

KCB MONTHLY

MAY 2023



Letter from the KCB Board

Why Should We Recycle Batteries?

All forms of recycling are advantageous, as they recover materials that otherwise end up in landfills and could possibly pollute the earth, water, and air. While there might be a strong temptation to throw used, damaged, or defective batteries in the trash, it is important to recycle your batteries. Let's look at several benefits to recycling batteries:

Keeps dangerous materials out of the landfills – When batteries become corroded or damaged, they will leak chemicals into the soil, and could find their way to our waterways. These materials are not only harmful to the environment but also human health. Materials like lead-acid, cadmium, and lithium-ion are among some of the most dangerous environmental pollutants.

Battery recycling reduces the need for new raw materials and conserves resources – Battery production companies use raw-earth materials like lithium, nickel, lead, and cobalt to name a few, to create new batteries. The problem is these materials are non-renewable and are expensive to mine.

Battery recycling promotes the reuse of materials in producing new batteries – Recycling can help extract the raw materials from used batteries and forward them to manufacturing companies for reuse. This also brings down the cost of new batteries, conserves resources, reduces pollution, and contributes to the economy all in one go.

Used batteries can cause fires – When batteries are thrown into the trash or single-stream recycling containers, they typically are emptied into trucks that compact the material. Compressing used or damaged batteries can produce heat which in turn will ignite with other materials and cause fires.

Please make every effort possible to keep batteries out of our waste stream and environment by recycling. Several locations listed below will accept batteries and properly dispose of them in a safe environmentally friendly manner.

1. Cherokee County Recycling Center – 470 Blalock Road, Canton, Ga. 30116, 770-516-4195
2. CHARM – www.livethrive.org 404-600-6386
3. Home Depot / Lowes – please check with locations near you.

4. Battery Recyclers of America – www.batteryrecyclersofamerica.com 800-508-6670/866-230-8641.

We appreciate everyone who works hard to make our County a better place to live.

Vic Knight
Board Member
Keep Cherokee Beautiful

The Great American Cleanup



As of the publication of this edition of the KCB newsletter, we are almost halfway through the Great American Cleanup.

So far, KCB has had a great response within Cherokee County and has enjoyed events focused on cleaning and recycling.

The KCB Adopt-a-Mile program groups have been out in force giving their stretch of roadways a good spring cleaning. Our community service team members have been dedicating their time to the less frequently maintained roadways within the county, all in an effort to remove trash and make Cherokee County a beautiful place to live, work and visit.

There have been two Electronics Recycling events that have offered much more than Electronics Recycling. Shoes, plastic plant pots, eyeglasses, light bulbs, car seats and batteries. These often overlooked items have been given a second chance at life or at least a proper disposal.

We have also witnessed the installation of the first Trash Boom in the county. The city of Woodstock sponsored the Trash Boom in partnership with the Allatoona Lake Warriors. This device is designed to remove trash and debris from a creek before it makes its way to the lake. Cherokee county has also partnered with the Allatoona Lake Warriors for the installation of a second Trash Boom at another location. A good portion of the trash in the lake is entering through creeks and streams as part of the runoff from our roadways.

People and places are profoundly interconnected. Whether you live in a big city, a suburb or a small rural town, the Great American Cleanup is a shining example of how lasting, positive change happens when people work together.

Keep Cherokee Beautiful is participating in the Great American Cleanup not only to clean but to help make our communities environmentally healthy, socially connected, and economically sound. This in turn makes our communities better places to raise a family, start a business, or go to school. They're better places for living our lives.



Event Recap

Community Cleanup of Batesville Road - We want to thank all of those who participated in our Earth Day cleanup event of Batesville Road on April 22. We had a total of 8 volunteers, including 2 new volunteers. We cleaned the entire 2 miles of Batesville Road (from Hwy 140 to Sugar Pike Road) and

collected 44 bags of trash.

7 Tips for Better Recycling

1. No Bags. Seriously, None.

Plastic bags are the number-one contaminant in recycling loads. Plastic bags act as “tanglers,” getting caught in machinery and shutting down the equipment.

2. Small Things are Big Problems.

Don't recycle anything smaller than a credit card. That includes straws, bottle caps, coffee pods, plastic cutlery, paperclips, and a million other tiny things that creep into our daily lives. These objects are too small to be sorted and can jam the recycling equipment. Leave plastic caps on bottles, now that cap is bigger than a credit card.

3. Make sure it's Clean, Empty and Dry.

Food waste contaminates whole loads of recyclable material, rendering them useless and fast-tracking them to landfills. In the U.S., food waste contaminates 25 percent of our recycling loads.

4. Combined Materials are Trash.

Recycling only works when like materials are together. Unfortunately, items like plastic-coated coffee cups, laminated paper and paper-bubble wrap envelopes from the mail can't ever be separated, which means they're trash.

5. Know your Plastics.

Not all plastics are treated equally. Rigid plastics are recyclable, labeled by resin codes 1 through 7. Generally, the higher the number, the less recyclable it is. Most recycling centers will recycle plastics 1 and 2 without a problem. Past that, it gets tricky.

6. Stop “Wishcycling”.

That's when we optimistically put non-recyclable objects in recycling bins. When we do this, we contaminate whole loads of otherwise recyclable materials. Just because you want it to be recyclable doesn't mean it is.

7. Teach Yourself.

At the end of the day, we can't know everything. There's a bunch of stuff we accumulate over our lives — batteries, electronics, paint cans, toys, clothing, wood — and they, unfortunately, all have separate drop off centers or special instructions for recycling or disposal.

From the Recycling Center

When my phone rings the caller is usually inquiring if a certain item is recyclable.



Over the past 5 years, I have learned an incredible amount of information regarding the recycling industry and continue to learn more every day.

Today I learned of an amazing company that is doing great things in the world of recycling.

This is going to make you rethink what is recyclable and not.

Did you know cigarette waste such as packaging, butts and ash are recyclable? What about the squeeze packs that hold ketchup or other condiments? Makeup and makeup containers? Pens? Drink pouches? How about flip-flops?

Until now my answer has been “No, that is not recyclable”.

A large number of manufacturers have recycling programs for their products and packaging. The problem has been finding out about these programs and then how to get material to them.

The number of products, companies and materials recyclable is simply too vast to list here but I think you'll be as impressed as I am.

Look through the products and materials and see what you can recycle. Sign up for an account and begin collecting items. When you have enough to ship you can print out a free shipping label and drop it off to be sent. Your only cost is for the package you use to send it in.

As a bonus, for each valid shipment you send in, you will earn TerraCycle reward points that can be redeemed for a donation to your school or the charity of your choice.

Discover the possibilities for yourself by visiting <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

Troy Brazie
Manager
Cherokee County Recycling Center

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