\$ (68,692.09)</b>