

Recycling Reminders from the Collection Crew

I like to check in with our recycling collection crew from time to time to gather insights for this column. They're the boots on the ground, seeing what's working — and what isn't — firsthand. Below are a few timely reminders they've asked me to share with residents to help keep our recycling system running smoothly.

Don't Leave Items Outside Recycling Drop-Off Containers

This has become a growing issue. Some residents visit our drop-off locations and, finding a full container, leave their recyclables beside the bin instead of checking for space or finding another option. Unfortunately, this often leads to others doing the same, resulting in unsightly and unmanageable piles.

We do our best to keep the bins emptied regularly. If you come across a full container or notice items left outside, please contact our office or email us — we'll take care of it as soon as possible.

No Plastic Bags in Drop-Off Containers

Items placed in our drop-off recycling containers should be loose, not bagged. Please don't toss in plastic bags full of recyclables or "bags of bags." The only exception is shredded paper, which should be bagged and tied securely for both curbside and drop-off recycling.

Bag or Bundle Paper for Curbside Recycling

All paper items — including mixed paper, newspaper, magazines, office paper, and paperboard — should be bagged or bundled together before placing them in your curbside bin. This helps prevent litter and makes it easier for our crew to collect.

Plastic bottles, jugs, and jars; metal cans; and glass bottles can all be placed loose in the curbside bin. Corrugated cardboard should be flattened and placed next to or under your bin.

Keep Corrugated Cardboard Out of Blue Recycling Carts

Many apartment complexes, schools, and businesses use large blue recycling carts. These carts are not designed to handle corrugated cardboard — even if it's flattened. Cardboard gets stuck inside and causes problems for both drivers and collection equipment.

Instead, use a designated cardboard recycling container nearby. You can find a full list of locations at www.centrecountyrecycles.org.

Have a Question? Just Ask!

If you're ever unsure about how or where to recycle something in Centre County, don't hesitate to reach out. I answer questions from residents every day — no question is too simple or too complex. We're here to help.

In addition to our website, you can find helpful info on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages. You can also download our Recycle Coach app for up-to-date recycling guidance.

As always, thank you for recycling and helping keep Centre County clean and green!