

A Quarterly Newsletter of



Buncombe County Solid Waste Department

828-250-5460

www.buncombecounty.org/green

Winter 2012



From fryer to fuel

If you have a turkey fryer, you've probably used it in the last month or so. Besides good memories, you're now left with used cooking oil. We have great news! You can recycle your used cooking oil in the bin at the Buncombe County Landfill.

Buncombe County Solid Waste is taking part in a Cooking Oil Recycling Program that is a pilot project funded by the Biofuels Center of North Carolina and is the only program of its kind in the country. The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County, in collaboration with Blue Ridge Biofuels and Green Opportunities, is working to keep used cooking oils and greases out of the sewers and landfill and to divert them into biodiesel production to be sold back to the community as clean, renewable fuel.

To recycle your used cooking oil, follow these simple instructions:

1. Let the oil or grease cool to a safe handling temperature.
2. Pour the oil into a jar or bottle with a lid.
3. Take the oil to the nearest oil recycling bin—either the Buncombe County Landfill or the River District Recycling Center at 1 Roberts Street in Asheville.
4. Carefully pour the oil into the recycling bin.
5. Recycle the oil container or reuse it the next time you fry.



For more information about the Cooking Oil Recycling Program, visit www.cookingoilrecycling.org.

Biodiesel is a clean-burning, locally produced alternative to petroleum-based diesel fuel. Biodiesel can be used in all diesel vehicles and as home heating oil. Blue Ridge Biofuels operates a manufacturing plant in the River District of Asheville, and the used oil recycling bins like the one pictured are made by T-Fab in Asheville. This is truly a local recycling opportunity!

To learn more about Blue Ridge Biofuels, visit www.blueridgebiofuels.com or call 828-253-1034.

Powered by batteries

Americans purchase nearly 3 billion batteries every year for toys, remote controls, cell phones, laptop computers, and tools. That's about 10 batteries for every person in the United States. Look around. Have you used your cell phone today? It uses a battery. What about a remote control? Yes, it's battery-powered, too. Have you used a laptop, tablet, or e-reader? All of those use batteries. As you can see, many of the things you enjoy every day rely on the electrical energy provided by batteries.



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Many of these items have "built-in" batteries, so you just attach a power cord to recharge them. Others use household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt. You can buy rechargeable household batteries, which are removed from the item when they are "dead" and charged in a recharging unit, which you purchase where the batteries are sold.

According to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, rechargeable batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times and last from two to five years. To ensure a long life, follow recharging instructions carefully.

Even rechargeable batteries eventually wear out. When rechargeables will no longer accept or hold a charge, they are "spent" (although you might just refer to them as "dead"). Spent rechargeables are recyclable! This includes Ni-Cd, NiMH, Lithium Ion, Nickel Zinc, and small sealed Lead batteries found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, and remote control toys. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at area Lowe's stores, along with Christmas lights, mobile phones, and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Rechargeable batteries are also accepted as household hazardous waste on Fridays at the Buncombe County Landfill (see Page 4 for details).



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Tree-cycle!

After the holidays, we accept real, fresh-cut Christmas trees at no charge from residents who are bringing trees from their homes. Please remove all of the decorations, ornament hooks, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand. Christmas trees are only accepted at the Buncombe County Landfill. These trees will be chipped and turned into mulch, so make sure that your tree is totally bare. The Buncombe County Landfill is open Monday through Saturday. For hours and other information, turn to the back page.

Commercial haulers and businesses will be charged the standard yard waste fee for



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Christmas trees. This fee is \$20 per ton of yard waste.

Paperless? Not anytime soon!

A couple of decades ago, Americans were assured that computers would usher in a paperless society. Although computers and other electronic devices have certainly replaced some paper, our use of paper has continued to grow, with over 81.2 million tons of paper and cardboard generated in



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2010. The good news is that our paper recycling rate hit an all-time high in the United States, increasing to 63.5% of all paper and cardboard used.

Making paper requires a lot of water and a great deal of energy. Using recovered paper reduces both water and energy needs, but it doesn't eliminate them. While going

paperless isn't possible yet, you can take steps to reduce the amount of paper that you use. Here are a few simple ideas:

- Don't print email messages or web pages. Instead, read them on screen. If you'll need them again, put the emails into a folder and bookmark the websites.
- Make double-sided copies whenever possible.
- Pay your bills online instead of using paper checks and envelopes. Consider having your bills emailed to you, saving on that end, too.
- Use the back side of junk mail as note paper.
- Choose recycled-content paper. Don't just assume that all printer and copier paper is recycled content, because it isn't. Look for "post-consumer recycled-content paper." When you purchase it, you help create markets for recyclable paper.

