

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING

Each year in the United States, we generate nearly 200 million tons of solid waste—an average of 4.3 pounds per person per day. Communities across the United States are skirmishing to find means by which to handle such a rapidly growing problem. An easy answer to part of this problem is recycling much of this waste.

It is happening almost everywhere; in fact city, county, and state governments are being mandated to reduce the amount of waste entering landfills by 25 percent. Starting in 1996, this includes Douglas County and the State of Georgia. Douglas County encourages its citizens to recycle so we can meet this goal.

Recycling is becoming a permanent part of how we manage our waste in this country, but it takes patience and your cooperation to make it work.

Douglas County operates two recycling drop-off centers but many other locations also offer recycling. This pamphlet lists recycling locations, the items acceptable for recycling, and some products derived from these recyclables.

New products are made from recyclable materials every day and you can be a part of it.

## ALUMINUM CANS

Aluminum has been recycled since the early 1900's and has become the most popular and most profitable items to recycle. Almost two million tons of aluminum cans are generated annually. More than 62 percent of all aluminum cans are recovered for recycling which saves landfill space and saves energy consumption during the manufacturing process. Last year 64.7 billion used aluminum cans were collected out of a total of 99 billion available for recovery. Until 1994 almost all recovered aluminum was used to make new cans. Now, more recycled aluminum goes toward making automobiles than into new cans.

## AUTOMOBILE BATTERIES

Batteries are banned in landfills across Georgia, including the Cedar Mountain Landfill in Douglas County. Batteries constitute less than 1 percent of the waste stream. They can contain metal that may be of concern when disposed in landfills or combustors.

The lead, the acid, and the plastic casing can all be recycled. Luckily, most people understand the severity of improperly disposing of a used automobile battery. About 96 percent of automobile batteries are recovered and recycled each year. Most auto part stores, service stations, and landfills accept batteries for recycling purposes.

## COOKING OIL

This product is purified plant and/or animal fat most commonly used for deep frying but also for other applications as well.

The cooking oil can be recycled for biodiesel, soap, aromatherapy, animal feed supplements and lubricants.

## ELECTRONICS

Douglas County accepts office type electronic items including computers, printers, hubs, routers, switches, copiers, fax machines, cell phones, desk phones, UPS, rechargeable batteries, cables, etc..

**TV SETS, RADIOS, MICROWAVE OVENS, RADIOS, CLOCKS, COMPUTER MONITORS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

## GLASS

Glass is unique in the sense that one 12 ounce glass bottle can be melted down and remade into another 12 ounce bottle without any loss of quality.

Glass containers are 100% recyclable. Approximately 41 billion glass containers are produced in the United States each year. Glass containers make up approximately 4% of the waste stream by weight and 1% by volume.

The recycling rate for glass containers is 31% or more than 13 containers each year. The amount of glass recycled has increased by 95% since 1987.

It is important to separate glass containers by color – clear, green, and brown – at the point of recycling. Always remember window glass, light bulbs, ceramic cups and plates, mirrors, and drinking glasses are not acceptable and can contaminate an entire recycling load.

## MIXED PAPER AND CARDBOARD

Paper, in general makes up approximately 40% of our nations solid waste stream and is becoming one of the most popular and easiest products to recycle. Newspaper specifically is the most popular paper product for households to recycle. The average American home produces 28 pounds of newspaper each month. Nationally, about 35 percent of newspaper is recovered and recycled. The industry is eyeing a recycling rate of about 65% by the year 2009. Paper recycling is a very popular fund raiser among organizations.

For every ton of newspaper recycled, 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space are saved. A 50% recycling rate for newspaper would extend the life of a landfill by one year.

By volume, cardboard is the largest paper item collected and recycled, constituting about 40% of all paper recycled. The future for recycling cardboard is very promising.

Office paper, magazines, junk mail, computer paper, paperback books, and telephone books are also gaining popularity in the world of recycling. Adding these items to a recycling program further reduces the amount of waste entering into landfills.

All paper products can be recycled back into other paper products, including newspapers, phone books, greeting cards, and even as insulation.

## PRINTER – COPIER TONER CARTRIDGES

The toner cartridges can be re-used for their original intent a minimum of one time. The cartridges are collected at the Douglas County Animal Shelter located adjacent to the Cedar Mountain Landfill.

## PROPANE TANKS

Propane tanks are accepted, reconditioned and certified for re-use.

If the tank is not acceptable for re-use it will be recycled as a scrap metal product.

## SCRAP METAL AND APPLIANCES

Scrap metal is found in many forms and fashions, from tin cans and empty paint pails to car parts and appliances. As a rule if you can stick a magnet to it, the item can be recycled. Producing steel from scrap saves energy as well as landfill space

Some recycling centers may charge a fee for appliance drop-off. The extra charge usually applies to washers, dryers, water heaters, dishwashers, stoves, ovens, air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers. The Cedar Mountain Recycling Center only charges for freon based items

## SMALL ENGINE TYPE ITEMS

Small engine powered units (lawn mowers, tillers, go carts, etc.) can often be repaired and re-used for their original intent. Those units that can not be for re-use are designated as scrap metal and recycled as such.

