



Understand how and why to recycle correctly. We know we recycle to reduce the amount of stuff going to landfills but do we know why it's important to recycle correctly? When recycling first began in the 1990's, we had to sort and separate cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and metal in our curbside bin and the hauler kept it all separated in the truck. Everyone had gotten pretty good at recycling but then they switched to Single Sort which meant everything was comingled together in one bin. After 20 years of sorting, residents had a hard time accepting this change. Some people even suspected it wasn't getting recycled, maybe because the truck picking it up looked just like the garbage truck and the new container looked just like their garbage can except with a yellow lid? Standardizing the route containers was simply a business move that made it possible for the hauler to pick up the bins with a hydraulic arm and have all the same style of trucks for garbage and recycling. This change

eliminated one employee on the back of the truck, saved time on the route and reduced the risk of injury to the employee. But single sort recycling has had its drawbacks too, namely, increased contamination rates which is becoming a **BIG** problem with end markets. China used to buy most of our recyclables and hire cheap labor to sort through it to reduce contamination to 1% or lower but they no longer want it because it's so dirty. Did this simpler concept of mixing recyclables make people lazy or just indifferent about recycling correctly? Or maybe people just want everything to be recycleable so they throw it in and hope for the best. Whatever it is, it needs to stop because it really does matter if we recycle correctly in order for the end product to be marketable. Without an end market, we might as well throw everything in the landfill and quit wasting our time on the process. If you personally make a choice to recycle, please learn the rules of recycling and do it right: 1) plastics #1-#5 only, 2) Glass from food or beverage containers only, 3) Paper, boxboard and corrugated cardboard, 4) Aluminum and tin cans, 5) All items must be clean and dry, 6) Items must be loose in your bin 7) No plastic bags or garbage bags 8) If you're not sure, throw it in the garbage.



Always Recycle! Forty years ago, a grassroots movement changed the way we deal with garbage and the concept of recycling was born. It took some education to re-train and convince consumers that recycling was a win-win for everyone but now it's a household practice! By diverting containers made of glass, plastic, tin, aluminum and steel as well as paper and cardboard from the waste stream, the recycling industry was able to lengthen the life of landfills by 30-40%. Additionally, using recycled material rather than virgin material to manufacture new products conserves natural resources and uses less energy in the process. In trying to automate the hauling process, single sort recycling replaced the old sorting method. Co-mingling recyclables in one container is much more convenient, however, it may have made us lazy in the process creating a new problem called contamination. When non-recyclable items are

mixed in with the rest, it can cause the whole load to be landfilled because it is too costly then to try to separate the "bad apples" from the rest. The County is currently in the process of re-negotiating their recycling contract and contamination penalties are a new component of that contract. This is the reason we are starting this new column--to educate the public about recycling do's and don'ts and why it is important to Recycle Often and Recycle Right!



Bags are Bad! Many people like to reuse plastic bags from the store to collect and transport their recyclables to their curbside bin. Likewise, rural residents may be tempted to use garbage bags or dog food bags to bring their recycling to the drop sites located nearest to them. The problem with throwing the whole bag into the bin instead of emptying the contents is that it keeps the recyclables from separating and going through the conveyor system at the Material Recovery Facility where the items are sorted mechanically. Even worse yet, the plastic bags get wrapped around the gears, shutting down the entire process until someone can crawl into the machinery and untangle them. For this reason, if the hauler even sees a bag in a recycling bin, they will not pick up that curbside stop and if it's at the drop site, that whole container will automatically go into the landfill load rather than go to the recovery facility.

So even though you may be trying to do your part and recycle for all the right reasons, this one mistake will render your intentions useless and your efforts will be in vain. Please help us pass the word to family, friends and neighbors that **bags are bad** in the recycling world! This includes softener salt bags, dog and cat food bags, kitty litter bags and the like!



