



# RECYCLES



## 2023

# REGIONAL RECYCLING REPORT

NWA Recycles is a program of the Northwest Arkansas Council to better coordinate and improve local recycling services. It's made possible thanks to support from Walmart.



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# RECYCLES

Since NWA Recycles began with a Walmart grant to the Northwest Arkansas Council in 2021, it has convened mayors, waste-related businesses and other recycling leaders across the region to dig into their programs' weaknesses, strengths and priorities, and formulate the region's first recycling vision. The result was the vision statement below, published last year, as well as a schedule of yearly objectives to guide NWA Recycles' work.

For 2022, objectives included enabling regional discussion and collaboration, gathering and publishing recycling data, helping recycling programs become more successful and consistent, and helping cities adopt best practices in their contracts with recycling providers. *To achieve them, NWA Recycles:*

- ❑ Published the first annual regional recycling report one year ago.
- ❑ Held regional stakeholder sessions to discuss successes and needs in glass recycling, municipal contracts, public outreach, and the possibility of accepting more kinds of materials.
- ❑ Organized a three-day learning and inspiration trip for regional leaders to Minneapolis to observe the Twin Cities' extensive and ambitious waste diversion programs.
- ❑ Maintained the NWARecycles.org website, providing residents and public officials with city-by-city recycling details, toolkits and other resources. The site received 400 visitors per month on average in 2022.
- ❑ Spoke with dozens of business owners, student groups and other organizations about recycling and local efforts.

## NWA Recycling Vision Statement



The Benton County Regional Solid Waste Management District, Boston Mountain Regional Solid Waste Management District and Northwest Arkansas Council embrace the recycling and circular movement of valuable recovered

materials as a critical component of Northwest Arkansas' sustainable economic development and environmental protection. Over the next several years, these organizations and their community partners will facilitate and grow a circular economy that captures more recyclable materials, supports local jobs and communities, conserves crucial landfill space, and aligns with the region's culture of innovation, pragmatism and safeguarding our natural resources.



The most important work was done on the ground by the public, private and nonprofit recycling services described in this report. Together 23 programs in three counties and 19 cities handled more than **45,000 tons** material in 2022. The total includes at least **2,300 tons** of metal, **1,800 tons** of glass, **200 tons** of e-waste, **12,000 tons** of cardboard and paper and **9,000 tons** of composting.

These numbers are only the amounts known to NWA Recycles, since many programs don't separate collection data by material. Metal scrapyards and other commercial recycling operations keep their information private for business reasons, meaning tens of thousands of tons remain uncounted. Its 45,000-ton tally nonetheless is a monument to the work and dedication of recyclers of in all types of organizations and all sizes of communities. Each ton is a step toward a more circular regional economy that creates jobs, conserves natural resources and makes Northwest Arkansas a better place to live and work.

## What exactly is a **TON** of recycled material



Each of these bales weighs about two-thirds of a ton, or more than 40,000 aluminum cans.

NWA's public & nonprofit recyclers collected 45,328 tons in 2022.

That's equivalent to 70,000 of these.



# Vision Implementation

## Short Term

(during 2022)

- ☐ Enable regional discussion, collaboration and learning by creating a durable network of community and business stakeholders who work jointly toward the shared goal of increasing and improving recycling programs.
- ☐ Foster public transparency and trust, provide guidance to end markets and inform future regional goals by compiling and sharing Northwest Arkansas recycling data.
- ☐ Create consistent and frequent communication between recycling programs and residents in order to promote increased recycling by the public.
- ☐ Create more consistency among public recycling programs by investigating how to begin accepting recyclable glass and other challenging materials in more communities.
- ☐ Seek ways to increase recycling volumes and efficiency in programs throughout Benton, Madison and Washington counties, recognizing community priorities require individual and localized plans.
- ☐ Help cities implement best practices as they approve or extend waste-hauling contracts with recycling services.

## Intermediate Term

- ☐ By the end of 2023, set and monitor achievable waste recovery and reduction targets, ensuring fiscal and environmental accountability for years to come.
- ☐ By the end of 2024, lay a foundation for increased processing capacity for recyclable materials with modern technology and facilities in order to meet future needs.

## Long Term

- ☐ By the end of 2025, expand access to sound, cost-effective recycling programs in small communities and in multifamily housing around Northwest Arkansas.
- ☐ By the end of 2026, create secondary and post-secondary learning opportunities for students and industries interested in resource management and sustainable packaging and products, including incorporating instruction programs and testing laboratories into local recycling facilities.

# The Recycling Dichotomy: Drop-Off vs. Pickup

Whether they're provided by a local government, a private business or a nonprofit, recycling services generally fall into one of two categories: drop-off centers and pickup services. Each comes with its advantages and disadvantages, and each plays an essential role in Northwest Arkansas recycling.

For a rundown of available services, visit [NWARecycles.org/How](https://www.nwarrecycles.org/How)



## Drop-Off

Drop-off centers require time and travel, which can hurt their usability. But with dozens of them across Benton, Madison and Washington counties, chances are good that a drop-off is within a short drive. Drop-off centers also can take a wider variety of materials than the usual curbside service, thanks to factors like on-site staff, lower costs, greater safety and simpler logistics.

Fayetteville, for example, maintains drop-off locations for compostable food and yard waste as well as for household hazardous waste, such as cleaners and other chemicals, in addition to the typical recyclables. Glass isn't acceptable for most curbside services in the area but generally may go to public drop-offs. Solid waste district and county locations in Centerton, Huntsville, Prairie Grove and elsewhere accept electronic and household hazardous waste, scrap metal and tires, too.

Because of their flexibility, drop-offs often act as regional recycling hubs. The James R. Welch Recycling Center near downtown Rogers exemplifies this role, accepting 3,832 tons of metal cans, plastic and glass bottles, polystyrene packaging, paper and cardboard free of charge from all visitors – businesses and households, Rogers residents and others alike – in 2022. It's the destination of Benton County Solid Waste District's rural drop-off trailers placed around the county.

