

# KANE COUNTY RECYCLES GREEN GUIDE 2024

Welcome to the Green Guide! This booklet, along with our website, aims to help Kane County residents recycle right and reduce waste.

I began in the role of County Recycling Coordinator in early 2022, and since then have learned ever so much! I wanted to share my top three take-aways here:

**1. Recycling is real.**

Having visited five facilities in Illinois that sort and process various materials, I've seen first hand the substantial investments in equipment and labor that make recycling work. In 2022, waste haulers collected 64,000 tons of curbside recyclables from Kane County residents.

**2. Recycling is confusing.**

What is and isn't accepted in recycling programs changes with time and place. Plastic items that can't be recycled sometimes have recycling symbols printed on them anyway. Some materials can only be recycled at special drop-offs, and there is no drop-off that takes everything. Frustrating! We're lucky in Illinois to have some great resources like the curbside recycling guidelines in the centerfold of this guide, which was developed by consensus among state recycling experts. Even so, I don't blame anyone for being confused about recycling. Please ask questions and do the best you can.

**3. Recycling is part of the solution.**

However, it isn't a silver bullet. While almost anything can be recycled in theory, there are limits to technology and market demand so that certain everyday items are not recycled in practice. In these pages, I hope to encourage you to consider reusing durable items as much as possible, either in your own home or through resale or donation. However, consumers alone shouldn't carry the burden of reducing waste. We need businesses and policy makers to be involved in reimagining products and packaging to be more sustainable. I've been encouraged by the success of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies in Illinois and elsewhere, that require manufacturers to take an economic stake in the end-of-life management of their products. Successful EPR efforts at the state level have increased access to electronics recycling (see p2) and safe medication disposal (box, p5), and new options will be coming for paint next year (box, p3). However, there's a lot more to do to make comprehensive recycling available to all.

Clair Ryan, Kane County Recycling Coordinator

[www.countyofkane.org/recycling](http://www.countyofkane.org/recycling)  
630-208-3841  
[recycle@countyofkane.org](mailto:recycle@countyofkane.org)

## NEW IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING: PAPER CUPS

Paper cups for hot and cold beverages are now recyclable through curbside programs. Advancements in paper pulping technology allow the paper fiber in the cups to be recovered from the plastic lining. For successful recycling, cups must be empty (no ice or coffee dregs) and clean (give a quick rinse for residues), and lids, straws and stirrers should be removed and put in the trash. If you buy a lot of carry-out drinks, invest in a quality reusable cup!



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# RECYCLING CENTERS

## LOCATIONS & ACCEPTED ITEMS:



### BATAVIA

517 E. Fabian Pkwy.  
Mon - Fri, 8am - 4pm



### WEST DUNDEE

Dept. of Public Works  
900 Angle Tarn  
Mon - Fri, 7am - 3pm



### AURORA

Ace Hardware  
994 N. Lake St.

Monthly first Saturdays, 9am - noon



### ELBURN

LRS, 1N138 Linlar Dr.  
Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 2:30pm

\*Pre-registration req'd for this site only; call 844-633-3577\*

## CENTER RECYCLING COSTS

eWorks Electronics Services, Inc., the County's non-profit recycling collection partner, charges fees on TVs and computer monitors:

- \$25 for items with screens less than 21 inches, measured diagonally
- \$35 for items with screens 21 inches or larger
- Cash & cards accepted at Batavia, W. Dundee & Aurora
- Fees for Elburn must be paid over the phone upon registration 844-633-3577

Fees for aerosols and small propane tanks (Batavia only):

- \$1 for aerosols
- \$3 for propane tanks (16.4 oz. or smaller)

ELECTRONICS	CLOTHING & TEXTILES	BOOKS, PAPER, CARDBOARD	METAL & LARGE APPLIANCES	AEROSOLS	TAPES & DISCS
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓			
✓	✓	✓			
✓					

Sites are closed on most major holidays - call or check County website for closure info.

eWorks is R2v3 certified by Sustainable Electronics Recycling International. This certification requires strict adherence to environmental and data security best practices.

## ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED (SEE PAGES 8 - 10 FOR SOLUTIONS)

Devices containing refrigerant including fridges, freezers, ice makers, A/C units, and dehumidifiers; loose batteries; light bulbs; large cabinet speakers; non metal furniture; mattresses; spiral bound books; Styrofoam; dirty, wet, moldy, or bug infested textile or paper fiber items (stains that won't wash out are fine!); empty CD, DVD or tape cases. Please check website, call or email the Recycling Coordinator (see front cover) with item acceptance questions.



## CENTER ATTENDANTS

Batavia, W. Dundee & Aurora are fully staffed by eWorks during open hours. Staff will help residents to unload heavy or bulky items and will process payments. The Elburn location is staffed by LRS.

## KIOSK IN BATAVIA

We have a new self-service kiosk at the Center in Batavia for the following small items: non-liquid art and school supplies, eye glasses and hearing aids, ink-jet cartridges, multi-beverage holders (both can caddies and multi-pack rings).



# 2024 RECYCLING EVENTS

## COUNTY EVENT INFO & DATES:



**Shred & More, Sat., May 4th, 8am - noon, 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles**

**Featuring:** Confidential document shredding, collection of clothing, textiles and small home goods, liquid latex paint\*, aerosols\*, child car seats\* and small propane tanks.\*

**Recycling Extravaganza, Sat., July 20th, 8am - noon, 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles**

**Featuring:** Collection of electronics\*, clothing, shoes, books, Styrofoam, bikes & bike accessories, batteries, fluorescent lights, liquid latex paint\*, aerosols\*, child car seats\* and small propane tanks.\* (call or check website for full item list closer to event date)

**Shred & More, Sat., Sept. 28th, 8am - noon, 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles**

**Featuring:** Same as May 4th event, above

**Campaign Sign Recycling, November (tent.)** - call or check website for details in the fall

**Pumpkin Composting, November (tent.)** - call or check website for details in the fall

\*= fees apply, see bottom of page

## CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT SHREDDING INFO:

- Shredding is free but limited to the residential shredding needs of Kane County residents (**household/personal records only - no business records**)
- Documents are shredded on site by mobile shredding trucks
- Quantity limit of one car load (~4 standard bankers boxes) per household per event
- Please remove all three-ring binders, metal file hangars, and large binder clips; small fasteners like paper clips and staples are not an issue
- Please do not bring any of the following as they are either not confidential or not recyclable: magazines, catalogues, junk mail, photographs and photo albums, cash register receipts, greeting cards (especially those with batteries), school papers

## EVENT RECYCLING FEES:

**Latex paint by can size:** quart or less is \$1; gallon is \$3; 2-gallon is \$5; 5-gallon is \$15

**Aerosols:** \$1 each

**Propane Tanks (16.4 oz. or smaller):** \$3 each

**Car Seats/Boosters:** \$10 each

**TVs/Monitors:** \$25-\$35 (see opposite page)



## NEW PAINT RECYCLING OPTIONS COMING SOON

In 2023 the IL General Assembly passed the Paint Stewardship Act, that will change the way unwanted paint is collected for recycling. There will be a fee added to each can of new paint sold in the state, but dropping off paint for recycling will be free, and there will likely be many more drop-off opportunities available. The sales fees will likely be smaller than the current per-can recycling fees that most paint recyclers charge, because paint manufacturers will cover some of the costs. The new program is expected to start in 2025. Check our website and future Green Guides for details!

## WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS!

The success of Kane County's recycling events depend on community volunteers! We can find tasks to suit most activity levels and can sign off on hours for various programs. Call or email to join us (contact info on front cover).





# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

## WHAT IS HHW?

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is waste material used and stored in homes that poses a hazard in the waste stream. These materials are usually either toxic to people and the environment and/or are highly flammable or corrosive. Several common HHW materials are listed below.

**black** = accepted at Naperville & County home collection program  
**green** = accepted through County home collection program but not at Naperville

\* = prohibited from landfill disposal by state law

Aerosols

Antifreeze

Batteries, Lead Acid\*

Batteries, Other Rechargeable

**Batteries, Single-use/Alkaline**

Fire Extinguishers

Fluorescent Light Bulbs & Tubes

Gasoline & Other Fuels

Household Cleaners

**Paint, Latex/Water-based**

Paint, Oil-based

Pesticides

Propane Tanks

Lawn Chemicals

Mercury-containing Items

Motor Oil\*

Pool Chemicals

Strong Acids & Bases

## GREEN TIP!

By far the most common HHW items are lawn chemicals and paint. Plan your lawncare and painting projects carefully to avoid over-buying!

