

MAKE LESS WASTE

How many bags of trash did you haul out to the curb this week?



How many bags have you filled this year?

The grand total might surprise you. Every year, every Kansan produces and average of more than 3/4 of a ton of trash.

A BAG BY ANY OTHER NAME

Trash generated in homes, commercial establishments, schools and other institutions is also known as Municipal Solid Waste, or MSW.

It consists largely of paper, plastic, metal, food scraps and yard wastes.



WHAT'S RECYCLING?

Recycling is a process that allows us to reuse material, again and again. It involves separating, collecting, processing, marketing, purchasing and using a material that otherwise would have been dumped in a landfill. Right now, only about 15% of the Municipal Solid Waste generated in Kansas is recycled.

WHAT DOES RECYCLING MEAN TO ME?

It means you have a wonderful opportunity to take action today. It means you can improve the environment, save natural resources, increase the life span of current landfills, save energy, and spread a valuable lesson in good citizenship.

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Recycling begins and ends with you. You can make a decision to separate out recyclable materials from other trash at your home and office. You can make sure those materials are collected for processing. As a final step, you can purchase goods made from recycled materials; a consumer action that provides vital support for the recycle cycle.



For more information on our environment, contact:

Kansas Department of Health and Environment,
Bureau of Waste Management
785-296-1600

KDSI website
www.kansasdontspoilit.com

KDSI hotline 800-282-9790

Kansas Business and Industry Recycling Program, Inc. (BIRP)
785-273-6808

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Solid Waste Hotline
800-424-9346
(For general environmental information, press 1)
TDD 800-553-7672



RECYCLE



KANSAS
DON'T SPOIL IT!

Printed on recycled paper

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE? DOES KANSAS HAVE A RECYCLING POLICY?

The most commonly recycled materials are steel, aluminum, mixed-metal cans, newspapers, office paper, corrugated cardboard, plastic and glass bottles and yard waste.



Most states tell local communities how certain recycling goals must be met. That hasn't been necessary in the Sunflower State.

In Kansas, local communities decide how to manage waste, while the state provides some resources to help implement those local decisions. The voluntary approach has proven to be successful. Recycling programs are popular throughout the state.

Drop-off centers are the most common method used for recycling in Kansas, but more and more communities are also developing curbside recycling programs.

WHERE CAN I RECYCLE?

Recycling programs vary from one Kansas community to the next, but these are the most common options:

- Drop-off centers, which can be permanent or mobile
- Curbside collection programs
- Buy-back centers, which will pay you for recyclable materials
- Companies which sometimes buy recyclables from offices, schools and other institutions.

EVERYONE CAN DO IT

Recycling is something we all can do, at home, at work, at school.

Kansas Averages

Paper	38%
Yard Trimmings	8%
Metals	5%
Plastic	6%
Glass	4%
Food Waste	10%
Other	29%



TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO THE STORE

Buy goods produced with recyclable materials. Don't buy products that include unnecessary packaging.

TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

- Buy products in bulk or that come in recyclable packaging.
- Take used motor oil to a service station for recycling.

SHOP SMART

Don't let that recycle symbol on a product fool you. A plastic container featuring a code number inside the symbol is just identifying the type of plastic resin the container is made from. It doesn't mean the product is made from recycled material or that it can be easily recycled in your



community. Look for goods that indicate the product or package is made in part from recycled materials.

THE BIG PICTURE

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Each year, our nation generates enough garbage to fill a convoy of trash trucks reaching halfway to the moon. And the convoy keeps growing longer every year!"



IT'S NOT JUST THE TRASH INSIDE

A big part of municipal solid waste is composed of material you can easily recycle at home - yard waste.

There are two simple solutions. First, take the bagger off the mower and use the grass clippings as mulch for your yard. Second, you can compost grass, leaves, flowers, twigs and non-spreading weeds in a compost bin. Your efforts will improve the Kansas environment - and your yard will look great! Remember it is not recycled until you reuse it or buy recycled products.

WHAT'S IN OUR TRASH?

National Averages

Paper	37%
Yard Trimmings	12%
Metals	8%
Plastic	11%
Glass	6%
Food Waste	11%
Other	15%

