

## Community Roll-off Recycling Bins

*February, 2014*

As a major component of the recycling program, the Guthrie County Solid Waste Association and its member towns (Guthrie Center, Panora, Yale, Jamaica, Bagley, Bayard, and Adair) work together to provide roll-off recycling bins in the towns. Even though all towns have curbside collection, there is a need for a more permanent place to take recyclables.

These roll-offs are used by businesses, schools, rural residents, etc. Sometimes people have large amounts of items to recycle on days other than curbside day. Also, small businesses don't have enough recyclables to pay to rent a dumpster, such as Casey's or Sparky's do. Also, most rural people don't have recyclable pickup in the country. So these bins provide a means for more people to recycle.

Each community has access to three recycling bins. One bin is for corrugated cardboard only. The boxes should be broken down so that they are flat. Many people just put the boxes in which takes up a huge amount of space, fills the bins quickly, and costs the County a LOT in vehicle and wage expense to keep emptying them. Don't just pile boxes outside the bin.....break them down flat so you can get them into the bin. Also, the cardboard should be CLEAN.

A second bin holds ALL kinds of paper products.....again CLEAN. This includes newspapers, magazines, PAPERBACK books only, junk mail, colored paper, chipboard boxes (cereal, shoe, egg carton, etc.). Even the cardboard backs off things like packs of batteries, etc. is fine. Pop and beer 12, 24, and 36 packs go here as well. Again, any boxes should be flattened. It is also fine to put in shredded paper, which can be left in the plastic bag you bring it in. OTHERWISE PLEASE EMPTY ALL PAPER OUT THE PLASTIC BAGS YOU MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT IT IN.

The third bin is for what is called commingles. This includes glass, plastic, and food/beverage cans. This bin is a constant source of problems. WE GET HUGE AMOUNTS OF UNACCEPTABLE JUNK IN THIS BIN. PLEASE FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS.

**GLASS:** This includes any color so long as food or beverages come in them. Beer bottles, olive jars, tomato paste bottles, etc. are all okay. WE CANNOT ACCEPT WINDOW GLASS, CANNING JARS, ANY TYPE OF CERAMICS, LIGHT BULBS, COFFEE MUGS, OR SIMILAR MATERIALS. It causes a big sorting mess at the Carroll Recycling Center where these materials go.

**PLASTIC:** The biggest problem!!! You MUST check these items for the triangular recycling symbol. Inside the symbol will be a number of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7. IF THERE IS NO SYMBOL AND NO NUMBER, THEN IT IS **NOT** RECYCLABLE. We do not take #6 as it is polystyrene (PS) which is not recyclable even though it has a recycling triangle on it. We cannot take most

toys, lawn furniture, bags and sheet plastic, pesticide containers or oil containers (even if they have a number on them). Lots of items now have the triangle and number on them. Even many types of packaging like the difficult to open clam-shell units that hold light bulbs, new shavers, etc., etc. have the symbol on them and are okay. Now caps may be left on plastic bottles as they can be recycled as well.

**TIN/ALUMINUM:** Another source of problems!! This is not meant for scrap metal. This is only food/beverage containers ... drink cans, food containers like bean cans, sardine cans, etc., dog/cat food cans, and similar type containers. We can't take metal umbrellas, wire, generators, coat hangers, gas cans, or anything else of this type. No aluminum windows, signs, posts, etc. Again, this causes a big sorting problem as all this material has to be gone through by hand. All such scrap metal can be recycled at the Transfer Station.

These bins are located as follows:

- Guthrie Center full-time at the Redemption Center on S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St
- Panora full-time at the Heartland Cardrol on E. Clay St.
- Adair full-time at the City Maintenance Shed
- Yale 1<sup>st</sup> week of each month north of City Park on Railroad St.
- Jamaica 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month along Railway St.
- Bagley 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month
- Bayard 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month near the old school house site

Any time you have questions about these bins or concerns please contact us. Also, keep in mind you may bring recyclables to the Transfer Station on Jaguar Trail during regular business hours at no charge. Call if you have questions about this. If you stop by and a bin is missing, then it is being emptied and should return shortly.