## DROP-OFF



**What:** Naperville Household Hazardous Waste Facility

**Where:** 156 Fort Hill Drive, Naperville, IL 60540

**When:** every Saturday & Sunday, 9am - 2pm (closed major holidays)

**Accepting:** Residential HHW in open containers from any Illinois household **for free**

**Contact:** 630-420-6095, Mon - Fri, 7am - 4pm with questions

**Did You Know:** The Naperville HHW Facility is one of only five IEPA- supported HHW facilities in the state.



## HOME COLLECTION (ELIGIBLE AREAS)



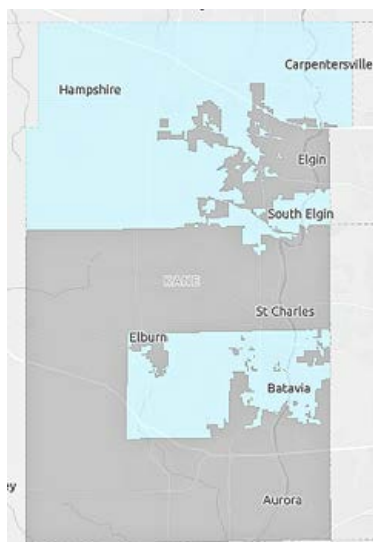
**What:** Once-per-year **free** home collection of HHW

**Eligibility** (blue areas on map inset below are eligible)

- Kane County addresses in any of the following municipalities: Algonquin, Batavia, Burlington, Carpentersville, East Dundee, Geneva, Gilberts, Hampshire, Huntley, Pingree Grove, Sleepy Hollow, South Elgin, West Dundee
- Unincorporated addresses within the bounds of the following townships and SSA: Blackberry, Burlington, Dundee, Elgin, Hampshire, Plato, Rutland, Mill Creek Special Service Area

**Eligibility Questions:** Kane County Recycling Coordinator, 630-208-3841

**Booking & Item Questions:** Clean Harbors Environmental Services, 866-466-5060



## OTHER OPTIONS?

Some municipalities secure HHW collection services as part of their regular trash & recycling contracts. City of Elgin and Maple Park residents can use the WM At-Your-Door service: 800-449-7587. Village of Hampshire and Village of Sugar Grove residents can call their hauler about HHW service by using the contacts provided on the back cover of this guide.

## BATTERIES



Battery recycling is challenging for two main reasons: 1) batteries cannot be recycled in curbside recycling bins, and 2) the right place to drop batteries off for recycling depends on the battery type. The most important batteries to recycle carefully are rechargeable batteries used in electronic devices, power tools, etc. **Please never place rechargeable batteries in regular trash or recycling bins as they can start fires in waste processing facilities.** Instead, take them to a site listed below, use an HHW program (opposite page) or take them to any Lowes or Home Depot location for recycling. Note that Kane County's Recycling locations (see p2) cannot accept loose batteries.

Single-use, non-rechargeable batteries, especially the very common alkaline type, are costly to recycle and contain no hazardous materials, so fewer locations accept them, and many that do charge fees based on quantity. If recycling alkaline batteries is not practical, it is safe to throw them in regular trash.

## DROP-OFFS - ALL SMALL/HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES (LOCATIONS LISTED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH)

