

“One Person’s Trash...”

your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling



Buncombe County
Solid Waste Department

828-250-5462

www.buncombecounty.org/green

Winter 2016

Cleaner Home, Cleaner Earth

There's no time like the holidays to kick-start recycling and reuse efforts, just in time for the new year! Start 2016 off right by making sure all your holiday scraps are properly disposed, reused, or recycled. Not only will you have a cleaner home, but you'll also help us have a cleaner environment!

Holiday Trees

With our holiday tree recycling program, “undecking” the halls has never been easier.

Once you remove and put away your ornaments, lights, and

garland, as well as the stand, you can recycle your tree. The

Buncombe County

Landfill accepts real, fresh-cut Christmas

trees at no charge from residents who are bringing trees from their homes. 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 Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Commercial haulers and businesses will be charged the standard yard waste fee for Christmas trees. This fee is \$20 per ton of yard waste.

Wrapping Paper and Boxes

Now that your tree is on its way to a second life, let's give wrapping supplies the same chance. Any usable wrapping paper, boxes,

bags, bows, or tissue paper can be folded and stored for next year. If you're careful when opening presents, this should provide most of next year's supply.

Any boxes beyond reuse can be broken down and recycled. Be sure to remove tissue, plastic bags, and other packing material. Wrapping paper and holiday cards are also recyclable, as long as they are not metallic or metal-flecked.

Ribbons or bows, however, go into the trash. Bags not suitable for gifts can be turned into storage for your extra bows or tissue paper.

Replaced Toys and Unwanted Gifts

Some of the gifts wrapped in those bags and bows might have replaced old toys or become unwanted toys themselves. Some stores will accept new toys without a receipt in exchange for store credit. You can always donate new or gently used toys, as well

as clothes and other goods that have been replaced, to a local charity or to Goodwill and The Salvation Army.

Batteries

The new toys here to stay might need batteries. Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries for these gifts. Rechargeable batteries can be reused multiple times with the help of a charging dock. However, even rechargeables eventually die. When this happens, be sure to recycle them. Harmful chemicals and metals in rechargeable batteries don't belong in landfills and can be recycled to make new batteries. You can recycle rechargeable batteries at home improvement stores, such as Lowe's and Home Depot, or at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection area at the Buncombe County Landfill. During HHW drop-off hours, there is no charge for typical household quantities of batteries. The HHW drop-off will be open two Fridays per month through the winter months.

Alkaline batteries do not contain hazardous chemicals and can be disposed in the trash.

Bulky Waste

Finally, your larger gifts, like a washer or a rug, need special consideration when you dispose of their predecessors. Check with local charities to see what types of working and usable large-scale items they accept. There is no charge to recycle large appliances at the transfer station or the landfill. Bulky items, such as old furniture and mattresses, must be disposed as trash at the landfill. Fees will apply and are prorated based upon weight. The current rate for residential waste is \$43 per ton, with a \$10

minimum for the first 460 pounds. For locations and hours of the transfer station and landfill, see page 4.

If you have curbside trash service, contact your hauler to ask about bulky waste collections and fees.

Electronics

More than likely, someone in your household got some new electronics. Perhaps it was a new TV, computer, tablet, e-reader, iPod/MP3 player, game system, or smartphone. If those new electronics replaced something you already owned and now no longer need, don't throw your old electronics into your trash! All electronics, no matter how small, contain chemicals and metals that can be harmful to the environment when mixed with household trash. Plus, these metals and other components can be used to create new electronics. Sell or donate usable and unwanted electronics. No takers? Recycle them, along with any electronics that no longer work.

Electronics are accepted on certain Fridays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at a special drop-off area at the Buncombe County Landfill. From January through March, this area will be open two Fridays per month. When this area is open, you can recycle televisions, computers, and other electronics. The fees to recycle televisions are \$5 for each TV less than 19" and \$10 for each TV 19" and larger. There is no charge to residents for the first three computers per week, but over and above that the fee is 30¢ per pound for additional items.

Now that you have a freshly cleaned home and a head start on your environmentally cleaner year, brainstorm ways to reduce your holiday waste next year. It's never too early for earth-friendly holiday resolutions!



After you've enjoyed the feast, recycle the grease!

