

# W WASTELINE

Recycling and solid waste information for the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska  
City of Omaha Hal Daub, Mayor May, 1997  
Public Works Department Don Elliott, Director Environmental Quality Division

## 1996 in Review

**T**HE FIRST YEAR of Omaha's new green bin recycling collection program went very well. During 1996, Omahans diverted 41% of their household solid waste from the landfill to more useful purposes of recycling and composting. This is significantly more than the 28% that was diverted in 1995.

The compost from last season's yardwaste is now available. If you are interested in purchasing some compost, call 444-3922, extension 803 for more information.

We want to encourage everyone to participate fully in the recycling program. Inside this issue of **WASTELINE** we have included information to help you understand how paper may be recycled in your recycling bin. We know that understanding the finer points may be difficult so we will gladly answer your recycling questions if you call 444-4500 during business hours.

If you haven't recycled with your green bin yet, give us a try. Each ton recycled saves about \$50! Here's one way you can help control taxes. You'll be surprised at how much less garbage you will create when you use your bin. If you recycle, encourage your neighbors to recycle as well. Every bit helps. ●



City of Omaha  
Hal Daub, Mayor

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May, 1997

To the Citizens of Omaha:

As Mayor I would like to thank the citizens of Omaha for their support of and involvement in the City's various efforts to keep our community environmentally clean and beautiful. You have invested in Omaha through your participation in our City's recycling programs and have helped to preserve our community for years to come.

Omaha residents recycled over 20,000 tons of recyclable materials in 1996. Your faithful separation of newspapers, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and metal cans not only helped to keep Omaha's environment and appearance strong, but your recycling efforts also produced nearly \$300,000 in profit-sharing revenue for the city.

Omahans have also shown dedication in recycling yardwaste. Because over 35,000 tons of yardwaste was collected in 1996, the City of Omaha has been able to recycle the materials and prepare 13,750 tons of yardwaste compost. Oma-Gro is the City of Omaha's first premium yardwaste compost and is now available for purchase.

I hope that you will look to these successes—for both our city and the environment—and realize that your efforts matter. I encourage each of you to continue supporting the City's attempts to find environmentally-conscious avenues for dealing with existing waste, avenues that will save the community in many different ways.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Hal Daub in black ink.  
Hal Daub  
Mayor

# Sack # 1 – Newspaper

## Save & Post Yes!

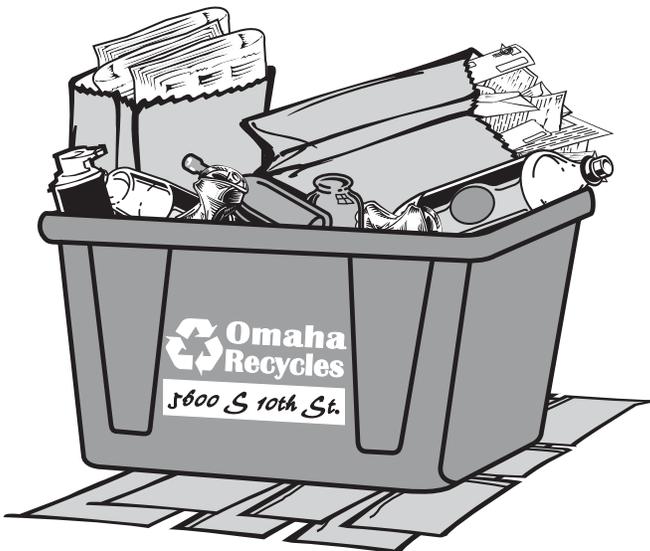


- 👉 Newspapers
- 👉 Newspaper inserts
- 👉 Advertisements delivered with the newspaper
- 👉 Newspaper coupons



Place paper in paper bags only! It is ok for paper to get wet from rain on collection day.

Lay sacks of paper on top of bin to prevent litter. Face opening away from direction of wind to prevent litter.



Cut corrugated cardboard boxes down to two feet by two feet and place under your recycling bin for collection.

## No!



- ⊘ Plastic Bags
- ⊘ Rubber bands
- ⊘ Soiled paper
- ⊘ Paper that should be in the mixed paper sack.

## 1996's numbers look good!

Here's how Omaha did during 1996. All numbers are reported as tons (2,000 pounds). Yardwaste is only collected April through November.