Contamination costs the County! The County is currently negotiating its recycling contract with the hauler and a new clause related to contamination penalties is being added because the rate of contamination is up to 16% on average. If penalties get too high, the County will be forced to discontinue recycling services, first temporarily, but if the problem persists, services could cease permanently. Who cares—not my worry you say but this is everyone’s problem! Annually, the County spends \$121,000 to provide this service to county residents. Part of the funding comes from a state grant, but the balance comes from you (the taxpayer), through property taxes. The other effect of losing recycling is increased garbage fees per household since it is charged according to volume. Recycling cuts our garbage volume by 50% or more so expect those fees to double if we can’t recycle anymore. **Recycling is NOT a service we want to**

lose! Do your part to reduce contamination rates by keeping the following out of your recycling bin: plastic bags or film, paper towels, straws, chip bags, juice pouches, styrofoam, candy wrappers, and items smeared with food or still containing liquid.



Drop sites are not Dump Zones! Residents living in the city limits of Ortonville, Odessa, Clinton, Graceville and Beardsley have curbside pickup for their recycling, but rural residents and smaller municipalities rely on a drop site in order to recycle. There are drop sites located in Barry, Beardsley, Clinton, Correll, Graceville, Johnson, Odessa and Ortonville where containers are provided for co-mingled recyclables. These sites are unstaffed, which unfortunately leads to misuse of the site. All too often, the containers are contaminated with items that are not recyclable. Even worse, problem materials such as paint, TV's, computers or fluorescent bulbs are piled next to the container. The hauler will not pick up solid waste so dumping this kind of stuff just creates a problem for someone else to clean up and pay for. Anyone who blatantly and intentionally abuses the site in this manner should be ashamed of themselves and if caught, will be charged with a misdemeanor. Please respect the sites and the services that our taxpayer dollars provide for us. Call and inquire about special collections the county holds for these problem materials.



Education is the key to success! Research shows a direct link between knowledge and active involvement. Learning about the environment is a life-long process since things are always changing and recycling is an essential part of that. Everyone should know why and how to recycle correctly. Most people support the concept of recycling but we need to close the gap by turning our knowledge into action and changing our behaviors. Recycling needs to be a household habit where everyone knows and follows the rules of recycling so the end product is marketable. Without an end market, recycling efforts are futile. You've heard it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks but folks it's really not that difficult! Since kids soak up information like a sponge, I started going into the schools a few years ago and doing hands-on activities to reinforce the rules of recycling in hopes that the information would trickle down into

households. Many times the teachers have told me that they learn something new each time I come into their classroom so I am encouraged that **education CAN make a difference!** For more information, please call our office for fact sheets or to ask questions. No question is a stupid question!



Food and grease contaminate recyclables. Although it's true that food residue is burned away during the recycling process of glass, plastic and metals, the same is not true of paper or cardboard. Water is used to create a slurry when recycling paper and we all know that oil and fats float on top of water, which is also where the paper slurry is. This causes the oils to mix into the pulp, making it such a poor quality that it can't be used to make new paper products. So instead of recycling that pizza box, compost it or throw it away so you aren't contaminating the rest of your recyclables. Because we have single stream recycling in Big Stone County, it's important to make sure that all your recyclables are clean and dry so that food residue doesn't transfer onto the paper/cardboard in the bin, truck or transfer station. The last reason to keep food and grease out of your recycling bin isn't related to recycling at all—

it's a sanitation issue for the people who work in the recycling facility. As food spoils, mold and bacteria grow and create an unsafe work environment for the employees who handle the items and breathe in the air. Be sure to rinse your containers and empty out the fluid before putting the plastic caps back on.



Glass bottles and jars are 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without loss of quality. This is only true however if other types of glass are not mixed in with the glass. The glass used to make windows, mirrors, crystal, pyrex, and dishware are manufactured through a different process so if they get mixed in with recyclable glass, they can cause production problems and defects in the manufacturing of glass containers. For this reason, it is important that you only recycle glass that comes from food and beverage containers. The color of the glass does not matter and labels do not need to be removed but the container should be rinsed and free of food residue. Remember, recycling only makes a difference when you take the time to do it right!