# Where to Drop Off Recycling in NWA



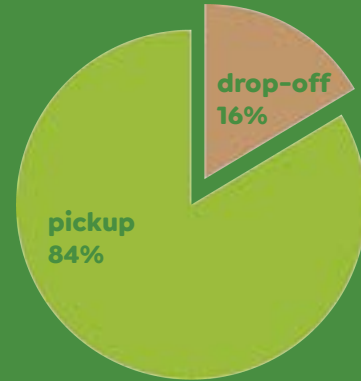
This map highlights communities in Northwest Arkansas that host public or nonprofit drop-off recycling centers. Addresses and other details are available at [NWARecycles.org](http://NWARecycles.org), but the examples below give a good overview of the roles these drop-off locations play:

- a: Bella Vista**  
The Bella Vista Recycling Center is the region’s only nonprofit community drop-off center for metal cans, paper and cardboard, glass bottles, plastic bottles and jugs, and clothing.
- b: Rogers**  
The city’s drop-off center on North Arkansas Street accepts metal cans, paper and cardboard, glass bottles, plastic bottles and jugs. It’s a processing hub for recyclables throughout Benton County and the only community drop-off in the region accepting white polystyrene packaging. Next door are drop-off locations for yard waste composting, household hazardous waste and other materials. Nearby, the company eSCO Processing & Recycling accepts e-waste from the public.
- c: Huntsville**  
The Madison County Solid Waste & Recycling Center is the heart of recycling in the county, accepting the typical household recyclables as well as household hazardous waste, tires, scrap metal and more. The center is also home to a secondhand shop for donated household items.
- d: Fayetteville**  
The city’s Recycling and Trash Department provides recycling and compostable organics pickup services for residents and businesses as well as multiple drop-off locations for household recyclables, household hazardous waste and other materials. The composting operation is the only one of its kind in the region and acts as a hub for food waste from throughout Northwest Arkansas. Also in town, the nonprofit Free Geek of Arkansas refurbishes and recycles all manner of e-waste.

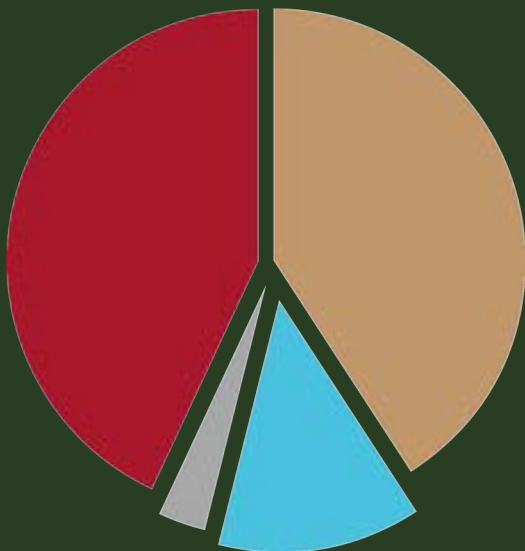
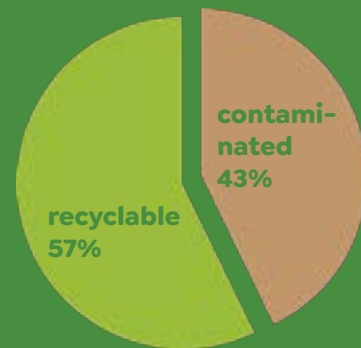


## Pickup

For convenience and participation it's hard to match residential and commercial curbside pickup services, which are available in 17 Northwest Arkansas cities. Fayetteville's 2022 data illustrates this: *Out of the 6,020 tons* of non-compostable recyclables collected, just *one-sixth* came to a community drop-off.



Although convenient, curbside generally brings more contamination with lots of non-recyclable material that must be picked out and sent to a landfill. Fayetteville, Prairie Grove and Siloam Springs avoid this problem by sorting out the recyclables at the curb. But for the majority of cities with single-stream residential curbside service, which is sorted later on, 2022 contamination was about 43%. *In other words, nearly half of what residents put in single-stream carts didn't belong there.*



## NWA single-stream curbside recycling composition by weight, 2022

Source: Marck Recycling



Cardboard or paper: 41%



Plastics: 13%



Metal Cans: 3%



Contaminated: 43%











# 2022 Recycling Collections

## MATERIALS COLLECTED

-  ALUMINUM CANS
-  BICYCLES
-  CARDBOARD
-  CLOTHING
-  E-WASTE
-  FOOD WASTE
-  GLASS
-  HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
-  PAPER
-  PLASTIC BAGS
-  PLASTIC BOTTLES & JUGS
-  POLYSTYRENE
-  SCRAP METAL
-  STEEL CANS
-  TIRES

COLLECTION PROGRAM	TOTAL TONS COLLECTED/ SOLD	SERVICE CATEGORY	NOTES	MATERIALS COLLECTED
Bella Vista Recycling Center	1,912	Drop-off center, nonprofit		
Benton County Solid Waste District	3,967	Drop-off centers, government	Main location in Centerton; also provides drop-off locations for various materials in Bentonville, Centerton, Decatur, Garfield, Gentry, Gravette, Rogers, Siloam Springs	
Bentonville Curbside	3,929	Pickup services, contract		
Boston Mountain Solid Waste District	5,121	Drop-off centers, government	Main location near Prairie Grove; also provides or assists with drop-offs in Elkins, Fayetteville, Goshen, Huntsville, West Fork and Winslow; 134 tons of organics went to Fayetteville	
Cave Springs & Elkins Curbside	580	Pickup services, contract		
Centerton Curbside	No data provided	Pickup services, contract		
Elm Springs, Johnson, Little Flock, Lowell, Rogers and West Fork <small>(data not separated by hauling provider)</small>	4,683	Pickup services, contract		
E-Waste Warriors	2	Drop-off center, volunteer	An initiative of several high school students, which ended in 2022 in Rogers	
Farmington Curbside	198	Pickup services, contract		
Fayetteville	13,867	Combination, government	35 tons of e-waste and HHW went to Boston Mountain	 Drop-off only: 
Free Geek of Arkansas	55	Drop-off center, nonprofit	Repairs and resells electronics in Fayetteville and recycles unusable components	
Madison County Solid Waste & Recycling Center	1,137	Drop-off centers, government	Main location in Huntsville, satellite in St. Paul; 185 tons of various materials went to Boston Mountain	
Pea Ridge Curbside	203	Pickup services, contract		