**Batteries + Bulbs**, 1497 S. Randall, Algonquin (call for costs & hours - 847-802-8858)

**Elgin Fire Dept. Station 2**, 650 Big Timber Rd., Elgin (24/7 access, free)

**Pingree Grove Fire Protection District**, 39W160 Plank Rd., Elgin (24/7 access, free)

**Batteries + Bulbs**, 352 Randall Rd., Elgin (call for costs & hours - 847-289-8990)

**Elgin Township Highway Dept.**, 725 S. McLean Blvd., Elgin (24/7 access, free)

**Elgin Fire District Annex**, 8N709 Stevens Rd., Elgin (24/7 access, free)

**St. Charles Dept. of Public Works**, 1405 S. 7th Ave., St. Charles (M-F, 7am - 3pm, free)

**Flat Can Recycling**, 732 Hicks Dr., Elburn (call for costs & hours - 630-400-4903)

**Geneva Dept. of Public Works**, 1800 South St., Geneva (M-F, 7am - 3pm, free)

**Batteries + Bulbs**, 1492 S. Randall Rd., Geneva (call for costs & hours - 630-313-5700)

**Batteries Unlimited**, 83 S. River St., Aurora (call for costs & hours - 630-340-4601)

## LIGHT BULBS & TUBES



Recycling efforts for household lighting should focus on fluorescent lights (both compact bulbs and tubes) and LEDs. Older light bulb types, including simple incandescent bulbs, cannot be recycled and should be put in regular trash. **Kane County has partnered with the Ace Hardware located at 617 W. State St. in Geneva to accept all fluorescent lights and LEDs from County residents at no cost year-round.** The Batteries + Bulbs locations listed above accept most lightbulb types but may charge fees per item; call stores for details. Many big box hardware stores also accept compact fluorescent bulbs for free recycling. Give your favorite store a call or ask at customer service. Kane County's recycling locations (p2) cannot accept light bulbs.

## INDUSTRY-FUNDED MEDICATION TAKE-BACK

The Illinois Drug Take-Back Act went fully into effect on December 1, 2023, requiring pharmaceutical companies to fund programs providing at least 10 medication take-back kiosks in Kane County for old and unwanted prescription medications. According to the program plans submitted to the IEPA, we will actually have 20 funded kiosks! There isn't space to list all 20 here, and several of them have been in place previously and are just switching the source of funding. There are new collection kiosks at:

- Elburn Police Dept.
- Hampshire Police Dept.
- Hampshire Pharmacy
- Medical Park Pharmacy (Aurora)
- Presence-Mercy Pharmacy (Aurora)
- St. Joseph's Hospital (Elgin)

If you need help finding the closest medication drop-off site to your home, visit the medications page of our website or call 630-208-3841 for assistance. Residents may request mail-back packages for medication, either online or by calling either one of the two state program operators:

- Inmar: 1-833-445-2382
- MED-Project: 1-844-633-7765

# RECYCLING GUIDELINES

# YES!



## METAL

Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil



## PAPER

Cardboard (flattened),  
Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines

**Clean & Empty**

Replace lids & caps

**Put material in loose  
- Not in bags**



## GLASS

Containers: Bottles & Jars Only



## PLASTIC

Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs,  
and Jars Only



## CARTONS

# NO!



**No Plastic Bags  
No Plastic Wrap**

(return clean to retailer)



**No Big Items** (Electronics, Wood,  
Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal or Styrofoam –  
see [countyofkane.org/recycling](http://countyofkane.org/recycling) for other recycling options)



**No Tangles** (Hangers, Hoses,  
Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains)



**No Clothing**  
Textiles or Shoes (donate)



**No Food, Liquid, Diapers,  
Batteries or Needles**



**No Shredded Paper**  
(see [countyofkane.org/recycling](http://countyofkane.org/recycling) for other recycling options)

These Guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. For greater detail on specific items or programmatic variations, reach out to your local authority.

To find out more detail, including recycling and reuse programs beyond the bin, visit [countyofkane.org/recycling](http://countyofkane.org/recycling), or contact [recycle@countyofkane.org](mailto:recycle@countyofkane.org) or 630-208-3841.