You can recycle a wide range of paper products, including office and school papers, newspaper and inserts, corrugated cardboard, boxboard, junk mail, magazines, and catalogs. All of these paper products are accepted for recycling through curbside and drop-off recycling programs in Asheville and Buncombe County.

Important Phone Numbers for County Residents

Junk Motor Vehicle Officer – Roger Presley	828-250-5470
Mobile Home Removal – Roger Presley	828-250-5470
Environmental Control Officer – Rick Ramsey	828-250-5471
Environmental Control Officer – Jane Cole	828-250-5472
Bioreactor Manager – Kristy Smith	828-250-5473
Buncombe County Landfill	828-250-5462
Buncombe County Transfer Station	828-250-6205
Waste Pro – Residential Trash Pick-up	828-684-7790

CLIP & SAVE

Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents

Asheville City Sanitation – Trash Pick-up	828-259-5857
Curbside Management – Recycling	828-252-2532



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Fleece season

This time of year, fleece is everywhere—sweatpants, pullovers, jackets, vests, gloves, scarves, blankets, and more. We are so used to seeing fleece during the cool weather that you might be surprised to know that the first fleece product wasn't sold until the early 1980s. By 1993, some of that fleece was being made with post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Today, many plastic bottles become fleece and other polyester products.

To turn bottles into fleece, used bottles are sorted by color, cleaned, chopped, and ground. The flake plastic is then melted, reformulated, and turned into chips. The chips are heated and sent through a machine called a spinneret (much like a showerhead) to become yarn. A knitting machine turns the yarn into cloth that can be dyed, textured, and finished. A process called napping gives fleece its famously soft, fuzzy feel.

"How It's Made" on Discovery Science Channel has a feature on how fleece is made. Watch it on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/YHHqFwDhGTM>.

FAST FACTS

From holiday to home

The 74-foot Norway Spruce decorating New York's Rockefeller Center will come down on January 7. When it does, it will be turned into lumber which will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Since 2007, the lumber from the Rockefeller Center tree has been donated each year to Habitat's home-building efforts. Read more and watch a video at "From Shade to Shelter" in *Habitat World* online: <http://magazine.habitat.org/stories/shade-shelter>.



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As simple as soap

Derreck Kayongo, a humanitarian relief expert and former refugee, knows firsthand about the challenges faced by displaced

persons—the daily struggle for food and fresh water, and the diseases that result from lack of soap and clean water. When he learned that American hotels discard about 2.6 million bars of soap a day, Derreck and his wife and father began the Global Soap Project. The project accepts donated bars of soap from hotels, reprocesses and remolds it, and then donates the soap to existing relief organizations that serve refugees, orphans, and disaster victims. Learn more about the Global Soap Project at www.globalsoap.org.



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Constant connection

If it seems like you are always online, it may be true. CTIA—The Wireless Association conducts a semi-annual survey of wireless subscriber connections, which is the total number of devices, such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, and laptops, that people have connected on cellular networks. In 2011, for the first time, the number of connections at 322.9 million exceeded the population of the U.S., which is about 312.7 million.

WellHome has created an infographic about electronic waste — where it comes from and what happens to it. Check it out at www.wellhome.com/blog/2011/05/electronic-waste-where-does-it-all-end-up.