COLLECTION PROGRAM	TOTAL TONS COLLECTED/ SOLD	SERVICE CATEGORY	NOTES	MATERIALS COLLECTED
Pedal It Forward	4	Drop-off centers, nonprofit	Repairs bicycles for area families' reuse and recycles unusable parts	
Prairie Grove Curbside	240	Pickup services, government	187 tons of various materials went to Boston Mountain	
Rogers Drop-Off	3,832	Combination, contract and government		 Drop-off only: 
Siloam Springs	2,347	Combination, government		 Drop-off only: 
Springdale Curbside	3,792	Pickup services, contract		
Tontitown Curbside	No data provided	Pickup services, contract		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>45,869</b>			
<b>Adjustment for Double-Counted Tons</b>	<b>-541</b>			
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>45,328</b>			

#### METHODOLOGY

NWA Recycles sought data for 25 public and nonprofit recycling programs within the Benton County and Boston Mountain solid waste districts for the 2022 calendar year. Of those, data was received from collections within 19 cities and the two waste districts. Data from Cave Springs, Elkins, Farmington, Free Geek of Arkansas, Madison County and Pedal It Forward is included for the first time and didn't appear in the previous annual report.

Recycling data includes collections of consumer packaging and containers – cans, bottles, boxes and paper, which are often referred to here as residential recyclables – as well as compostable materials, electronic waste, scrap metal and other materials when applicable.

The data was self-reported directly to NWA Recycles and varied in detail, with some programs limited to total tonnage while others could provide proportions of different materials.

Many recycling programs cooperate with others, meaning their data overlaps to a small degree. These shared tons are included in the stated total for each individual program that played a role in their collection but count only once toward the region's total.

#### SERVICE CATEGORIES

**PICKUP SERVICES:** Primarily curbside service, which may include residential and commercial/industrial

**DROP-OFF CENTER:** Primarily one or more collection locations

**COMBINATION:** Comprising both pickup and drop-off programs

**GOVERNMENT:** A city or county department or solid waste management district provides service directly

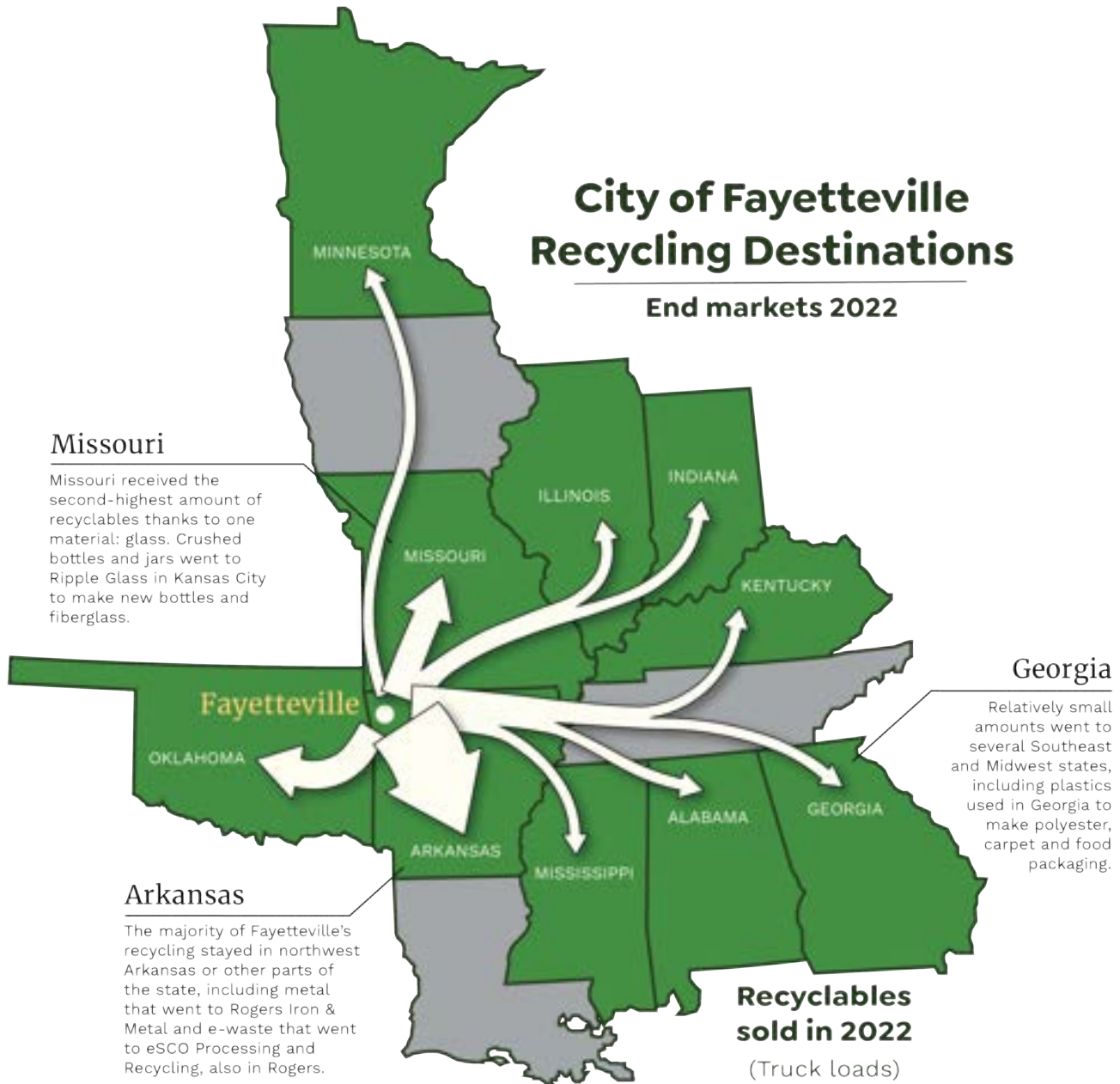
**CONTRACT:** A private contractor provides service to a city or other customers