Also see the EPA online resource at

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/Pages/recycling.aspx>





# DIRECTRICES PARA EL RECICLAJE

# ¡SÍ!



## METAL

Envases de acero/aluminio y papel de aluminio



## PAPEL

Cartón (aplanado), papel de oficina, periódico, revistas



## VIDRIO

Botellas y frascos solamente



## PLÁSTICO

Botellas, jarras, y recipientes de plástico solamente

**Limpios y vacíos**  
DEJE LAS TAPADERAS PUESTAS



**ENVASES DE CARTÓN PARA ALIMENTOS Y BEBIDAS**

# ¡NO!



**No coloque los reciclables en bolsas**



**No bolsas ni envolturas de plástico**

(Limpie y regrese estas al comerciante donde las obtuvo)



**No a los artículos que se enredan**

(Ganchos, mangueras, alambres, cordones, cuerdas y cadenas)



**No artículos grandes**

(Electrónicos, madera, tanques de propano, deshecho metálico, o uncel - Para otras opciones de reciclaje, visite a [swalco.org](http://swalco.org) y consulte a nuestra guía en línea "Where Do I Recycle This?" (¿Dónde reciclo esto?)



**No comida, líquidos, pañales, baterías ni agujas/jeringas**



**No artículos de ropa, textiles ni zapatos**

(Visite a [swalco.org](http://swalco.org) para una lista de los sitios de colección de ropa, textiles, o sitios de colección de zapatos para reutilización)

These Guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. For greater detail on specific items or programmatic variations, reach out to your local authority.

To find out more detail, including recycling and reuse programs beyond the bin, visit [countyofkane.org/recycling](http://countyofkane.org/recycling), or contact [recycle@countyofkane.org](mailto:recycle@countyofkane.org) or 630-208-3841.

Also see the EPA online resource at

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/Pages/recycling.aspx>



# REUSE & RECYCLING A - Z

The Kane County Recycling Program Coordinator answers over 1,000 resident questions about how to recycle or otherwise dispose of all kinds of things every year. Our full A-Z list of hard-to-recycle items is on our website ([www.countyofkane.org/recycling](http://www.countyofkane.org/recycling)). The next few pages include solutions for some of the most asked about items.

**Aerosol Cans:** Cans for non-hazardous products (e.g. foods, shaving cream) that are completely empty can go in curbside recycling. All aerosols are accepted for \$1 per item at our Batavia recycling center (p2) and at Flat Can Recycling (732 Hicks Dr., Elburn). Aerosols are also accepted through HHW programs (p4).

**Appliances:** Modern, working appliances are great candidates for reuse. Try online reuse options (see box, p10), a garage sale, or donation. Most thrift stores accept small appliances in working order. Habitat for Humanity ReStore (800 N. State St., Elgin) accepts both small and larger items.

Kane County Recycling Centers accept appliances without refrigerants for recycling (p2). Aurora, Batavia and West Dundee locations accept small appliances. Batavia can also accept larger refrigerant-free items.

Federal law requires that refrigerant be recovered from appliances like A/C units, fridges, freezers and dehumidifiers prior to recycling. These items are most easily and cheaply disposed of curbside (call your hauler, p12). Elgin Recycling (660 Schiller St., Elgin & 161 Center Dr., Gilberts) accepts drop off of these items with a refrigerant reclamation fee. Call 847-972-6574 for current pricing.

## GREEN TIP!

Americans today buy and discard more clothing and textile than ever before. On average, we throw away 81.5 lbs. per person each year. Despite resale, donation and recycling options, about 66% of textile discards are landfilled. A lot of low quality clothing is shipped overseas where it may end up at unregulated dump sites. Collectively, we need to rethink our relationship to clothes and invest in quality over quantity.

**Art & Craft Supplies:** Now accepted at our Batavia kiosk to benefit local non-profits (p2). Association for Individual Development in Aurora also accepts art supplies directly - call 847-931-2292 to arrange.

**Batteries:** See page 5.

**Books:** Reuse is best for fiction and current non-fiction. Donate to your public library book sale, a Free Little Library, a church or daycare center, a thrift store, or sell/trade to a local used book shop or an online trader. Kane County takes books for recycling in Aurora, Batavia and West Dundee (p2). No spiral bindings, please!

**Car Seats/Boosters:** Accepted by Flat Can Recycling at Kane County's recycling events (p3) and Flat Can's site at 732 Hicks Dr., Elburn. There is a fee of \$10 per item.