Household Hazardous Waste is not allowed in your recycling or your garbage! Household Hazardous Waste, known as HHW, is home generated material that requires special disposal when it no longer serves a purpose to the consumer. Examples of HHW include: drain, oven or bowl cleaners, aerosols, paints, motor oil, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluid, lubricants, pool chemicals, wood preservatives like linseed oil, tung oil or creosote, mercury found in thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable or button batteries, furniture strippers, pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, poisons and fuels such as old gas, turpentine, kerosene, mineral spirits, acetone, roofing tar or similar products. HHW products contain warnings on their label indicating their potential of reactivity, flammability, toxicity or corrosiveness. Watch for words like **DANGER, CAUTION, WARNING, POISON, HARMFUL IF**

SWALLOWED, FLAMMABLE or COMBUSTIBLE. If you can't use up the product or find someone else who can, store the product in a cool dry place until the County has their **FREE** one day collection held every spring. HHW should be kept in its original container or labeled for proper identification.



If in doubt, throw it out! I believe most of us have the best intentions when it comes to recycling which is good, but it can also be bad. I say this because when people aren't sure if something can be recycled, they throw it in the bin and figure it will get kicked back out along the way if it's not recyclable. This is not necessarily true though. In fact, when loads of recycling have too much visible contamination, the hauler will reject the load and take it directly to the landfill. Recycling loads are averaging 16% contamination which is an unacceptable level. What people don't realize is that the mechanical sorting process isn't perfect so employees must manually pick the items off from the conveyor line if they aren't recyclable. When contamination rates get too high, this becomes labor intensive and the time spent does not justify the end product for the market price received. This is why it's important for you to

do your part to keep contamination out of the recycling stream. Recyclables from food and beverage containers include glass, plastics #1-5, aluminum and tin but they must be clean and dry. All paper and cardboard can be recycled also if it is clean and dry. **REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, THROW IT OUT!**



Jumpstart your recycling efforts! Are you one of those people whose garbage can is overflowing at the curb each week because you think it takes too much time or space to recycle? If so, I encourage you to just give it a try because it could save you money on your garbage bill. The average person throws away four and a half pounds of garbage everyday. That sounds absurd, but this includes organic matter like food scraps, junk mail, packaging on the things we buy, things that no longer work or that we no longer use, etc. By recycling alone, you can reduce your garbage by 50%. All solid waste haulers charge based on volume so recycling could reduce your garbage enough to get by with the smallest container available. If the recycling concept is new to you, just start small with the basics like paper or cardboard, making sure they are clean and dry. Once you get into the swing of things, add food and beverage

containers made of glass, plastic #1-#5 and tin or aluminum cans. Eventually it will become a habit that you won't even have to think about and you may even find your recycling bin so full that you need another one. If so, let us know at the Environmental Office and we will get another one ordered for you free of charge!



Kee items clean and dry! One of the most important rules to recycling correctly is to make sure you rinse out your containers before throwing them into the bin. If you do this immediately after emptying them, it really doesn't take a lot of effort and they don't need to be perfectly clean. You don't need to dry them out but make sure to drain any residual liquids before throwing the items in the bin and caps can be screwed back on plastic bottles. The main reason for keeping your recyclables clean is so they don't contaminate the paper and cardboard in your bin. Food residue will affect the quality of the paper slurry used to manufacture new paper product. The second reason is actually more about the sanitation of the recycling facility than it is about the process of recycling. Food residue can promote mold and bacteria in the recycling facility and affect employees working there. Lastly, rinsing your containers will help reduce the odor from your recycling bin between pickups so just do a quick rinse before tossing stuff in the bin!