**NONPROFIT:** A nonprofit organization provides service directly



# Where Do Recyclables Go?

The final destination of much of Northwest Arkansas' recycling isn't publicly available because of the large role that private businesses play in its processing. Even when local governments collect recyclables directly, at least some of the material eventually goes through brokers, metal scrappers and other companies that keep their buyers, or end markets, private for business reasons. However, the city of Fayetteville and some other programs share enough end-market information to get a general picture of where the region's recyclables go. This map of the city's recycling shipments shows most of its materials stay close by.



Source: City of Fayetteville



Many recyclables can be processed back into the same thing they were before, such as with cardboard boxes, metal cans and glass bottles. Metals and glass in particular can be recycled over and over with no loss in their utility. Organic material such as yard and food waste can also turn back into their former selves, in a sense, through composting and gardening. Paper and plastic, on the other hand, degrade after one or two uses and so are often “downcycled” into items that typically can’t be recycled again, such as insulation, polyester fabric and outdoor products.

## These ...

## ... can be recycled into these.

<b>Plastic bottles and jugs</b>  	<b>Bottles, carpet, clothing, recycle bins, decking and other outdoor products, piping</b>
<b>Cardboard boxes</b>  	<b>Cardboard, other paper products and packaging</b>
<b>Electronics</b> 	<b>Plastics, glass and metals within electronics can be removed, processed and reused for new electronics and other products</b>
<b>Food waste</b>   <small>*limited curbside, must separate</small>	<b>Compost</b>
<b>Glass bottles and jars</b>  <small>*drop-off only in most cities</small>	<b>Bottles and other containers, fiberglass</b>
<b>Metals</b>   <small>*curbside for cans, drop-off for others</small>	<b>Food and beverage cans, other steel and aluminum products in a wide variety of applications</b>
<b>Paper</b>  	<b>Paper towels and similar tissue products, egg cartons, insulation</b>
<b>Textiles and fabrics</b> 	<b>Industrial rags</b>
<b>Tires</b> 	<b>Fuel, rubber mulch</b>
<b>Yard waste</b>   <small>*but separate from other recyclables</small>	<b>Mulch, compost, daily cover for landfill</b>

 = Drop-Off

 = Curbside

# Sorting Through the Truth of Plastic Recycling



Plastics have been an enduring puzzle for recycling programs in Northwest Arkansas and around the country.

They come in endless variety and function sorted by sometimes imperceptible distinctions. Despite appearances, a clear plastic water bottle, a clear plastic container for berries or salad, and a clear plastic cup for iced coffee are each made of different molecular matter.

On top of that, these different plastics don't mix well when reused. This leaves consumers to untangle the plastic thicket for successful recycling, with mixed success, or simply throw it all away.

And finally, new plastic is relatively cheap, reducing the incentive for a manufacturer to choose used materials.

Headlines like **“Recycling plastic is practically impossible”** are the result. Reports like these often raise fair points about the plastic conundrum. They also make recycling program leaders cringe, because the generalizations and misunderstandings that follow make it harder to educate the public and build trust about all recycling, plastic or otherwise.

*Here's how to sort through the truth.*

## **Plastic can be, and is, recycled.**

Several types of plastic genuinely are recycled by local recycling programs. They address the issues above by accepting narrow categories of plastic, usually only bottles and jugs marked #1 or #2 — hundreds of tons of them every year. Those tons go into new bottles and jugs but also into items like carpeting, polyester fabric and sometimes new recycling bins. Some programs, such as the city of Fayetteville, tell residents **exactly where every ton went.**

## **However, there are caveats.**



First, if any plastic that wasn't a bottle went into a local recycling bin, then it probably went to the landfill. NWA programs in general aren't equipped to handle, sell and ship non-bottle plastics. If there's too much of these wrong plastics at a given time, then the whole load, good and bad, might have been thrown out.

*This isn't trickery:* It's a basic lack of communication and shared understanding between recycling programs and residents.



A recycling “**chasing arrows**” symbol on a piece of plastic doesn't automatically mean it's recyclable in your local program.

Plastics can be recycled conventionally only a handful of times before their molecules break and degrade too much to be useful.

And it goes without saying: There is a lot of plastic that isn't a bottle.


## Working Around the Puzzle

The search for a solution to the plastic puzzle continues. Some states are placing more responsibility on packaging manufacturers to recycle and dispose of their products. The Biden administration recently floated the idea of standardizing packaging, cutting down on some of plastic's variety.

Others have called for the reduction or end of plastic use in general, pointing to the many environmental effects of plastic production and pollution. Researchers and entrepreneurs are exploring biodegradable plastic alternatives.

In Northwest Arkansas, solutions often fall into one of two approaches. On one hand are the recyclers who keep the flow of plastic under fastidious control, generally by leaving the public out of the collection process. They pinpoint a certain type of plastic from retailers or other businesses directly, then provide that specific plastic to a manufacturer that wants it. Everyone knows what they have at every step of the way.

This is the sort of system that allows area grocery stores to accept used bags for recycling, but it can go further. Ecotech in Fayetteville collects empty buckets that held icing for Walmart bakeries, damaged storage bins, plant nursery pots, returned car seats for children, countless stretches of plastic film and other plastics. The company uses each particular plastic to make buckets and other household items.



"THEY SAY, 'THAT CAN'T BE RECYCLED.' I SAY, CHALLENGE ACCEPTED. IT'S JUST FINDING THE RIGHT AND PROPER HOME FOR IT."

