

one person's

trash

your guide to living, working, and growing green

gwinnettcounty

Keep up the good recycling!

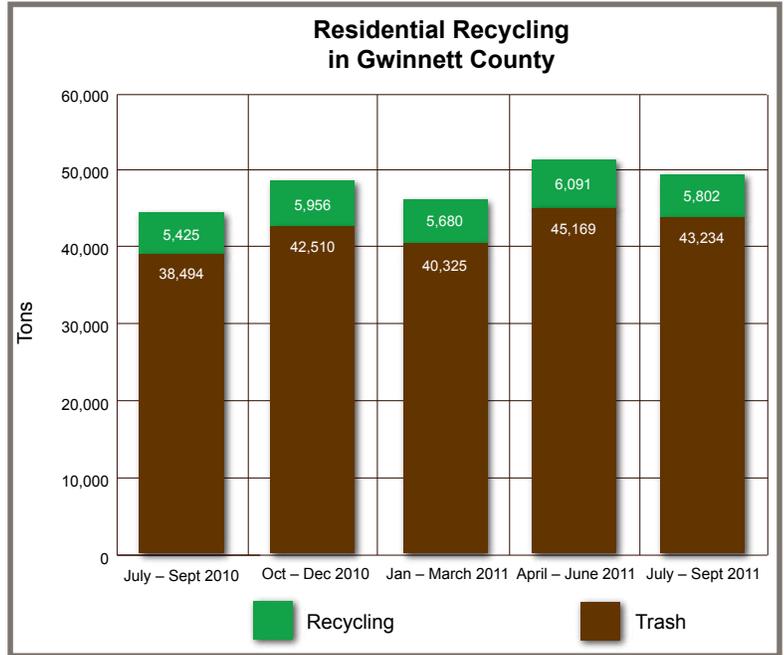
Residents of unincorporated Gwinnett County are doing their part to reduce their impact on the environment. Now, more items than ever can be recycled at the curb, and residents have recycled more than 28,000 tons of waste since the solid waste program's start in July 2010.

You can be a part of our efforts to reduce the need for landfill space by recycling as many items as possible. Remember: The County's program provides unlimited recycling. If you have more recyclables than your current bin can accommodate, **you can use additional containers, including your old 95-gallon trash cart, for recycling. Just make sure your bins are clearly marked "recyclables."** Please note that your hauler can charge you for solid waste overage, but feel free to recycle as much as possible!

Before you place recyclables in your bins, be sure to clean out your cans, bottles, and containers, and to clean off your paper plates. Put all of your recyclables directly into your bin and do not place them in plastic bags; plastic bags are not recyclable at the curb.

For more recycling tips and information, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com. There you can also find a directory of locations that will take recyclables not collected curbside, such as plastic bags, batteries, and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

If you have any questions, contact the Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Call Center at 770.822.7141.



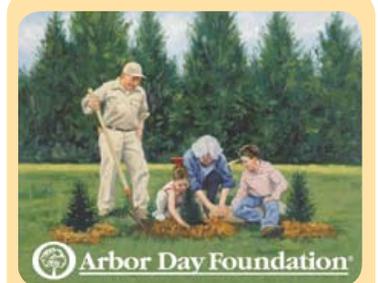
Recycle to Reduce!

Here's what you can recycle at the curb under Gwinnett County's solid waste plan:

- Aluminum**
Aluminum beverage containers, aluminum baking tins, aluminum food containers
- Cardboard**
Broken down cardboard boxes, pizza boxes
- Glass**
Glass bottles, jars
- Junk mail**
Discarded mail, greeting cards, envelopes
- Kraft paper**
Kraft paper, paper grocery bags, paper shopping and lunch bags
- Magazines**
Magazines, shopping catalogs
- Mixed paper**
Calendars, school papers, paper carbonless forms
- Newspaper**
Newspapers, inserts
- Other paper**
Computer papers, old phone directories, paperback books
- Paperboard**
Paperboard, paper towel cores, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, toilet paper cores, shoe boxes, soda and beer cartons