Light bulbs are not recyclable. Yes, light bulbs are made of glass but not the kind that can be recycled because the process used to manufacture this glass is entirely different than that used to make containers for food and beverages. The other thing to keep in mind when disposing of light bulbs is that there are a few different kinds and some may require special handling. For instance, those curly energy efficient bulbs also known as compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) have mercury inside of them which is considered a hazardous substance because if inhaled, ingested or absorbed into the body, it does not break down. It accumulates over time and can affect the central nervous system. This is why people are warned against eating too much fish, especially when pregnant because fish tend to carry mercury in their meat after absorbing it out of the lake water. Fluorescent bulbs come in many shapes and sizes and

all of them have mercury inside which is why they must be disposed of in a specific manner. The Environmental office collects fluorescent bulbs for a minimal fee and has them picked up by a vendor that captures and incinerates the mercury. Note that once a fluorescent bulb breaks and the mercury escapes into the air, there is no point bringing the broken bulb in to our office. It can go in your normal garbage at that point- just be careful of the sharp edges.



Material Recovery Facilities are the place where recycling trucks take your single stream recyclables to be sorted in mass quantities for end market. The process is done primarily by mechanical means using a series of conveyor and shaker systems, blowers and magnets but still requires some manual sorting by hand throughout the process for quality control. On the first conveyor line, large rigid plastics like toys and buckets are taken out to be baled and large non-recyclable items like garden hoses, wire and auto-motive parts are sorted out for the trash. Next, the items travel over an OCC (old corrugated cardboard) screen which allows larger rigid material like cardboard to float across the disks while the smaller three dimensional items fall through to another screen which separates paper from bottles and cans. The glass items are then broken up so the pieces can fall through to a separate area while the

non-glass items bounce across to another conveyor. More hand sorting is done to pull out the remaining contaminants and fiber material before sending the rest toward a giant magnet drum which pulls ferrous metal like steel and tin cans from the line. An Eddy Current Separator then repels the aluminum items off the line while the remaining materials travel through an optical sorter which separates plastics according to density. All recyclables except glass are then baled and stored until they are sold to a manufacturer for making new products. It's a pretty interesting process to watch if you ever get a chance to tour a facility!



No Plastic Bags! No Plastic Bags! No Plastic Bags! I don't know how many times we have to say it to make it stick. Plastic bags are the #1 worst thing you can put in your recycling bin. If you insist on using them to collect or transport items to the bin, please, please, please empty the bag into the bin and toss the bag in the trash or reuse it for the next trip. If you've ever run over a plastic bag or wire with a lawn mower and had to free the blades of the remains afterwards, you would understand how intertwined one plastic bag can get in the moving parts and gears of a material recovery facility when it's not discovered and removed in the first sorting station. Every time this happens, it's usually a minimum of an hour of down time to untangle the bag and get conveyors moving again. This is not a cost effective use of time in a business that is currently battling slumping and even negative market prices for its end product. This is especially frustrating because it's entirely avoidable! If bags are spotted by the hauler, entire loads will be rejected and taken to the landfill rather than deal with trying to separate the plastic bags from the rest of recyclables. If you want your bags recycled, check to see if your local grocery stores have a special collection container for them. Again I say, **DO NOT THROW PLASTIC BAGS** in your recycling bin or drop site container.



One bad apple spoils the cart! We've all heard the saying before and it can be applied to nearly everything in life from produce to people. This is true with recycling as well. A whole neighborhood or community can try hard and do a great job of recycling clean and dry items that all hit the mark but if a handful of people on the route use their recycling bin to get rid of items that are not recyclable or are continually contaminated with food, the whole truck load can be rejected and sent to the landfill instead of the recycling facility. Lack of attention to recycling the correct way can spoil the efforts put forth by the rest of the neighborhood, which is why it's important to not only have good intentions but to be educated on the right way to recycle. Wanting it to be recyclable doesn't make it so. Know and follow the rules of recycling: 1) All items should be clean and dry. 2) Glass containers from food or beverage only.

3) Plastics #1-5 and leave the caps on after you rinse and empty the container. 4) Paper and cardboard needs to be clean and dry. 5) Aluminum and tin cans need to be rinsed clean. 5) All items should be loose in the bin—NOT IN BAGS! 6) If in doubt, throw it out!