Alternative Plastics in Gentry works in much the same way, collecting, processing and reselling plastic pellets made from shotgun shell casings, empty barrels for barbeque restaurants' liquid smoke flavorings, yard signs and toilet seats, among other items. All are distinct streams of material that go exactly where they're wanted.

"They say, 'That can't be recycled.' I say, challenge accepted," said Wil Ross, Alternative Plastics' vice president of sales & purchasing. "It's just finding the right and proper home for it."

There are also recyclers that make the variety of plastic a nonissue. The Bella Vista-based research and product development firm AON Invent announced it's working with Ecotech to create a board-like product called Pcore out of unsorted plastic mixtures. It could be used in place of plywood and in other applications and AON Invent is looking for companies interested in testing it out.

# Seeds of NWA Food Composting

## Take Root

A growing network of businesses and other organizations are turning kitchen scraps and other food waste into high-quality compost that goes right back into local gardens and farms – a perfect loop of limitless recycling.

Composting programs for grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste exist around Northwest Arkansas, but food waste is trickier, requiring more extensive facilities and state permitting. The city of Fayetteville planted the seed in 2017 when it completed the necessary steps to add food waste to its existing yard waste composting.

Now the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, several restaurants and other businesses and residents get their food waste picked up by the city or can drop it off at several locations around town. The city takes the scraps to its facility near the southeast city limit, where it mixes them with enzymes and ground-up yard waste and carefully piles and turns the mixture over several months. The process kills pathogens and breaks the waste down into a dark, earthy material that's available for purchase.



Biodegradable organics like food and yard waste comprise almost one-third of Fayetteville's waste, according to the city. Composting them saves landfill space, prevents emissions of some greenhouse gases, helps plants absorb more carbon dioxide, and provides fertilizer and soil support.

**"IT'S REALLY HARD TO IMAGINE SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T EXIST RIGHT NOW," SAID TOM ROHR WITH FOOD LOOPS. "THIS YEAR, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE BIGGER."**



## Reaching Farther

The program might have been restricted to Fayetteville if not for several local startup businesses, which partnered with the city to extend food waste composting throughout all of Northwest Arkansas.

**Food Loops** in Rogers, for example, sells compostable products and provides subscription food waste pickup services for businesses, events and residential areas throughout Northwest Arkansas. It funnels scraps from such places as the Walmart NW Arkansas LPGA Championship, FORMAT and the Bentonville Bike Fest to Fayetteville's facility.

**Food Recycling Solutions**, owned by local U.S. Army veteran Richard Ims, provides pickup and hauling services for a variety of establishments, including restaurants, grocery stores, schools, hospitals, apartment complexes and food manufacturers.

A little more than a year ago, Ricky and Katie Ludeman relocated from Denver to start **Ozark Compost & Swap**, which picks up kitchen scraps and other organics from subscribers' homes and offices on a weekly or biweekly basis.

Together these businesses have diverted hundreds of tons of food waste, compostable plates and other items to Fayetteville, which collected about 7,800 tons, or more than 15 million pounds, of yard and food waste for composting last year.

## New Growth

The food waste businesses' founders said recently that they're working to grow and process their food waste on their own. Fayetteville's facility is the biggest around, but it's not always open and is often at maximum traffic capacity, creating a chokepoint.

Ozark Compost & Swap, for example, recently branched out into vermicomposting, feeding food scraps to worms to create castings that enrich soil with nutrients and microbes. The company expects to provide the worm castings to customers this spring.

Food Loops is similarly in the process of building its own capacity with an anaerobic digester, a machine that cooks food scraps down into fertilizer. And Food Recycling Solutions is constantly reaching out to new and potential customers of all sizes.

"It's really hard to imagine something that doesn't exist right now," said Tom Rohr with Food Loops. "This year, everything's going to be bigger."

A group of seven people wearing high-visibility safety vests are walking across a large, open industrial space with a high, arched, ribbed ceiling. The floor is dark and appears to be dirt or concrete. The lighting is somewhat dim, with some light coming from the ceiling structure.

## Traveling ‘Up North’ for Recycling Insights

As you may know, especially if you moved to Northwest Arkansas from a bigger metro, the region falls in the middle of the pack when it comes to the reach of its recycling programs. Some parts of the country have little to no public recycling for residents, while others offer more programs and collect more kinds of recyclables than NWA — more containers, more organics, even mattresses and furniture. In other words, while NWA does a lot of good work in recycling and can be a model for some communities, we also have plenty to learn from others.

That’s why NWA Recycles, with support from Walmart, hosted more than a dozen stakeholders on a learning trip to several recycling operations in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area of Minnesota. The Twin Cities are home to roughly the same population as all of Arkansas, as well as successful and ambitious recycling systems that stretch throughout the state. The group included mayors and city officials, waste haulers, solid waste district staff and others who play an important role in Northwest Arkansas recycling.

Minnesota systems’ sheer scale doesn’t mean their insights and methods are beyond Northwest Arkansas’ reach. The first stops were in Scott County, a suburban part of the metro that’s very similar to NWA in population, its urban–rural mix and other characteristics. There we toured private company Dem–Con’s recycling campus, which separates and processes standard residential recyclables, like cans and bottles, but also scrap metal, roof shingles and the leftovers from construction and demolition projects. The group also stopped by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s Organics Recycling Facility, a major mulching and composting operation that takes in food and yard waste from around the metro. Even a small county can have a big recycling footprint.



**During the time in Minneapolis, the group also toured the following facilities:**

- ☐ Another materials recovery facility for residential recyclables, this time owned by a nonprofit, Eureka Recycling, that works with the packaging and recycling industries to find better recycling policies and methods. Its founders came from Eureka Springs here in Arkansas, the nonprofit's namesake.
- ☐ Second Chance Recycling, a nonprofit that collects hundreds of mattresses a week and breaks them down into wood, steel, fabric and other recyclable components with the help of employees transitioning out of incarceration.
- ☐ The University of Minnesota, which runs its own in-house recycling education, collection and processing program for a campus of more than 50,000 students. The university now recycles or composts more than 40% of its total waste.