	Garbage	Yardwaste	Recyclables
January	6,349 (80%)	--	1,576 (20%)
February	5,818 (79%)	--	1,548 (21%)
March	5,631 (78%)	--	1,547 (22%)
April	6,582 (49%)	5,024 (37%)	1,757 (13%)
May	7,640 (45%)	7,350 (43%)	1,955 (11%)
June	6,973 (52%)	4,481 (34%)	1,713 (13%)
July	7,564 (58%)	3,753 (29%)	1,686 (13%)
August	7,424 (59%)	3,438 (27%)	1,783 (14%)
September	6,965 (62%)	2,734 (24%)	1,609 (14%)
October	7,147 (57%)	3,690 (29%)	1,732 (14%)
November	6,723 (55%)	3,886 (32%)	1,657 (13%)
December	6,903 (74%)	783 (8%)	1,695 (18%)
1996 Total	81,719 (59%)	35,139 (26%)	20,258 (15%)
1995 Total	94,925 (73%)	29,797 (23%)	5,579 (4%)

# Sack #2 — Mixed Paper

Newspaper and mixed paper must be placed in separate paper sacks for collection. We must all work to be sure that only the correct types of paper are collected for recycling, in the correct category. If other types of paper are included, it will cause problems in the recycling process, so please be careful what you place in your recycling bin and keep this mailing as a reference.

## Yes!

† Flatten boxes before recycling.

- 👉 Magazines
- 👉 Catalogues
- 👉 Detergent boxes†
- 👉 Unprinted newspaper (packing paper)
- 👉 Junkmail and unwanted mail
- 👉 Envelopes with plastic windows
- 👉 Shoe boxes†, Kleenex® boxes†, Cereal boxes†, dry food boxes†
- 👉 Photocopies, office papers and file folders
- 👉 Brochures
- 👉 Receipts
- 👉 Paperback books
- 👉 12/24 pack beverage cartons†
- 👉 Wrapping paper
- 👉 Greeting cards and postcards
- 👉 Shredded paper (Make sure it is deep in the bag so it doesn't cause litter)
- 👉 Paper egg cartons
- 👉 Lottery tickets
- 👉 Tubes from wrapping paper, waxed paper, toilet tissue, etc.
- 👉 Maps
- 👉 Paper sacks



## No!

- ⊗ Telephone books — Take phonebooks to the collection containers at area Baker's stores through Saturday, June 21.
- ⊗ Milk cartons
- ⊗ Paper cups
- ⊗ Juice Boxes
- ⊗ Soiled paper
- ⊗ Pizza boxes
- ⊗ Chinese takeout boxes
- ⊗ Tissue paper
- ⊗ Napkins
- ⊗ Ice cream cartons
- ⊗ Wax paper, Saran® wrap
- ⊗ Foil wrapping paper
- ⊗ Foil printed or flocked greeting cards
- ⊗ Hardbound books
- ⊗ Styro® foam egg cartons
- ⊗ Frozen food boxes
- ⊗ Photographs
- ⊗ Wallpaper
- ⊗ Facial tissue (Kleenex®), toilet paper
- ⊗ Newspaper that should be in sack #1



# Collection Pointers

- Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM. 
- If your collection was missed, call 444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.
- To prevent litter, be very careful about placing your recycling container out for collection on windy days. If possible, hold your recyclables for the following week's collection. Use lids on garbage cans.
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables and garbage containers.
- Plastic bags are not collected for recycling and should not be used to hold materials in your bin. Take plastic bags to grocery stores



## Holiday Collection Schedule

Six holidays are observed by the City's garbage, yardwaste and recyclables collection contractor. Following a holiday, collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of that week. Friday's collection will be on Saturday. The 1997 holiday's are:

- Memorial Day: Monday, May 26
- Independence Day: Friday, July 4
- Labor Day: Monday, September 1
- Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 27
- Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25
- New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1, 1998

- Mark your yardwaste cans with a **YW**. Do not mix garbage with yardwaste.
- We do not recycle ceramics, window glass, light bulbs, blue glass bottles (Clearly Canadian®) or red glass.
- Place corrugated cardboard in, next to, or under your recycling bin. Keep it separate from your garbage. Cardboard must be cut to 2 feet by 2 feet.
- You must use your recycling bin for recyclables.

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WASTELINE  
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**Important information about your  
recyclables, garbage and  
yardwaste collection.**

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1512  
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