**Clothing, Shoes, Textiles:** Reuse is best, and the closer to home the better. Can you have ill-fitting or slightly damaged items repaired or tailored to keep them in your closet for longer? Otherwise, try online reuse options (see box, p10), a garage sale, or donation. Options for clothing donation are nearly endless, with numerous thrift stores and donation bins to choose from. Some of these directly benefit local non-profits. For example, clothing and textiles brought to Kane County's recycling centers (p2) are sold to benefit eWorks' job skills training programs for developmentally disabled students in the region. Most large thrift stores, clothing bins, and the County Centers (p2) can accept items that are permanently stained, torn or damaged, as long as they are clean and dry. These items are generally recycled into insulation, shop rags, carpet padding, upholstery stuffing, and other industrial uses.





**Exercise Equipment:** Reuse is best! Can a replacement part or service technician bring a stalled treadmill back to life? For working unwanted equipment, try online reuse options (see box, p10), a garage sale, or donation. Association for Individual Development (309 New Indian Trail Ct., Aurora) takes working treadmills and stationary bikes - call 847-931-2292 for info. Cash4Treadmills is a Chicago region company that buys gently used whole machines and parts. See cashfortreadmills.com or call 847-404-6054. Worn out equipment generally goes in the trash - call your hauler (p12) about bulk item pick up. Metal items like free weights, pull-up bars, and any metal machine component can be brought to the Batavia recycle center (p2) or to any metal scrap dealer. Kane County sites cannot accept whole exercise machines.

**Furniture:** Reuse is best for items in decent condition. Can a piece that's gotten slightly shabby be restrained or reupholstered? Or, try online reuse options (see box, p10), a garage sale, or donation. Habitat for Humanity ReStore (800 N. State St., Elgin), Wayside Cross (215 E. New York St., Aurora) and St. Vincent De Paul/DejaVu (911 Sullivan Rd., Aurora) take furniture and may offer pick up. Junk hauling companies will also facilitate furniture donation. Worn out/broken furniture generally goes in the trash - call your hauler (p12) about bulk item pick up. Metal items or components can be brought to the Batavia recycle center (p2) or to any metal scrap dealer.

**Light Bulbs & Tubes:** See page 5.

**Mattresses & Box Springs:** A like-new item may be sold or given away online (see box, p10). Most thrift stores and charities do not take used mattresses. There are companies that specialize in mattress collection for recycling, including Bedder World (abedderworld.com, 720-263-6094) and Mattress Disposal + (mattressdisposalplus.com, 877-708-8329). Most non-specialized junk removal companies will also collect mattresses and send them for recycling when possible. The least expensive option is likely to be curbside disposal to the landfill though your regular waste hauler (p12). Call first for details and requirements.

**Medications:** See box on page 5.

**Media Items (CDs, DVDs, VHS, etc.):** Reuse is best for commercially recorded items in playable condition. Donate to a thrift store, or sell/trade to a local used record shop or an online trader. Kane County facilitates local reuse of unwanted media items through collection at our Batavia recycling center (p2). The company GreenDisk (greendisk.com) has an affordable self-pack option to mail items for recycling. This is a good option for empty cases and damaged/unsellable items. Otherwise, these items should be put in regular trash.

**Motor Oil:** See HHW programs (p4). Additionally, many chain auto parts stores will accept residential quantities of used oil for little or no cost. It is illegal to put used motor oil in regular trash in Illinois.

**Plastic Bags and Films:** Where possible, it's best to avoid single use plastic bags by choosing reusable bags or boxes. Area chains that participate in the NexTrex program to collect plastic film for use in composite decking include Fresh Thyme, Jewel-Osco, Kohl's, Mariano's, Meijer, and Save-A-Lot. Kiosks at these stores accept shopping bags, case wrap, bubble wrap, bubble mailers, shipping bags, and other flexible, stretchable, non-crinkly plastic film items. See nextrex.com for more info. **Please do not put plastic bags or any flexible plastic items in your regular recycling cart or container!**

**Sharps/Needles:** The Kane County Coroner's Office (37W699 Rt.38, St. Charles) accepts sharps from human residential use at no cost. Sharps for drop-off should be in a sturdy plastic container one gallon or smaller, clearly marked as sharps and sealed closed with duct tape. Hours are M-F, 8:30am - 4:30pm, 630-232-3535. Ask your doctor's or vet's office about other options they may have available. There are also sharps mail-back kits for purchase through multiple companies online. As a last resort, sharps that are containerized as described above can be placed in regular household trash - **not recycling**.