***The overriding lessons were these:*** Recyclers that work together extensively and share a consistent, repeated message to the public can recycle more and recycle better (which is what NWA Recycles is all about). The University of Minnesota sends its mattresses to Second Chance, for instance, and its food waste goes to the ORF. And Dem-Con, Eureka and other recovery facilities voluntarily partner with each other and local governments both to accept a consistent slate of materials and to educate millions of people about how to recycle effectively.

These are things NWA is already working to emulate, and the trip provided several local leaders with ideas and lessons that will continue to fuel the fire for accomplishing for more in the coming years. And NWA Recycles is here to help, providing coordination and a region-wide voice in recycling.

# NWA Recycling Directory

Below you'll find information about recycling businesses and organizations based in or otherwise serving Northwest Arkansas. This is not an exhaustive list and will be updated each year.

Find a missing entry? Send it to [danholtmeyer@nwacouncil.org](mailto:danholtmeyer@nwacouncil.org).

## 2nd Life Wood

A maker of wooden furniture using salvaged lumber from downed or fallen local trees.

6217 E. Mission Blvd., Fayetteville  
[dtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:dtaylor@gmail.com)

[2ndlifewood.com](http://2ndlifewood.com)  
479-502-7930

## 48forty Solutions

A national pallet management services company providing repaired/recycled pallets. Public drop-offs accepted, though an appointment may be required.

1652 S. Fred Hanna Drive, Fayetteville  
479-444-8984

[48forty.com](http://48forty.com)

## Alternative Plastics

A company specializing in the processing of post-industrial plastics and some post-consumer plastics for recycling by manufacturers.

12579 Pioneer Lane, Gentry  
479-335-1389

[apnwa.com](http://apnwa.com)

## Anew Lumber Co.

A company specializing in collecting and recycling construction and demolition waste, including lumber and concrete. Same owner as Food Recycling Solutions (below)

479-866-3310

## Arkansas Recycling Coalition

An educational nonprofit aiming to unite large and small companies, government agencies, nonprofits and individuals in a common effort to promote "reduce, reuse, repurpose and recycle" as the primary means of sustainable waste management in Arkansas.

P.O. Box 13942, Maumelle

[recycleark.org](http://recycleark.org)

866-290-1429

## Bella Vista Recycling Center

A nonprofit community drop-off center that collects household and business waste for recycling. Accepts public drop-offs of aluminum and steel cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, wearable clothing.

400 Pinion Bluff Drive, Bella Vista

[bellavistarecycling.org](http://bellavistarecycling.org)

479-876-5343

## Benton County Solid Waste District

The government agency that regulates waste disposal, handles hazardous materials, runs public recycling drop-off centers and provides public education within Benton County. Materials accepted at various times and locations around the county include aluminum and steel cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, cardboard, batteries and electronics, scrap metal, tires and household hazardous waste.

5702 Brookside Road, Centerton

[bentoncountyrecycles.org](http://bentoncountyrecycles.org)

479-795-0751

## Boston Mountain Solid Waste District

The government agency that regulates waste disposal, handles hazardous materials, runs public recycling drop-off centers and provides public education within Madison and Washington counties. Materials accepted at various times and locations around the district include aluminum and steel cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, paper, cardboard, batteries and electronics, scrap metal, tires and household hazardous waste.

11398 Bond Road, Prairie Grove

[bostonmountain.org](http://bostonmountain.org)

[recycle@bmswd.com](mailto:recycle@bmswd.com)

479-846-3005



### Brooks Grease Service

A company offering pickup service for used cooking oil to be recycled, as well as related cleaning services, throughout the mid-U.S.

3104 N. Erie Ave., Tulsa, OK  
[russell@brooksgreaseservice.com](mailto:russell@brooksgreaseservice.com)

[brooksgreaseservice.com](http://brooksgreaseservice.com)  
800-828-2438

### CARDS Recycling

A waste hauling company providing residential, commercial, roll-off, recycling and disposal services for communities, businesses and contractors in AR, MO, OK & TX. Several local cities contract with CARDS for curbside recycling and waste services.

4208 Johnson Road, Springdale  
[info@cardsrecycling.com](mailto:info@cardsrecycling.com)

[cardsrecycling.com](http://cardsrecycling.com)  
877-592-2737

### City of Fayetteville Recycling and Trash

Fayetteville city government provides trash and recycling pickup services for residents and businesses within city limits, accepting aluminum and steel cans, paper, cardboard and #1/#2 plastic bottles and jugs for curbside recycling as well as picking up yard waste and commercial food waste for composting. Limited other materials may be taken to various drop-off centers, such as residential food waste.

1560 S. Happy Hollow Road, Fayetteville [Fayetteville-ar.gov/4085/trash-and-recycling](http://Fayetteville-ar.gov/4085/trash-and-recycling) [recyclingandtrash@fayetteville-ar.gov](mailto:recyclingandtrash@fayetteville-ar.gov) 479-575-8398

### City of Prairie Grove Trash & Recycling

Prairie Grove Public Works provides trash and recycling pickup services for residents and businesses within city limits, accepting aluminum and steel cans, paper, glass bottles, plastic bags, cardboard and #1/#2 plastic bottles and jugs for curbside recycling.

975 E. Douglas, Prairie Grove [prairiegrovearkansas.org/publicworks/page/trash-recycling](http://prairiegrovearkansas.org/publicworks/page/trash-recycling) [cwiley@prairiegrovear.org](mailto:cwiley@prairiegrovear.org) 479-846-2961

### City of Rogers James R. Welch Recycling Center

Roger contracts for curbside recycling pickup but also runs a public, 24-7 drop-off recycling center, which accepts public drop-offs of aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles, #1/#2 plastic bottles and jugs, white polystyrene ("Styrofoam") packaging, cardboard and paper.