## TIRES

Scrap tires present a unique disposal and recycling challenge because of their size, shape, and chemical nature. Tires are labeled as a hazardous waste and are not accepted by garbage haulers and landfills. Some landfills such as the Cedar Mountain Landfill in Douglas County will accept tires for a fee of \$5.00 for passenger and light truck tires and \$15.00 for heavy truck tires. Scrap tires do not decompose and are breeding grounds for mosquitoes and disease. Proper disposal is important. Dumping tires in a landfill or elsewhere in the State of Georgia is against the law.

## USED PETROLEUM TYPE OIL

A complete collection program of used motor oil is still a big challenge for communities across the United States. It is estimated that half of the oil from do-it yourselfers is put in the garbage, poured on the ground or poured in the sewer system. Douglas County collects used oil for recycling and re-use.

Accepts Household / Personal Items. Does not accept some items (please call) 6768 West Spring Street, Douglasville, Georgia 30134. 770-577-1777 Monday – Friday 10am – 2pm Saturday 10am – 12 noon

#### **Douglas County Food Bank**

Accepts Household / Personal Items / Food  
Bright Star Rd Douglasville, Georgia 30134  
770-947-0250

#### **Goodwill Industries**

Accepts Household / Personal Items  
5793 Fairburn road 678-391-0893  
(Lowe's Parking Lot) 404-486-8499

### **WHERE TO GO:**

#### **RECYCLING CENTERS:**

**The following locations in Douglas County offer public recycling centers.**

**Advance Auto Parts** 5835 Stewart Pkwy. 770-920-5800 Batteries and motor oil.

**AutoZone** 8440 Hospital Drive and 3781 Kings Hwy. 770-489-5582 Batteries and motor oil.

**Douglas County Fire Stations** All locations. Aluminum cans.

**Douglas County Landfill** 1730 County Services Road, Metal, motor oil, batteries, tires (off rim), aluminum cans, glass, mixed paper, appliances, electronics, cook oil, etc 770-920-3133

**Douglas County Camp Road Transfer Station**  
Intersection of Camp Rd. and Hwy.166  
Mixed paper, aluminum cans, glass. 770-920-7190

**First Presbyterian Church** 9190 Campbellton St. 770-942-0710 Mixed paper

**First United Methodist Church** 6167 Prestly Mill Road. 770-942-3146  
Mixed paper.

**Home Depot** 7399 Douglas Blvd. 770-577-8311  
Power Tool & Lawn Mower Batteries, Florescent, coiled(compact),and Floodlight Bulbs.

**Lowe's** 7011 Douglas Blvd. 770-920-9022  
Plastic Bags, Power Tool Batteries & Coiled (Compact) Light Bulbs

**Wal-Mart** 7001 Concourse Pkwy (off Hwy 5) 770-489-7057 Plastic Bags

**City of Douglasville**  
Provides curbside recycling program along with normal refuse collection.

Call 770-920-3005 770-920-3000

#### **Private Waste Haulers**

Many private waste haulers accept recycling that is separated from the regular household garbage. Ask your hauler if he recycles.

#### **Douglas County Solid Waste Department**

##### **Recycling Division**

**1730 County Services Rd.**

**Douglasville, Ga. 30134**

**770-920-3133**

**770-920-4937**

#### **YARD WASTE**

Americans throw away hundreds of tons of yard waste each year. Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, branches, trimmings, stalks, and roots. Yard waste makes up about 18% of the solid waste flow and takes up considerable space in landfills. Yard waste is banned from landfills across the country and most landfills are separating this waste and recycling it into mulch. The cost for disposal is \$1.65 per 100 lbs. The yard waste is grinded into mulch and provided to Douglas County residents at “no cost”.

#### **REUSE ITEMS**

Numerous and various items are disposed of in landfills that can be reused for their original intent. The reuse of these various items is the purest form of recycling. Reuse items include clothing, furniture, toys, etc.

Landfills and recycling centers are not usually equipped with personnel, collection, warehousing, and distribution functions, therefore charitable organizations and other service groups often perform these functions including drop off sites and pick-up services.

#### **WHERE TO GO:**

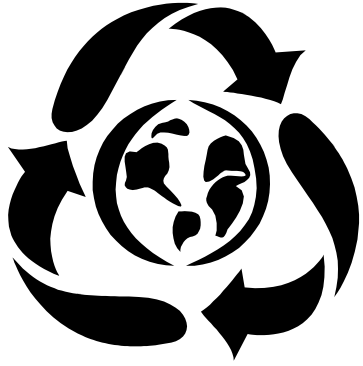
#### **RE-USE DROP OFF CENTERS:**

**The following locations are public “re-use” drop off centers. Clothing, toys, games, furniture, and other reusable household items are accepted.**

**Items dropped off for re-use include those that can be re-used by others in “as is” condition or may require minor repair. Please call for more specific information**

**Loving Hands Ministry**

# ***SECOND CHANCES RECYCLING IN DOUGLAS COUNTY***



**DOUGLAS COUNTY SOLID WASTE  
DEPARTMENT**

**1730 COUNTY SERVICES ROAD**

**DOUGLASVILLE, GA. 30134**

**[www.dcsolidwaste@co.douglas.ga.us](mailto:www.dcsolidwaste@co.douglas.ga.us)**