

KCB MONTHLY

AUGUST 2023



Letter from the KCB Board

The Power of Shared Recycling Passion

We initially held several public meetings to discuss what would interest the community in regard to bringing back Keep Cherokee Beautiful. I was very surprised by the amount of people who attended as well as the different ideas presented. I had no idea so many people would be interested in the program simply because nobody had ever shared their passion with me. Recycling is vital for a sustainable future, and its impact multiplies when we share our passion with others. By inspiring neighbors, friends, and family to join in, we create a ripple effect of positive change that benefits both the environment and our communities.

Benefits:

1. Environmental Consciousness: Raising awareness about recycling's significance and its positive effects on ecosystems and climate change.
2. Amplified Impact: Each person who joins the movement magnifies the overall environmental impact.
3. Community Building: Engaging in recycling together fosters a sense of togetherness and cooperation within the community.
4. Influencing Future Generations: By setting an example, we instill sustainable habits in children and inspire them to protect the planet.
5. Reducing Landfill Waste: More recycling means less waste in landfills, preserving natural habitats and reducing pollution.
6. Promoting Economic Growth: The recycling industry creates jobs and drives economic development.
7. Saving Energy and Reducing Carbon Footprint: Recycling conserves energy and helps combat climate change.

By sharing our recycling passion, we contribute to a greener, cleaner world, creating a positive chain reaction of sustainable practices. Let's unite, inspire, and recycle together for a better tomorrow. Have you shared your passion with anyone today?

Troy Brazie
Manager
Cherokee County Recycling Center

The Case for Moving Away From Single-Stream Recycling

Recycling has long been promoted as a critical step towards environmental sustainability, with single-stream recycling being one of the most common methods for collecting recyclable materials. However, as recycling programs have evolved, it has become evident that single-stream recycling comes with its fair share of challenges and limitations.



Single-stream recycling is a system where all recyclable materials, such as paper, plastic, cardboard and metal, are collected together in one recycling bin. While this method was introduced to simplify recycling for households and increase participation, it has faced criticism due to several significant drawbacks.

1. **Contamination and Sorting Challenges:** One of the primary issues with single-stream recycling is contamination. When different types of recyclables are mixed together, it becomes challenging to prevent non-recyclable or improperly cleaned items from contaminating the entire batch. Contamination decreases the value and quality of recycled materials, making them less desirable for manufacturers and reducing their recyclability.
2. **Reduced Market Demand:** Contaminated and low-quality recyclables often face reduced demand in the recycling market. This leads to a surplus of materials and, in some cases, recycling facilities resorting to landfilling or incinerating recyclables, defeating the purpose of recycling altogether.
3. **Increased Processing Costs:** Single-stream recycling requires complex and costly sorting processes to separate the mixed materials. This extra handling and processing increase operational costs for recycling facilities and can result in financial burdens for local municipalities.
4. **Lack of Incentives for Improvement:** With single-stream recycling, there is little incentive for consumers to be diligent about proper sorting and cleaning of recyclables, as all materials end up in the same bin anyway. This can perpetuate a culture of apathy towards recycling guidelines and lead to more contamination.
5. **Impact on Sustainable Practices:** In some cases, single-stream recycling may discourage sustainable practices, such as reducing overall waste generation or opting for easily recyclable materials. This can inadvertently contribute to higher waste volumes and a greater strain on recycling infrastructure.

The move away from single-stream recycling emphasizes the

importance of adopting alternative methods, such as source separation. Source separation involves households sorting recyclables at the point of disposal, making sorting more manageable and reducing contamination.

By implementing source separation communities can address the challenges posed by single-stream recycling. This alternative promotes cleaner recyclables, higher-quality materials, reduced processing costs, and increased market demand for recycled goods. Moreover, this method incentivizes responsible recycling behaviors, encouraging individuals to become active participants in the recycling process.

While single-stream recycling has played a role in promoting recycling awareness, its limitations have prompted a shift towards more efficient and sustainable recycling practices. Embracing source separation recycling can revitalize recycling efforts, strengthen the recycling market, and ultimately contribute to a greener and more sustainable future for our planet. As individuals and communities, it is vital to embrace change and support these advancements in recycling to make a tangible difference in our collective efforts toward environmental preservation.

Event Recap

July was a good month for community cleanup events. Thank you to:

BridgeMill Heights
LAA Allatoona Lake Warriors

Every little bit adds up and makes a difference. Is your group planning a cleanup? Would you or someone you know like to adopt a roadway? Please visit our web page for information.



From the Recycling Center

True or False Quiz: How Much Do You Know About Recycling?

Instructions: Answer each question with "True" or "False" based on your knowledge about recycling.

1. Recycling is the process of converting waste materials into new products to prevent waste disposal.
2. Placing recyclables in the correct recycling bin is enough to ensure effective recycling.
3. All types of plastic can be recycled, regardless of their resin codes.
4. Recycling paper saves more energy than recycling aluminum.
5. Glass can be recycled indefinitely without losing its quality.

6. Composting is a form of recycling that only involves organic waste.
7. Recycling reduces the need for raw materials extraction and, in turn, helps conserve natural resources.
8. Recycling electronic waste (e-waste) is illegal in most countries due to its hazardous nature.
9. Recycling one ton of aluminum saves more greenhouse gas emissions than recycling one ton of plastic.
10. Recycling can only be done at designated recycling centers and not at home.

See answers below.

1. **True:** Recycling converts waste into new products, reducing waste disposal.
2. **False:** Proper sorting and processing are crucial for effective recycling.
3. **False:** Not all plastics can be recycled; check resin codes for recyclability.
4. **False:** Recycling aluminum saves more energy than recycling paper.
5. **True:** Glass can be recycled endlessly without quality loss.
6. **True:** Composting recycles organic waste into nutrient-rich compost.
7. **True:** Recycling reduces the need for raw materials, conserving resources.
8. **False:** E-waste recycling is legal to prevent environmental hazards.
9. **True:** Aluminum recycling saves more emissions than plastic recycling.
10. **False:** Recycling can be done at home or designated centers.

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