2300 N. Arkansas St., Rogers [rogersar.gov/401/rogers-recycling-center](http://rogersar.gov/401/rogers-recycling-center) [jhaley@rogersar.gov](mailto:jhaley@rogersar.gov) 479-621-1185

### City of Siloam Springs Recycling Program

Siloam Springs city government provides trash and recycling pickup services for residents and businesses within city limits, accepting aluminum and steel cans, paper, cardboard and #1/#2 plastic bottles and jugs for curbside recycling. Glass may only be taken to the drop-off center, not curbside.

1108 E. Ashley St., Siloam Springs [siloamsprings.com/273/recycling](http://siloamsprings.com/273/recycling) 479-524-5136

### DAR PRO Solutions

A company collecting used cooking oil and meat byproducts from businesses nationwide for use in the production of renewable diesel.

701 E. 7th St., Watts, OK  
918-422-4790

[darpro-solutions.com](http://darpro-solutions.com)

### Ecotech

A company that collects and repurposes commercial plastic waste streams to manufacture new household products.

1901 Borick Drive, Fayetteville

[ecotechintl.com](http://ecotechintl.com)

### Epic Glass Recycling

A nonprofit providing residential, commercial and drop-off glass recycling services that aims to convert the glass into construction aggregate material.

3101 Dugan Drive, Little Rock  
[info@aceglassrecycling.net](mailto:info@aceglassrecycling.net)

[epicrecycling.net](http://epicrecycling.net)  
501-372-0595

### eSCO Processing & Recycling

An electronics recycling and asset recovery company that accepts e-waste from other businesses, the public and multiple recycling programs, including the region's solid waste districts.

2111 S. 8th St., Rogers  
[eprinfo@escorecycling.com](mailto:eprinfo@escorecycling.com)

[escoprocessingandrecycling.com](http://escoprocessingandrecycling.com)  
844-223-3190

### Food Loops

A company providing food waste and recycling collection services for public events, businesses and subscribers, and selling compost and compostable plates, cutlery and other items. Collected organics are composted by the city of Fayetteville.

[foodloops.net](http://foodloops.net)  
479-621-5642

[tom@foodloops.net](mailto:tom@foodloops.net)

### Food Recycling Solutions

A company providing food waste pickup service for restaurants and other businesses and organizations. Collected organics are composted by the city of Fayetteville.

[foodrecyclingsolutions.com](http://foodrecyclingsolutions.com)  
[richard@foodrecyclingsolutionsllc.com](mailto:richard@foodrecyclingsolutionsllc.com) 479-866-3310

### Free Geek of Arkansas

A nonprofit that accepts e-waste from the public for recycling (through eSCO Processing & Recycling, see above) and for refurbishment and resale, with goals to provide access to computers, the internet and job skills.

521 W. Ash St., Fayetteville  
[info@freegeekarkansas.org](mailto:info@freegeekarkansas.org)

[freegeekarkansas.org](http://freegeekarkansas.org)  
479-966-9512

### LRS

A waste-hauling company providing recycling, diversion and portable services for residents and businesses in Arkansas and eight other states. Several local cities contract with LRS for curbside recycling and waste services.

848 Arkansas 264 East, Bethel Heights [lrsrecycles.com](http://lrsrecycles.com)  
479-878-1384

### Madison County Solid Waste & Recycling Center

A recycling drop-off center and secondhand shop serving Madison County residents. Accepted items include #1/#2 plastic bottles and jugs, aluminum and steel cans, paper, cardboard, glass bottles, scrap metal, textiles, fluorescent bulbs and other household hazardous waste for recycling, as well as books and other household items for resale.

173 Madison County Road 6553, Huntsville  
[recycle@madisoncounty.net](mailto:recycle@madisoncounty.net)

[facebook.com/MadisonCountySolidWasteAndRecyclingCenter](https://facebook.com/MadisonCountySolidWasteAndRecyclingCenter)  
479-738-6351

### Marck Recycling

A recycling and waste solution company that operates a materials recovery facility in Rogers as well as other facilities in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas. This facility is the destination for much of Northwest Arkansas' single-stream curbside recycling.

3507 N. Arkansas St., Rogers

[marck.net](http://marck.net)

479-202-6277

### MoistureShield Composite Decking

A company manufacturing composite decking boards using mostly recycled plastic and wood.

200 Arkansas 264 West and 914 Jefferson St. #3400, Springdale  
[moistureshield.com](http://moistureshield.com) 866-729-2378

### Neighbors NWA

A company providing weekly residential trash and recycling pickup service in Benton and Washington counties, including in unincorporated areas.

[neighborsnwa.com](http://neighborsnwa.com)

479-879-5997

### NWA Recycles

An initiative of the Northwest Arkansas Council, with support from Walmart and in partnership with the Benton County and Boston Mountain solid waste districts, to help grow and improve the region's recycling through collaboration, education and data collection.

[nwarecycles.org](http://nwarecycles.org)

[danholtmeyer@nwacouncil.org](mailto:danholtmeyer@nwacouncil.org)

### Northwest Rags

A company recycling accepting public drop-offs of used clothing and other fabrics. Recycles fabric into industrial rags.

418 E. Center Ave., Springdale  
[nwrags.com](http://nwrags.com)  
[nwrags@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nwrags@sbcglobal.net)

479-927-5500

### ORE – Recovered Materials

A company brokering sales of recycled materials to end users, with a goal to support recycling in rural and other areas. ORE handles much of the recycling collected in Northwest Arkansas.

P.O. Box 1181, Clinton  
[info@recyclewithore.com](mailto:info@recyclewithore.com)

[recyclewithore.com](http://recyclewithore.com)  
800-518-7251

### Ozark Compost & Swap

A company providing residential food waste pickup services in Benton and Washington counties. Food waste is processed through vermicomposting.