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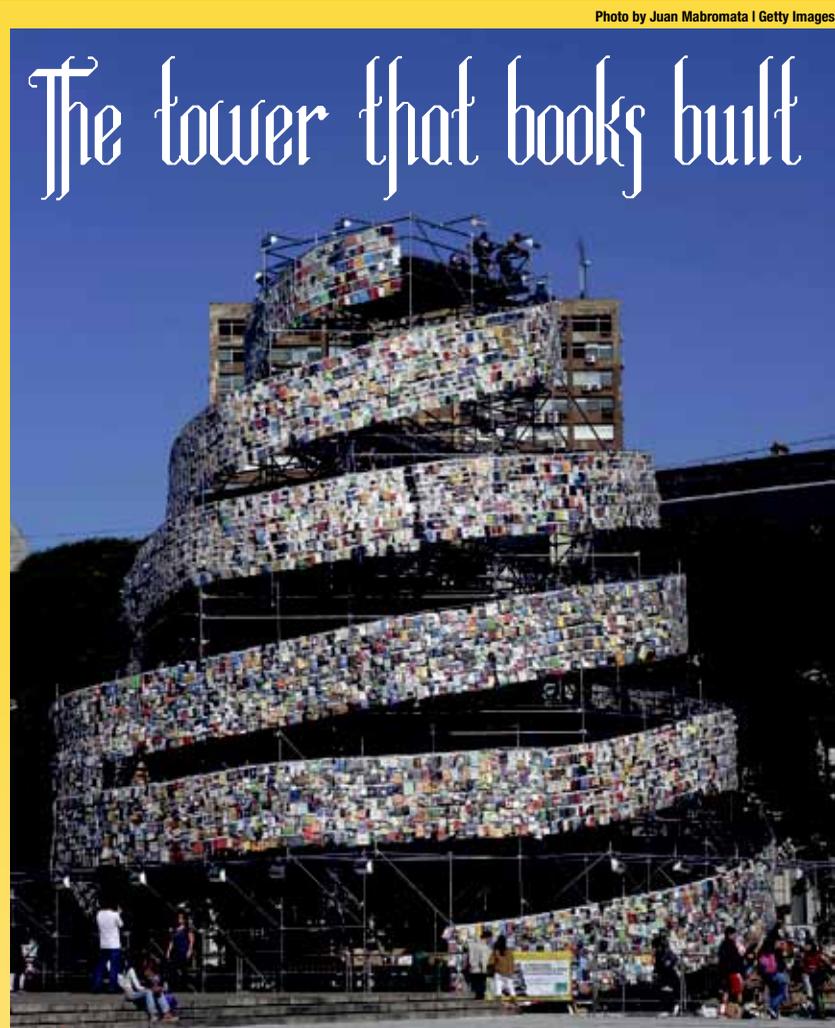


Photo by Juan Mabromata | Getty Images

The tower that books built

During May 2011, Argentinean artist Marta Minujín created a seven-story tower of books in Buenos Aires. Entitled "The Tower of Babel," the display included 30,000 books in hundreds of languages. The books were donated by embassies, libraries, and others around the world and ranged from children's books to comics to poetry to philosophy. A metal ramp allowed visitors to climb the tower, examining the books and enjoying the city's skyline. A soundtrack featured Minujín repeating the word, "book," over and over in many different languages. At the end of the installation, some books were given to visitors, but the majority were donated to create the city's first multilingual library.



Renew your commitment to the 3R's

It's the time of year when we're thinking about making things better—ourselves, our families, our homes, and our budgets. As you're making your resolutions, give some thought to the 3R's:

Reduce

- Before you buy, ask yourself these questions: Do I need this? Do I already have something like this? Do I need something new right now? Does it have too much packaging? What will I do with this when I no longer need it?
- Stop making "wish lists." Oftentimes, the items on a wish list are things you want but don't necessarily need. Whether you make them online, write them on a scrap of paper, or keep them in your head, wish lists keep you thinking about what you don't have—often creating dissatisfaction with the things you do have.

Reuse

- Start your exercise, weight-loss, or other self-improvement program on borrowed or shared equipment. If you stick with the program or hobby, you can purchase your own supplies and equipment later, if you need them. If and when that time comes, remember to look for secondhand equipment.
- "Shop" at home. You probably have books you haven't read, movies you haven't watched, games you haven't played, kitchen gadgets you haven't tried, and supplies for hobbies you haven't started. Put them to use now.
- Find your library card. The library is a great resource for no-cost entertainment. Look for books, magazines, music, movies, and more. Ask your library about downloads for e-readers and MP3 players, too.
- Scan your pantry shelves. We all have canned and boxed goods that we purchased but never got around to using. Find recipes for the supplies you already have on hand. Also, pull out food that your family won't eat. Check the "use by" or "best by" dates and donate unexpired items to a local food pantry or other non-profit organization.

Recycle

- Recycle. You do this by shopping for groceries and other products with recycling in mind. Know what you can recycle and choose products packaged in those materials.
- Collect recyclables and recycle them!
- Commit to recycled-content products.

Successful recycling programs depend on having manufacturers use your recyclables. If you need a new fleece vest or jacket, look for fleece made from recycled soft drink bottles. If you need printer paper, select post-consumer recycled-content paper.



Recycling means jobs

In 2008, with the nation recycling and composting about one-third of its discards, nearly 732,000 Americans worked in jobs directly related to recycling and composting of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. A recent study by the Tellus Institute and Sound Resource Management concludes that increasing the nationwide recycling rate to 75% by 2030 could add as many as 1.5 million more recycling and composting jobs to the U.S. economy. In other words, every percentage point of improvement in our national recycling rate could lead to 30,000-35,000 new jobs.

