

# KCB MONTHLY

MARCH 2024



## Residential Single-Stream Recycling Tips

With our annual Earth Day celebration approaching, we thought it would be a good time to revisit tips to ensure single-stream recycling efforts are performed with no contamination of materials not accepted in most of our community residential programs. The truth is recycling can be confusing with different regions of our country having different rules. Our community has residents who have lived in different regions of the United States with various recyclable items not accepted universally. Listed below are tips to make recycling as simple as possible and not making it intimidating and difficult:

- **No bags** – In the past, recycling processing centers accepted materials in clear bags. Plastic bags are now the number-one contaminant in recycling loads. Plastic bags get caught in sorting machinery and will shut the machinery down and possible damage the equipment.
- **Small Items** – Don't recycle any items smaller than a credit card. Mainly bottle caps. Please place the cap back on the bottle.
- **Clean, Empty, and Dry** – Food waste can contaminate entire loads of recyclable material. In the U.S., food waste contaminates 25% of recycling loads. As a general rule, material should be clean enough to use again. Pizza boxes are recyclable if they are not covered in cheese and grease. More restaurants are adding paper slip sheets inside the box to protect the container from grease and cheese.
- **Combined materials are trash** – Recycling only works when like materials are together. Unfortunately, items like plastic-coated coffee cups, laminated paper, wax coated cardboard, and paper envelopes with bubble wrap inside are not recyclable.
- **Know your plastics** – Most recycling centers accept numbers 1 and 2 without a problem. Number 1 is most water and soda bottles, and number 2 is milk and detergent jugs, sometimes juice containers also.

The basic materials accepted in most all residential single stream programs are: paper (junk mail, flyers), cardboard, aluminum containers (soda), tin containers (soup) and #1 and #2 plastic. Keeping it simple is always best to eliminate contamination.

We appreciate everyone who works hard to make our County a better place to live, work and play.

## Eco-friendly Travel Tips



Traveling can be a rewarding experience, but it often comes with a significant environmental impact. By adopting eco-friendly travel practices, you can minimize your carbon footprint and support sustainable tourism. Here are some tips for eco-friendly travel:

1. **Choose Green Accommodations:** Look for eco-friendly hotels, resorts, and lodges that prioritize sustainability. Consider factors such as energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and community involvement when selecting accommodations.
2. **Offset Your Carbon Footprint:** Calculate the carbon emissions associated with your travel and offset them by investing in carbon offset projects such as reforestation, renewable energy, or clean cookstove initiatives.
3. **Reduce Single-Use Plastics:** Bring reusable water bottles, utensils, and shopping bags with you when traveling to minimize single-use plastics. Refill your water bottle from filtered water stations or carry a portable water purifier.
4. **Support Local Communities:** Engage with local communities and support local businesses when traveling. Choose locally owned restaurants, shops, and tour operators to contribute to the local economy and foster cultural exchange.
5. **Use Sustainable Transportation:** Opt for sustainable transportation options such as walking, biking, or using public transit whenever possible. Consider renting hybrid or electric vehicles for longer distances or use car-sharing services that offer eco-friendly vehicles.

By practicing eco-friendly travel habits, you can enjoy meaningful travel experiences while minimizing your environmental impact and supporting sustainable tourism practices.

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## Upcoming Events

**Save the Date** - With Earth Day approaching, we will host an Earth Day cleanup event of Batesville Road on April 20. Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. in the Kroger parking lot at the corner of 140/Hickory Flat Hwy and Hickory Road at 6766 Hickory Flat Hwy, Canton 30115.



## Let's Adopt-a-Mile

Litter is unattractive. It poses a threat to our motorists, natural habitats, wildlife and waterways. The Adopt-a-Mile initiative, sponsored by Keep Cherokee Beautiful in partnership with Cherokee County, allows citizens to show their pride in our county and safely reduce the amount of unsightly

trash along our roads. The efforts of the Adopt-a-Mile program directly benefit the community through litter prevention, greater civic involvement and area beautification. [Here are five easy steps to Adopt-a-Mile.](#)

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## From the Recycling Center

Improving the energy efficiency of your home is a key step towards reducing your environmental impact and lowering your utility bills. Here are some energy-efficient practices to consider:

- Upgrade to Energy-Efficient Appliances: Replace old, inefficient appliances with ENERGY STAR certified models. These appliances use less energy, saving you money on your utility bills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Seal Air Leaks: Inspect your home for air leaks around windows, doors, and ductwork. Seal any gaps or cracks with caulk or weatherstripping to prevent heated or cooled air from escaping, improving energy efficiency.
- Install Programmable Thermostats: Use programmable thermostats to regulate the temperature in your home based on your schedule. Lowering the thermostat in winter and raising it in summer can significantly reduce energy consumption.



- Switch to LED Lighting: Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED or CFL bulbs. LED bulbs use less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs, reducing both energy consumption and waste.
- Reduce Phantom Energy: Unplug electronic devices and appliances when they're not in use or use power strips to easily turn off multiple devices at once. Many devices continue to draw power even when turned off, contributing to phantom energy usage.

By implementing these energy-efficient practices, you can reduce your carbon footprint, save money, and create a more comfortable and sustainable home environment.

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