- Plastic #1 – 7**
#1: Soda and water bottles
#2: Milk jugs, juice bottles, butter and yogurt tubs
#3: Detergent and household cleaner containers, shampoo and cooking oil bottles
#4: Squeezable bottles
#5: Syrup, ketchup and medicine bottles, straws, some yogurt containers
#6: Disposable plates and cups, aspirin bottles, CD cases
#7: Three and five-gallon water bottles, certain food containers

- Steel**
Steel food containers, empty aerosol cans, clean metallic lids



QUOTES REQUOTED

Each generation takes the earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed.

J. Sterling Morton,
1832-1902
Founder of Arbor Day

www.sustainablegwinnett.com



Mark your calendar!

On **Saturday, April 14**, we will celebrate Earth Day in Gwinnett County with free paper shredding, household battery collection, and more! This event will be held at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves, in Lawrenceville. For details, visit www.sustainablegwinnett.com.

Make it so

Let's become America's greenest, cleanest community!

Thousands of citizens will join Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful and launch the mission to boldly go where no one has gone before—to make Gwinnett America's greenest, cleanest community!

The first step toward achieving this goal is to participate in Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program. The 2012 Great American Cleanup will remind families and businesses that a greener and cleaner environment for us all starts in our own backyards.

Any interested local business or community group can look in their own backyard for a project or visit www.gwinnettcb.org and select a Great American Cleanup Gwinnett Challenge activity. All projects must be completed between March 1 and May 31 to compete for cash prizes. Prizes will be awarded based on the biggest transformation and impact on the community. *"Communities that are clean and cared for help deter crime and keep our streets and neighborhoods safe,"* said Bartow Morgan, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Chair. *"Our organization is pleased to announce the Gwinnett Chamber, Gwinnett County, and Gwinnett County Public Schools as strategic partners for our program."*

The 2011 Great American Cleanup Gwinnett Challenge brought the power of more than 22,000 volunteers and 200 community partners to create local change. Volunteers cleaned up litter, recycled, wiped out graffiti, planted trees and community gardens, and made their neighborhoods greener, cleaner, and safer places to live.

To get more information about how you can get involved, visit www.gwinnettcb.org or call 770.822.5187.



Adopt-a-Road

You can make a difference and make our roads greener, cleaner, and safer. The Adopt-a-Road litter prevention initiative, sponsored by Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful and Gwinnett County Transportation, gives residents a chance to show their pride in Gwinnett and safely reduce the amount of unsightly trash and illegal signage along county roadways. Unkempt communities are more likely to have increased crime, decreased economic growth, and a decline in quality of life. The litter prevention efforts of the Adopt-a-Road program directly benefit the community through litter prevention, greater civic involvement, and area beautification.

Learn more at www.gwinnettcb.org.

What a year!

In 2011, the Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division hosted and participated in countywide events that gave residents the opportunity to drop off items not collected curbside. We would like to thank our haulers, sponsors, volunteers, and residents for making 2011 successful. Here are the highlights:



April 2011: Lowe's Battery and Light Bulb Collection

At this event, Gwinnett County residents recycled 30 gallons of household batteries and enough light bulbs to fill a 20-gallon container. Improper disposal of batteries can create significant environmental issues. As the battery casings corrode, toxic metals, such as mercury, cadmium, and lead, can be released into the environment, giving rise to soil and water pollution.

Why recycle light bulbs? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are energy efficient, using, on average, 75 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs. However, CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, a poisonous heavy metal that can be harmful to our health and the environment. When bulbs are recycled, the mercury is captured for use

and kept out of our air and water. Standard fluorescent tubes and high-intensity discharge bulbs should also be recycled because they also contain mercury. Be sure to recycle these bulbs throughout the year. Find a recycling location near you by visiting www.earth911.com.