Plastics #1-5 only. If you haven't already noticed, plastic containers usually have a resin identification code on the bottom of them in the shape of a triangle. Inside the triangle is a number that corresponds with a particular type of plastic. PET #1 and HDPE #2 are the most marketable in the recycling world and are used primarily to make containers that have a neck like a pop bottle, milk jug or cleaning products. Generally, plastics #3-#5 are used for containers that are more of a tub shape with a lid like sour cream, cool whip or coffee. Other plastics may have either a #6 or #7 but our recycler no longer accepts them because their poor quality makes them unmarketable. There are also plastic items that don't have a symbol at all because their chemical composition and manufacturing process make them unsuitable to recycle. A couple good examples of this are plastic toys, hoses or PVC pipe. We

are fortunate that our recycling hauler takes #1-5 because some only allow #1 and #2. So, once you have checked the code on the bottom of your container to be sure its allowed, follow the other recycling rules that apply. Have you rinsed it out and drained all liquids? If so, you can put the cover back on and put it in your bin.



Quit abusing the system! Recycling is a service that is provided by the County using taxpayer money. Similar to many of the things we have or enjoy, we take it for granted that recycling will always be there for us to use. Realistically, if we can't get contamination under control, the County may have to pull certain drop sites. Wouldn't it be unfortunate to punish everyone for the actions of just a few that refuse to follow the guidelines? I wish I could say that everyone has good intentions and that they are really trying to recycle the right way, but when I open a recycling container and find a dozen purses leftover from a garage sale or a bag of dirty diapers that won't burn in the burn barrel (illegal and unhealthy), I know it is intentional and blatant disregard for the service provided. These are just a couple of EVERY DAY examples of things we see in the recycling drop sites because no one is standing there

watching! The containers are clearly labeled with what is acceptable and if it's not on the list, it belongs in YOUR garbage. Laying stuff beside the container because it doesn't belong is just as bad because someone else still has to pay to dispose of that garbage. The drop sites are operated on an "honor system" and if people can't be respectful enough to use them correctly, they will be discontinued indefinitely.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repeat! We all know the three R's but did you know that is the exact order in which you're supposed to handle your garbage? First, **REDUCE** the amount of trash you produce by being a good consumer and purchasing products with little or no packaging, or packaging that can be recycled instead of thrown away. Avoid single serve packaging, opt for larger containers and buy concentrated items to minimize packaging. Refuse a bag if you can carry the item or bring reusable bags. **REUSE** is the second best option because when you are finished with something, maybe someone else can use it without paying full price for brand new. You can hand down items to people you know, have a yard sale, advertise on an online garage sale site, or donate clean, usable items to a number of places. Most communities have a thrift store or there are other charities like Dakota Boys Ranch, Salvation Army,

Goodwill or local collections like Lewis Drug's winter coat drive. Re-purposing is very popular right now – advertise your junk and maybe someone can convert your old and ugly into something fresh and spectacular. **RECYCLING** is really our last resort before the garbage can and there are rules we need to follow in order for it to be beneficial. Make sure everything is clean, dry and loose in your bin. The last step is **REPEAT**, which means to keep buying products that are made from recycled products. Much of what we recycle gets made into similar items again. That's what it's all about—manufacturing new products using less virgin material which also requires less energy.



Styrofoam is NOT recyclable and fills up 30% of our landfill space. This is no surprising statistic given the amount of styrofoam packing that surrounds every electronic device sold. Styrofoam is made from polystyrene, which is a petroleum-based plastic. It is lightweight but bulky, and unlike most items in the landfill, it is not bio-degradable and can't be compacted by heavy machinery. Instead it just breaks into smaller pieces making it more difficult to deal with. So how do we get away from styrofoam when we rely so heavily on technology and our electronic devices? Although computer and consumer electronics are the leading product category sold by Amazon, all online sales require packing to protect them during shipping. The other place we see styrofoam used is take out containers. You may have noticed though that restaurants are switching over to paper take out containers. This is for a couple

different reasons: 1) Styrofoam is piling up in landfills causing some states to ban it, and 2) there is evidence that the heat from hot food and drinks can cause the styrofoam container to release chemicals into its contents. The solution to the styrofoam problem is alternative materials like recycled paper products which are biodegradable and non-toxic. Easily recycled, paper is good for shipping and product packaging as well. Do your part as a consumer and avoid buying styrofoam products whenever possible.