**Shredded Paper:** Kane County's Aurora, Batavia and West Dundee locations (p2) accept residential quantities of shredded paper in paper bags stapled closed. Do not place shredded paper in regular recycling. **Note: Kane County sites do not offer routine shredding service, but see p3 for shredding events.**

# A - Z, CONTINUED

**Six-Pack Rings and Can Caddies:** Both traditional flexible six-pack rings and snap on can caddies are accepted at our Batavia kiosk (p2). Can caddies are also accepted at Heartland Beverage (750 N. 17th St.) and Riverlands Brewing (1860 Dean St., Unit A) both in St. Charles.



**Smoke & CO Detectors:** All types of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors may be legally placed in normal trash. See p5 for battery recycling options. There are a few mail-in programs for ionization smoke detectors, which contain very small amounts of radioactive material. Contact the device manufacturer or Curie Environmental Services, [curieservices.com](http://curieservices.com), 505-888-9392. Neither Kane County sites nor the Naperville HHW site accept smoke or CO detectors.

**Styrofoam:** There are two recycling drop-offs in the County: Dart Container at 310 Evergreen Drive, North Aurora has a recycling vestibule that accepts packaging foam (marked #6) and clean, bagged take-out containers 24/7. Chicago Logistics Service at 701 Wesemann Dr., West Dundee accepts packing foam (marked #6), clean take-out containers, and containerized foam packing peanuts. Drop off is at rear dock door 109, M-F, 8am - 5pm, call 847-429-1926 for assistance. **Do not put foam material in curbside recycling.**

**Toys:** Reuse is best for toys in good shape. Try online reuse options (see box below), a garage sale, or donation. Most thrift stores accept small toys. Once Upon a Child (250 S. Randall Rd., Elgin & 552 Rt.59 Naperville) buys newer toys for resale. Mattel has a free mail-back program for certain of its brands (including Barbie and Fisher-Price) - web search "Mattel PlayBack" for details.

## THE WIDE WORLD OF REUSE OPTIONS

There is nothing wrong with donating unwanted items to traditional brick-and-mortar thrift stores and charities, especially when the proceeds are used to benefit local communities and neighbors in need. However, thrift stores are often inundated with stuff, and items that don't sell in a relatively short amount of time are either sold off in bulk or sent to landfill by necessity. The internet and various social media platforms have opened up a variety of options for person to person (P2P) giving and selling of second-hand items, including hyper-local options that eliminate the need for shipping. Listing unwanted items on these platforms may take more time than dropping off at a thrift store, as sellers/givers will generally need to post a photo and an item description for each listing. The upside is that items given or sold P2P are more likely to have a robust second life. Always keep safety in mind when selling or giving away items online. Never share personal information with strangers, including phone numbers; it's best to keep communication on the app or website hosting the listing. Consider making all exchanges at public, well-lit places or police station parking lots. Many police stations have a spot reserved just for this purpose!

♥ = platform for free giving  
\$ = platform for selling

### GREEN TIP!

Close the loop by buying high quality second hand items instead of new when practical.

### LOCAL ONLINE P2P GIVING AND RESALE NETWORKS

- ♥ Freecycle.org (add towns based on location)
- ♥ Trashnothing.com (post based on zip code)
- \$ ♥ Craigslist.com (post based on zip code)
- \$ ♥ Offerup.com (post based on zip code)
- ♥ Facebook Groups: Buy Nothing (join group for your town)
- \$ ♥ Facebook Marketplace (join local buy/sell/trade group)
- \$ ♥ Nextdoor.com (post based on neighborhood/zip code)

# USE LESS, USE WISELY

## REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

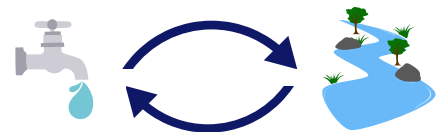


A personal or household carbon footprint is an index value that indicates how much greenhouse gas (typically, carbon dioxide and methane) a person or family generates through everyday activities. The average carbon footprint in the United States is three-to-four times higher than the global average. Here are some tips that residents can follow to tread more lightly on the Earth and save some money on energy costs too!

