



Recycling has many benefits to our environment as well as to our community. Recycling helps to conserve natural resources, saves energy and extends the life of our landfill by diverting recyclables out of the waste stream.

In 1997, the City Council appointed a citizen committee to begin discussing curbside recycling and to develop a pilot program. Over the next few years we began implementing recycling drop off programs at schools, parks and public locations. In February of 2000, we broke ground on our 45,000 square-foot Materials Recovery Facility. Later that year containers were delivered to single-family homes and our curbside recycling program began.

The curbside recycling program resulted in the collection of 9,000 tons in the first year. However, recycling has continued to be adopted by more and more residents. We are proud to announce that last year we collected approximately 20,000 tons of recyclable materials.

Items that are currently accepted through our curbside program include:

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Paper-computer paper, office paper, junk mail, file folders, and colored paper
- Aluminum and Steel/Tin cans
- Telephone books
- Cardboard and Chipboard
- Plastic Containers #1 or 2, including water bottles, soda bottles, milk jugs, detergent and fabric softener bottles. NO plastic bags.

Of course, not everyone strictly follows the guidelines for what is recyclable. There have been some strange items found at the Materials Recovery Facility over the years. Staff has witnessed people trying to recycle almost everything, literally including the kitchen sink. A stainless steel kitchen sink is just one of the unusual items that have been found. Others include car tires, a Christmas tree complete with lights and ornaments, a garden hose and a small boat anchor and chain.

Other items aren't quite as clear-cut as to whether or not they are recyclable. At a recent community meeting some residents mentioned that they had heard the plastic caps to their water bottles are not recyclable. It is true that these caps are not recyclable. The purchasers of our recycled material have assured our staff that the cap is a very small percentage of the overall item and does not affect the loads that are delivered. However, staff requests that you

remove the plastic cap and place it in your refuse container. This reminds residents that the container should be empty and it helps it to dry faster.

You have made a difference with your recycling efforts. Since the implementation of the program, Glendale has recycled approximately 85,000 tons of paper. This is enough to save 1.5 million trees and over 32 million gallons of oil. This amount of paper also saves over 250,000 cubic yards of landfill space, almost 350 million kilowatts of energy and almost 600 million gallons of water.

Our city's program has also recycled more than 75,000 aluminum cans, which is over 1,200 tons. The energy saved from recycling this number of cans could power a television set continuously for 26 years! We have recycled over 1500 tons of tin cans. This could save more than 4 million pounds of iron ore. Glendale's program has recycled enough plastic bottles to fill the tanks of almost 300,000 automobiles.

I want to thank and commend all of you for taking the time and making the effort to separate out your recyclable materials. The numbers above prove that you truly make a difference. ([Click Here](#)) or call 623-930-2660 to learn more about Glendale's recycling program and to find out what is and is not recyclable.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.