Think before you toss because it really does matter if the item you throw in the recycling bin is recyclable or not. Throwing non-recyclable items in your bin and assuming they will be removed during the process is incorrect. This may have been true in the early years of recycling when manual sorting was done by people and contamination wasn't an issue but today's market demands extremely clean recycling in order for it to be profitable. Most of the sorting is done mechanically now and if there are too many contaminants, it's easier to divert the load to the landfill instead of the recovery facility. Think about the rules of recycling: 1) Plastics #1-#5 only, 2) Glass from food or beverage containers only, 3) Paper, boxboard and corrugated cardboard, 4) Aluminum and tin cans, 5) All items must be clean and dry, 6) Items must be loose in your bin 7) No plastic bags 8) If you're not sure, throw it in the garbage! **This is a serious matter**-if we don't clean up our act with our recycling, the contamination penalties may force us to discontinue recycling services altogether and we won't have it anymore! Please spread the word!



Volume based rates are used to determine the cost of your garbage. In other words, the more garbage you have, the more you have to pay. Most cities have a pay scale based on the size of the receptacle and if you exceed it and leave stuff setting next to the can, it won't get picked up. Some people assume that is because the garbage man is too lazy to get out of his truck to pick it up but the real reason is because they aren't supposed to take more than you pay for. Volume based garbage rates are supposed to be an incentive to get people to recycle what they can to minimize their garbage and garbage expense. On average, about 60% of a person's garbage is recyclable. Commonly, paper, boxboard and corrugated cardboard account for 33%, followed by plastics at 11%, glass at 9% and aluminum and tin cans make up about 7%. The remaining portion consists equally of organic material which

could be composted and other material which must be landfilled. It only makes sense to reduce your garbage as much as possible by using the recycling service that is provided by the County. The only thing expected in return is that you make an effort to recycle correctly so that the items are marketable and therefore profitable for the hauler. Follow the rules of recycling: 1) all items must be clean (no food or grease) 2) Paper and cardboard need to be dry 3) Plastics #1-#5 only 4) Glass from food and beverage containers only 5) Items must be loose in the bin 6) No plastic or garbage bags. Please Recycle Often and Recycle Right!



What is **WISHCYCLING** and why is it harmful to recycling efforts? Wishcycling is a term that the recycling industry gives to well-intentioned people who improperly recycle items that don't belong in their recycling bin. This happens because a person feels better putting something in the bin rather than the garbage, especially when they are not sure if it is recyclable. This is a **TERRIBLE** practice that the industry refers to as contamination. It's become a huge problem because it spoils entire truckloads of recyclables and reduces the quality of materials for the end market. It also causes mechanical failures at the material recovery facility which are costly both in lost time and repairs. Some of the biggest culprits of this include plastic bags, garden hoses, Christmas lights and wire hangers which get caught in the gears, pulleys and conveyors. It really does matter what you put in your bin so please learn what's on

your local recyclables list and call the Environmental office if you have questions. Otherwise, your best option is to just throw it in the garbage and not chance contaminating your bin and the entire truckload. Our local hauler wants you to remember these simple rules about recycling: 1) All items must be clean or rinsed out, 2) Paper and cardboard need to be dry, 3) Plastics #1-#5 only, 4) Glass from food and beverage containers only, 5) Aluminum and tin cans do **NOT** need to be de-labeled, 6) Items must be loose in the bin, 7) No plastic or garbage bags. 8) If in doubt, throw it out! Please Recycle Often and Recycle Right!