In addition to job creation, the report also explores potential reductions in harmful emissions, such as carbon dioxide. Increasing the national recycling rate to 75% would be equivalent to removing 50 million cars from our roadways.

The final report, "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.," is available online at www.recyclingworkscampaign.org.



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Gift cards GALORE



Gift cards are big business. In fact, by most estimates, gift card sales for 2011 will top out at around \$91 billion in the U.S. At \$25 per card, which is the most common gift card value sold, that is a whopping 3.64 billion cards.

While 95% of American adults have given or received a gift card, only about 20% choose to refill cards after the value has been expended. This leaves a lot of depleted cards headed to the trash. How often have you had a clerk ask, "Since this is empty, do you want me to throw it away?"

Gift cards are just one type of wallet-sized plastic card. About 17 billion total cards are produced to be used by American consumers each year, including gift, loyalty, discount, membership, debit, store charge, and credit cards. As a result, as much as 75 million pounds of plastic cards, most of it PVC, are discarded each year.

At least one company, Earthworks in Ohio, has begun to accept used plastic cards for recycling. The cards are recycled in a closed-loop process, with old cards melted and turned into the plastic sheets used to make new cards. Individuals can mail in empty or expired cards. However, Earthworks hopes to work with stores, hotels, and other businesses that would collect customer cards and send in larger quantities for recycling. To learn more about Earthworks, visit www.earthworkssystem.com.

Ask retailers whether they will accept your depleted cards for recycling. Other waste-reducing ideas include refilling existing gift cards and giving virtual or electronic gift certificates instead. Also, be sure to use up the funds on your gift cards. The average amount left on cards is \$2.30, which adds up to about \$5 billion in unspent value each year!

QUOTES REQUOTED

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman, 1939-

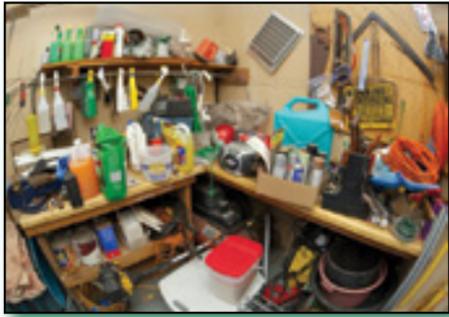


1ST AND GREEN AT SUPER BOWL XLVI

When you think of the Super Bowl, you probably think of football, commercials, and "tailgating" food. However, look behind the scenes at any Super Bowl since 1994 and you'd see a growing list of environmental initiatives. The 2012 Super Bowl to be held in February is no different. Working with the NFL, the local host committee has planned recycling, food recovery, donating supplies and equipment after the event, planting trees, and a sports equipment/book donation project involving local kids. Learn more at www.1standgreen.com.



Hazardous and electronic waste accepted on Fridays at Landfill



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Buncombe County accepts HHW and electronics every Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at a special drop-off area at the Landfill, excluding Fridays around a holiday.

HHW is only accepted from residents; no hazardous wastes from businesses will be accepted. Bio-hazardous materials, radioactives, and explosives are NOT accepted at any time. HHW accepted at these Friday-only collections includes:

- ◆ Paint and paint-related items, such as water sealer, paint thinners, enamels, and polyurethane – \$2.00 per gallon with a 20-gallon limit
- ◆ All flammable liquids (gasoline, kerosene, etc.) – Recycling fee of \$2.00 per gallon
- ◆ Pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, motor oil, antifreeze, and lead-acid batteries – No charge
- ◆ Rechargeable batteries, such as Nickel Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride, Lithium Ion, Nickel Zinc, and Small Sealed Lead batteries found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital

cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, and remote control toys – No charge for typical household quantities

Electronics are accepted at no charge from residents; however, there is a limit of three televisions or computers per month. Under North Carolina law, electronics cannot be mixed with household trash or disposed in landfills. The following items must be separated out of loads and brought to the electronics recycling area: calculators; cell phones; computers, such as monitors (limit three per month), CPUs, and keyboards; copiers; fax machines; stereos; telephones; televisions (limit three per month); VCRs and DVD players; video cameras; and similar items. Businesses are able to drop off electronics for a recycling fee, but special arrangements need to be made prior to acceptance. Contact the Solid Waste Department prior to arrival. Proof of County residency is required.

Please call the Landfill at 250-5462 if you have questions about the HHW and electronics program.