During the holiday season, people do lots of cooking. Please make sure you are disposing of your cooking waste properly. Pouring warm grease and cold oil down your drain causes major clogs in the pipes in your home and in sewers that run under our streets. Please NEVER pour fats, oil, or grease down the drain! Instead, recycle your oil and grease through the Cooking Oil Recycling Program in Buncombe County.

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 a cooking oil recycling bin. To find the bin nearest you, go to www.cookingoilrecycling.org.
4. Carefully pour the oil into the recycling bin.
5. Take your oil container home so that you can use it the next time you fry.

Blue Ridge Biofuels picks up the used cooking oil and turns it into biodiesel, which can be used in any diesel engine. Biodiesel is better for the environment and produces fewer emissions than traditional diesel fuel. In addition, biodiesel created locally supports our local economy and creates jobs here in Western North Carolina.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND TELEVISION/ELECTRONICS SCHEDULE

At the Buncombe County Landfill, residents can drop off old televisions, computers, and other electronics, as well as unneeded household chemicals, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, and spent rechargeable household batteries. All of these items are accepted in a special collection area which is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. only on these Fridays during 2016:

- January 8 and 22
- February 5 and 19
- March 4 and 18
- April 8, 15, 22, and 29
- May 6, 13, and 20
- June 3, 10, 17, and 24
- July 8, 15, 22, and 29
- August 5, 12, 19, and 26
- September 9, 16, 23, and 30
- October 7, 14, 21, and 28
- November 4 and 18
- December 2, 9, and 16

When you get to the landfill scale house, you will be directed to the disposal area. Proof of county residency is required. If you have questions, please call the landfill at 828-250-5462.

Capture more of your paper for recycling

On average, each American recycles 321 pounds of paper and cardboard per year. However, recent studies have found that about 15% of the material in the trash each week is also recyclable paper and cardboard.

Are you ready to boost your paper recycling? Here are seven things you can do to be a smart consumer and keep paper out of landfills:

- Keep a recycling bin next to your trash can and in spots where paper is heavily used, like your desk or family room. Clearly mark each bin to keep the trash out!
- Know what paper you can recycle. You can recycle all of these items in your curbside recycling cart: newspaper, office and printer paper, mail and envelopes, cardboard, paperboard boxes, kraft paper bags, cardstock, file

folders, phone book pages, and tubes from empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls.

- Use both sides of paper before recycling it. Print drafts on the back of used printer paper or keep a stack for use as notepaper.
- Reuse file folders and envelopes by covering old information with sticky labels.
- Sort your email and documents into electronic folders instead of printing them. If you aren't sure how to do this, find step-by-step instructions online by searching for "organize email" or "organize computer files."
- Check labels on paper products and look for the words "recycled content," which tell you the paper was made using recovered paper. Many stores carry recycled-content printer paper,



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notebooks, loose-leaf paper, note cards, Post-its, greeting cards, and more. Making recycled paper uses 64% less energy and 58% less water than making

the same type of paper from virgin natural resources.

- Strive to purchase post-consumer recycled-content paper. "Post consumer" means that the recycled paper used to make the product came from a program like ours. Buying this paper helps complete the recycling circle and helps create demand for paper from local recycling programs.

For more information about paper recycling in America, visit www.paperrecycles.org.

Fluorescent Light Bulb Program Has Ended



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Effective December 12, 2015 fluorescent light bulbs are no longer accepted at participating fire departments.

The Buncombe County Landfill is permitted to accept fluorescent bulbs with regular waste, so you may include them with your trash.

For those wishing to recycle fluorescent light bulbs, the following options exist:

- Lowe's and Home Depot will accept small screw-in type bulbs but not the tube type.
- Fluorescent bulbs may be recycled at the landfill only during Household Hazardous Waste days. Please check www.buncombecounty.org for cost and other details.

Buncombe County Landfill Convenience Center



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.



85 Panther Branch Road, Alexander
828-250-5462
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.;
Saturday, 8 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

Buncombe County Transfer Station Convenience Center



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.



191 Hominy Creek Road, Asheville
828-250-6205
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.;
Saturday, 8 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

Important Phone Numbers for County Residents

Mobile Home Removal/Environmental Control – Roger Presley	828-250-5470
Junk Yards/Junk Cars – Geoff Noblitt	828-250-4847
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

Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents

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



We want your suggestions, questions and comments!
Buncombe County
Solid Waste Department
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www.buncombecounty.org

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