- Calculate your household footprint at [www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/](http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/)
- Turn off lights & appliances when not in use
- Switch lightbulbs to LEDs
- Install a smart thermostat at home
- Wash your clothes in cold water
- Upgrade to insulating curtains to keep the heat in
- Consider installing solar panels at home - more info: [www.countyofkane.org/sustainability/pages/solar.aspx](http://www.countyofkane.org/sustainability/pages/solar.aspx)
- Choose reusable items like shopping bags, water bottles, coffee mugs, utensils and drinking straws
- Upgrade to high-efficiency/Energy Star appliances



## CONSERVING & PROTECTING WATER



Stormwater runoff generated from rainwater and snowmelt can significantly contribute to water pollution. As water passes over impermeable surfaces, pollutants such as chemicals from vehicles, fertilizers, pesticides, sediment, and debris accumulate. These pollutants end up in streams, lakes, and other water bodies, contributing to poor water quality and posing potential risks to aquatic species. Here are some tips that residents can use to conserve water and reduce pollution:

- Install rain barrels to collect water from gutters; use collected rain to water the lawn and garden
- Upgrade to WaterSense fixtures (ComEd sells low-flow showerheads for as little as \$1 after rebates)
- Never dispose of medication, pesticides, or any other household chemicals down the drain (see pages 4&5)
- Plant drought-resistant native species
- Don't overwater - established landscaping only needs 1" per week to stay green in summer
- Always pick up after your pets
- Install a rain garden or micro-prairie; lots of great info at [theconservationfoundation.org](http://theconservationfoundation.org)
- Use salt and deicing products sparingly and always sweep up any spills; 1 cup is enough for most driveways!

### RAIN BARRELS & COMPOST BINS

Available through Kane County's Spring Sale! More details on the Recycling website (see cover) in the spring. Or, call 630-208-8665 with questions!



For more information on energy & water conservation or County sustainability initiatives, please contact: Sarra Hinshaw, Sustainability Manager, [hinshawsarra@kanecountyil.gov](mailto:hinshawsarra@kanecountyil.gov) 630-208-8665



## FEEDBACK WELCOME!

This guide was produced by the Kane County Department of Environmental & Water Resources.

Please direct any questions or comments to (630) 208-3841 or [recycle@countyofkane.org](mailto:recycle@countyofkane.org).

All listings of private reuse and recycling services and businesses are illustrative and do not constitute County endorsement.

All information in this publication is believed to be accurate and up-to-date at time of publication. For the most up-to-date information, visit the program website at [www.countyofkane.org/recycling](http://www.countyofkane.org/recycling)



Kane County Connects is the official email newsletter and blog of Kane County Government, sharing key community news, events, and of course, recycling tips. Subscribe today at [kanecountyconnects.com](http://kanecountyconnects.com). KCC posts are also shared to the Kane County Government Facebook page!

## MAILING LIST

If you aren't already on our mailing list and would like a copy of the next Green Guide delivered to your door, please call (630) 208-3841 or email [recycle@countyofkane.org](mailto:recycle@countyofkane.org) to be added.



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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 693  
SAINT CHARLES, IL

## CURBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACTS

IF YOU LIVE IN...	YOUR HAULER IS...	CONTACT
East Dundee, Hampshire*, Pingree Grove	Flood Brothers Disposal	(630) 261-0578
Algonquin*	Groot East	(847) 734-6400
Aurora*, Batavia*, North Aurora, Big Rock	Groot Aurora/SW	(630) 892-9294
Bartlett, Burlington*, Carpentersville, Elgin Township, Sleepy Hollow, South Elgin, West Dundee	Groot North	(847) 429-7370
Blackberry Township, Campton Hills, Campton Township, Elburn, Geneva*, Kaneville, Mill Creek SSA, Montgomery, Plato, St. Charles*, Sugar Grove*, Virgil	LRS	(844) 633-3577
Gilberts, Huntley	MDC Enviro. Services	(815) 568-7274
City of Elgin*, Maple Park, Prestbury, Sun City by Del Webb	WM	(800) 964-8988

\* = contract applies to municipality only, not to Township of the same name