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Landfill programs continue to expand

As you read on the front page, we have added another great new program at the Buncombe County Landfill—cooking oil recycling. No matter where you live in Buncombe County, you can drop materials at the landfill for recycling or proper disposal.

These items are accepted at no charge for recycling:

- ◆ Used cooking oil
- ◆ Newspaper, office paper, magazines and catalogs, and mixed paper
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard
- ◆ Bottles and jars, including plastic bottles (milk jugs, soft drink bottles, laundry detergent jugs, and shampoo bottles); aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; and steel cans
- ◆ Lead-acid batteries
- ◆ Motor oil and used oil filters
- ◆ White goods, including stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, and all metals
- ◆ Empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers
- ◆ Empty propane tanks (20-pound, gas grill type ONLY)

You may also recycle tires. Each year, residents may recycle 10 tires without rims at no charge. After that, tires may be recycled at \$2 per tire. All tires on rims (even the first 10) are \$2 per tire.

You can drop off household trash, as well as bulky waste, construction and demolition waste, and yard waste, at the Landfill. There is a fee to dispose of trash, bulky waste, wood pallets, and yard waste. Fees are lower for clean pallets and yard waste than for trash.

The Landfill is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have questions, call the Landfill at 250-5462.

Household hazardous waste and electronics are accepted at the Landfill *on Fridays only*, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., excluding Fridays around a holiday. Some fees do apply.

Directions to the Buncombe County Landfill:

From I-240 East or West, take Exit 4A to 19/23 North. Travel 1 mile and then take UNC-A exit. At the end of the exit, turn left. Go to traffic light and turn right onto 251 North. Continue on 251 North for 9 miles to Panther Branch Road. Turn right onto Panther Branch Road and travel 1/10 of a mile to the Buncombe County Landfill, which is located on the right. The new landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.



Free recycling at the Transfer Station

Bagged trash accepted for a fee

If you don't have curbside trash and recycling service, you can deliver your residential household waste and recyclables to the Transfer Station.

Residential household waste must be bagged, and there is a fee for disposal.

The Transfer Station accepts these recyclables at no charge:

- ◆ Newspaper and brown paper bags
- ◆ Office paper and mail
- ◆ Magazines and catalogs
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard
- ◆ Recyclable bottles, jugs, and jars, including plastic bottles and jugs with tapered necks; aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass; and steel cans
- ◆ Appliances
- ◆ Lead-acid batteries
- ◆ Drained oil filters

In addition, you can drop off reusable corrugated moving boxes and shipping cartons for reuse. (Please break down and flatten the boxes.) We also accept medical equipment, such as wheelchairs and crutches, for reuse. Plus, you can drop off "sharps," such as needles and lancets, and non-infectious medical waste from in-home care. Please place sharps and other medical waste into an approved sharps container (available at pharmacies) or in a sturdy, thick-walled plastic jug.

All other garbage items, including bulky waste, construction and demolition debris, mattresses, wood, and other oversized items, must be disposed of at the Buncombe County Landfill.

The Buncombe County Transfer Station's hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have questions, call the Transfer Station at 250-6205.

Directions to the Transfer Station:

From I-240, take exit 1B (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. Turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left. From I-40, take exit 47 (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. After crossing I-240, turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.



2012 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE BUNCOMBE COUNTY LANDFILL & TRANSFER STATION			
Holiday/Date Observed	Transfer Station	Landfill	HHW & Electronics Recycling
New Year's Day, January 2	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	Open regular hours, Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, January 16	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	Open regular hours, Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Good Friday, April 6	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	CLOSED Friday, April 6
Memorial Day, May 28	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	CLOSED Friday, May 26
Independence Day, July 4	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	CLOSED Friday, July 6
Labor Day, September 3	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	CLOSED Friday, August 30
Veteran's Day, November 12	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	Open regular hours, Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Thanksgiving, November 22	CLOSED	CLOSED	
Thanksgiving Holiday, November 23	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	CLOSED Friday, November 23
Christmas Eve, December 24	Closing at 3 p.m.	Closing at 3 p.m.	CLOSED Friday, December 21
Christmas Day, December 25	CLOSED	CLOSED	
Day after Christmas, December 26	Open Regular Hours	Open Regular Hours	



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Drop-Off Recycling Centers
Open 24/7

Curbside Management
Drop-Off Center
116 N. Woodfin Avenue

Curbside Management
Drop-Off Center
675 Merrimon Avenue
Behind Asheville Pizza

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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