X marks the spot-the spot on the map to recycle! For those who don't have the convenience of curbside recycling services, there are recycling drop sites located in each of the municipalities around the county. In Ortonville, the drop site is at Waste Management located on Highway 75 north of the four way stop. In Odessa, you will find the drop site on the east side of the Community Hall which is located on Cty. Rd. 28 West. If you live near Correll, the drop site is behind the Big Stone County Highway building on Cty. Rd. 25 North. In Clinton, the drop site is behind the Clinton Memorial Building on Main Street and in Graceville, it is next to the old city building located on the corner St. Joseph and 4th St. North. If you're in the northwest corner of the county, you may want to use the Barry site which is on Parnell St. just north of Hwy. 28 or Beardsley's site which is at their city garage south of Hwy 28 on

Westfall St. Lastly, the City of Johnson has a drop site on 1st St. north of Hwy. 28. The drop sites are free of charge for Big Stone County residents to use but are primarily intended for rural residents who don't have bi-weekly pickup on the curb. The recycling bins at the drop sites have signage on them to indicate what materials are acceptable and explicitly remind users not to throw plastic bags in the containers. If you use plastic bags to transport your recycling to the drop site, be sure to empty the contents and take your bag home. Please don't leave other garbage or prohibited materials at the drop sites either because repetitive misuse of the sites may force us to close them. Follow the rules: 1) All items must be clean, 2) Paper and cardboard need to be dry, 3) Plastics #1-#5 only, 4) Glass from food and beverage containers only, 5) Aluminum and tin cans do NOT need to be de-labeled, 6) Items must be loose in the bin, 7) No plastic or garbage bags. Please Recycle Often and Recycle Right!



YouTube videos are a great tool to use when you don't know how to do something. There are videos on every subject you could possibly imagine, and recycling is no different. I will warn you though that recycling programs differ quite a bit depending on where you live and who your local hauler is so know ahead of time that not everything you see or hear in a youtube video is entirely accurate for your area. Waste Management is a good example because they are a national waste hauler and their recycling programs vary from state to state, depending on the material recovery facility that they use and which vendors they sell their end market products. I started looking at youtube videos for educational purposes in the schools because the VHS videos I had been using were getting outdated. Not only did the people look funny (90's hair and glasses) but the informational content was no longer accurate, and the

schools no longer used VHS players. Since most people have access to the internet via a computer, tablet or phone, I thought I would list a few of the youtube videos here because I think everyone learns better with visual examples: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9goFU_Z2zZg

(Recycle Often Recycle Right)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9goFU_Z2zZg

(What It Means to Recycle)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTwWIRyX6MI>

(What not to put in the Blue Bin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7GMpJx2jDQ>

(How Recycling Works)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdGjiKJsgRk>

(WM How it Works: Single Stream Recycling)



Zzzzzzzz..... is everyone sleeping? I feel like my articles are either falling on deaf ears or going unread entirely. I have randomly asked several people if they've seen my column and most say no. I get it because I skim the paper and miss stuff too. A few people have actually called to thank me for the articles, asked questions and commented on what they have learned from them. I truly appreciate this feedback!!!! It's these people that I need to help me spread the word! If you are one of them, I encourage you to mention the column to friends, family, co-workers or fellow church members so they know about it and make a special point to look for it each week. Secondly, pass on some of that knowledge if the opportunity arises! I did this at my own church when I noticed things in the recycling bin that didn't belong. When we had our annual meeting, I used the opportunity to

do a recycling lesson. I believe word of mouth is always the best advertising so please help me get the message out that recycling is a service paid for by our taxes but it could go away if we don't become diligent about recycling correctly. I have not talked to one person who wants to lose this service so we all need to be proactive in educating each other on this subject and hold each other accountable for our actions. If you don't know the answer to a recycling question, call the Environmental Office to find out or at least advise people to throw it out if they are not sure whether it's recyclable. They say Rome wasn't built in a day and likewise, I expect changing people's behaviors will be painstakingly slow, but not impossible. Let's just keep trying to Recycle Often and Recycle Right!

THE ABC'S OF RECYCLING

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