2851 Honeysuckle Lane, Rogers  
[service@ozarkcompost.com](mailto:service@ozarkcompost.com)

[ozarkcompost.com](http://ozarkcompost.com)  
479-633-1864

### Pack Rat Outdoor Center

A retailer of outdoor equipment and clothing that also serves as a recycling collection center for food waste, plastic packaging and other materials.

209 W. Sunbridge Drive, Fayetteville  
479-521-6340

[packratoc.com](http://packratoc.com)

### Pedal It Forward

A nonprofit collecting and repairing used bikes for reuse by low-income and at-risk youth and families in Northwest Arkansas. Public drop-offs accepted.

3902 NW Wishing Springs Drive, Bentonville, and 315 W. Olive St., Rogers  
[pedalitforward.org](http://pedalitforward.org) 479-208-6868

### Razorback Recycling

The central recycling operation of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, collecting recyclables from students, faculty and staff throughout campus.

434 Eastern Ave., Fayetteville  
[fama.uark.edu/campus-services/recycling-waste.php](http://fama.uark.edu/campus-services/recycling-waste.php)  
479-575-3028

### RecycleBacks

A registered student organization at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, focused on recycling and environmental sustainability.

[bit.ly/recyclebacks](http://bit.ly/recyclebacks)

[recyclebacks@gmail.com](mailto:recyclebacks@gmail.com)

### Replenish

A company offering a network of community collection stations to help brands recover and reuse their materials.

[replenish.com](http://replenish.com)

[hello@replenish.com](mailto:hello@replenish.com)

### Republic Services

A waste-hauling company providing recycling and waste services for residents and businesses in Arkansas and 46 other states. Several local cities contract with Republic Services for curbside recycling and waste services.

36 Bella Vista Way, Bella Vista  
800-627-1717

[republicservices.com](http://republicservices.com)

### Ripple Glass

Kansas City-based company that collects glass bottles and recycles them into new bottles, fiberglass and other goods. Ripple receives the glass collected by public programs in Northwest Arkansas.

1607 Oak St., Kansas City, MO  
[info@rippleglass.com](mailto:info@rippleglass.com)

[rippleglass.com](http://rippleglass.com)  
816-221-4527

### Rogers Iron and Metal Corp.

A company collecting and processing scrap metal from businesses and the general public, including metal cans, copper and steel. Note: Hazardous waste and other items may not be accepted. Also sells new steel products.

721 N. Arkansas St., Rogers

479-636-2666

### Siloam Springs Metal Recycling Corp.

A company collecting and processing scrap metal from businesses and the general public, including metal cans, copper and steel. Note: Hazardous waste and other items may not be accepted. Also offers new steel products and industrial pickup.

1004 E. Main St., Siloam Springs  
479-524-3611

[yaffeco.net/ssmr](http://yaffeco.net/ssmr)

### Smurfit Kappa

A global producer of corrugated packaging, containerboard and other packaging materials, much of it made with recycled paper and cardboard. Also purchases other recyclables for resale and reuse. Accepts public drop-offs.

7115 S. McGuire St., Fayetteville  
479-521-6929

[smurfitkappa.com](http://smurfitkappa.com)

### SPO Metal Recycling

A company collecting and processing scrap metal from businesses and the general public, including metal cans, copper and steel. Note: Hazardous waste and other items may not be accepted.

721 S. Lincoln St., Lowell  
479-751-3000

479-770-6500

### Sustainability Consortium

An international nonprofit that aims to help the consumer goods industry create more sustainable products and is housed within the University of Arkansas, Arizona State University and Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands.

Sam M. Walton College of Business 301, 220 N. McIlroy Ave., Fayetteville

[sustainabilityconsortium.org](http://sustainabilityconsortium.org)

[erika.ferrin@sustainabilityconsortium.org](mailto:erika.ferrin@sustainabilityconsortium.org)

### Total Environmental

A company accepting and processing recyclables for businesses and the general public. Receives materials collected by several local city programs.

1421 E. 15th St., Fayetteville  
479-575-0170

[totalen.net](http://totalen.net)

### TRG

A company collecting and processing scrap metal from businesses and the general public, including metal cans, copper and steel. Note: Hazardous waste and other items may not be accepted.

1400 S. Warford Road, Fayetteville, and 3459 N. Arkansas St., Rogers  
[trg.net](http://trg.net) 479-966-4994 (Fayetteville) 479-621-8800 (Rogers)

### Used Oil Service Co.

A company accepting primarily used motor oil, hydraulic oil, antifreeze and metal oil filters for reuse.

4387 Catherine St., Springdale

479-521-7070

### Vaughn Recycling

A company collecting and processing scrap metal from businesses and the general public, including metal cans, copper and steel. Note: Hazardous waste and other items may not be accepted.

1246 S. School Ave., Fayetteville

479-443-2145

### WestRock

A global producer of corrugated packaging, paperboard and other fiber-based packaging materials, much of it made with recycled paper and cardboard.

113 SE 22nd St., Bentonville, and 2021 S. 5th Place, Rogers

[westrock.com](http://westrock.com)

479-636-7000

### WM

Previously Waste Management, a waste-hauling company providing recycling and waste services for residents and businesses in Arkansas and around the country. Owns and manages the region's primary landfill in Tontitown. Several local cities also contract with WM for curbside recycling and waste services.

2210 Waste Management Drive, Tontitown

[wm.com](http://wm.com)

866-909-4458



# Additional Resources

A variety of recycling tools and guides are available at [NWARecycles.org/Resources](http://NWARecycles.org/Resources), including the following:

## Event recycling toolkits

Find everything you need to make your next get-together, office party or community event less wasteful, including tips, printable signs and helpful contact information, in our Event Recycling Toolkit. You can also find a Cleanup Recycling Guide for volunteer trash cleanups.

## Drop-off guides

This helpful packet lists public recycling programs' drop-off locations for household recyclables, for electronics and batteries, and for household hazardous waste, such as cleaners and other chemicals.

## Municipal waste contract toolkit

City officials, find recommendations, example language and other information to help improve your contracts with recycling and trash pickup service providers.