September 2011: Hands on Atlanta Day

Thanks to Gwinnett County citizens, 132 boxes of paper, 5 tons of electronics, and 4 tons of tires were recycled at Hands on Atlanta Day. Did you know that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources estimates that of the 9 million scrap tires generated annually in Georgia, some 1 million are disposed of illegally? These illegally disposed tires become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other pests and promote other illegal dumping activities.



Tires don't need to be dumped! They can be reused and recycled, becoming shock-absorbing running tracks, athletic fields, erosion control devices, boat bumpers in marinas, planters for home gardens, playground surfaces, and rubberized asphalt.



November 2011: America Recycles Day at Coolray Field

At our America Recycles Day event, Gwinnett recycled 34 tons of electronics, 15 tons of paper, and five tons of tires.

Each day, Georgians purchase new electronics, and in the process, countless replaced TVs, VCRs, CD players, and cell phones become electronic waste, or e-waste. Unlike aluminum cans, which do not require sorting or separation, e-waste is not composed of just one material, which makes recycling of e-waste more complex. However, as much as 99 percent of all materials from electronics can be reused in making new electronic items, plastic components, or wood composites. The recycling of e-waste

keeps toxic chemicals out of our soil and streams. For more information on a location near you to recycle e-waste, please visit www.earth911.com.



Let's make 2012 even better!

Visit us at www.sustainablegwinnett.com to learn more about our upcoming events and how you can become involved. Also check out Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful's website at www.gwinnettcbo.org for additional information on their events and programs.

Dealing with yard trimmings

In the past, most yard trimmings have been sent to the landfill or burned. The Environmental Protection Agency and numerous private industry sources estimate that yard trimmings make up 15 percent of the waste entering landfills in the U.S. Since landfill space is limited and numerous options for reducing, reusing, and recycling yard trimmings exist, the *Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act* set a goal of reducing the disposal of yard trimmings by 25 percent. The act requires all local governments to place restrictions on handling yard trimmings generated or disposed of in their jurisdictions.

In Gwinnett County, yard trimmings collection is an optional service that residents arrange with their designated hauler and pay for directly. Yard trimmings service includes collection of grass clippings, leaves, brush, shrub and tree prunings, nursery and greenhouse vegetative residuals, Christmas trees, and maintenance trimmings. The Gwinnett County Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Ordinance of 2010 places the following restrictions on the handling and disposal of yard trimmings:

1. Residents must separate yard trimmings from solid waste at the curb prior to their collection
2. All materials must be placed at the curb in suitable receptacles, such as sturdy paper bags (not plastic bags)
3. Limbs less than four inches in diameter and under three feet long must be tied in a bundle weighing no more than 50 pounds
4. Stumps, roots, stubs with intact root balls, and treated wood are not able to be collected

Consider the following tips on how to reuse your yard trimmings:

- Ground your yard trimmings into mulch and use them to control erosion and for landscaping. Any surplus mulch can be sold or given away to neighbors
- Yard trimmings also make great compost. The organic matter from your yard will break down into rich compost that you can reuse in your garden and around your home

If mulching and composting are not for you and you elect not to receive yard waste service from your designated hauler, you may take your yard debris to a yard waste landfill.

For additional information on yard trimmings collection, visit the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division website at www.sustainablegwinnett.com or call 770.822.7141.



If you have bulky items, such as old appliances, furniture, or mattresses, contact your solid waste hauler to request a "Bulky Item Pickup." Bulky item pickups are included in your solid waste service, but you must call to make an appointment. You can find your hauler's phone number and other contact information at www.sustainablegwinnett.com.



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The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Call Center representatives can be reached at 770.822.7141 Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 5:00pm, with the exception of holidays. You may also e-mail us at gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcountry.com.

The Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. However, your residential solid waste collection will not be affected. If you have questions regarding holiday pickup, please contact us or your hauler directly.