

# WASTELINE

Recycling and solid waste information for the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska

City of Omaha

Hal Daub, Mayor

May, 1999

Public Works Department

Don Elliott, Director

Environmental Quality Division

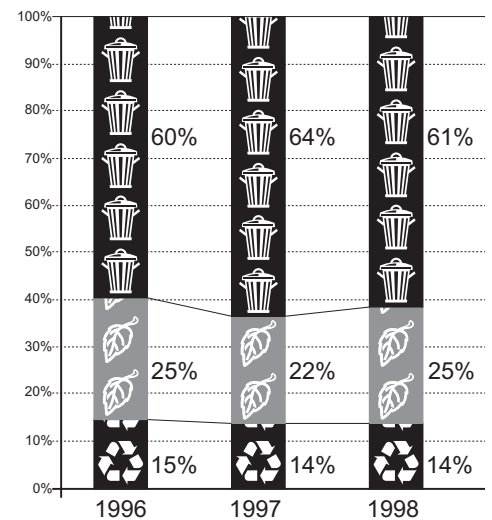
## The Challenge: 2% More in 1999 12% More by 2002

In 1992, the Nebraska legislature set two solid waste reduction goals—The first established a goal of 40% by July 1999 and the second a goal of 50% by July 2002. Only through a community wide effort that is focused on all three components of solid waste collection, garbage, yardwaste and recyclables, will Omaha achieve and surpass the year 1999 goal as well as the 2002 goal of 50%. The State's goals are measurements of waste reduction, and are not a measurement of recycling or composting. Because of this, the most direct route to achieving the goals is to reduce the amount of waste generated.

Last year's waste reduction rate for the City of Omaha's residential collection service was 38% only 2% away from the Nebraska goal of 40% by July 1999. Meeting the 1999 goal is very probable, but we need the help and support of all Omaha citizens to accomplish this task. The more challenging 2002 goal is 50% and meeting this goal will take additional efforts on everyone's part. Listed below are several simple things each of us can do to help Omaha meet these goals.

It is very important that we continue to strive to meet the 2002 goal, both for the environment and to help control costs of providing City services. Each ton of material

we divert from the landfill saves the taxpayers of Omaha \$20.66, this number really becomes significant when you express it as a percentage of the total waste stream. Diverting the additional 2% for 1999 will save \$58,890 in landfill tip fees alone. If we recycle those tons, Omaha shares the revenue which will more than double the savings. Achieving the 2002 goal could save an additional \$588,909 in 1999 dollars. These are tax dollars that can better be spent elsewhere, including returning the money to the individual taxpayer in the form of lower tax rates.



**What you can do to help—Together we can meet these goals!**

- Use your recycle bin to recycle everything listed on page two. We estimate that less than 50% of all containers and mixed paper are recycled city-wide.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to recycle if they don't. We estimate that participation in some neighborhoods is as low as 40%, while others other areas are as high as 80%. The goal is 100% participation in every neighborhood.
- If you have questions or need a recycling bin call 444-5238 for help.
- Keep a lid on your garbage can. Rain water collected in your garbage can costs more than \$20 a ton to dispose in the landfill—the same as the garbage. Besides water is a "bad thing" in the landfill.

	Garbage	Recyclables	Yardwaste
January	6,742 (81%)	1,612 (19%)	--
February	6,061 (81%)	1,416 (19%)	--
March	6,449 (77%)	1,502 (18%)	382 (5%)
April	7,593 (53%)	1,717 (12%)	4,970 (35%)
May	7,354 (51%)	1,805 (12%)	5,347 (37%)
June	7,699 (57%)	1,707 (13%)	4,120 (30%)
July	8,397 (61%)	1,639 (12%)	3,831 (28%)
August	7,395 (59%)	1,590 (13%)	3,515 (28%)
September	7,450 (62%)	1,552 (13%)	2,940 (25%)
October	7,436 (56%)	1,739 (13%)	4,067 (31%)
November	7,416 (51%)	1,747 (12%)	5,293 (37%)
December	7,741 (77%)	1,515 (15%)	782 (8%)
Total 1998	87,734 (62%)	19,543 (14%)	35,247 (25%)
Total 1997	86,022 (64%)	18,958 (14%)	30,411 (22%)
Total 1996	81,718 (60%)	20,258 (15%)	35,139 (26%)

# Recyclables

## Paper sack #1—Newspaper

- Includes: Coupons, advertisements, Parade section and all paper that came with the newspaper.
- Lay sack on top of bin.
- *Do not include:* phonebooks or other paper, rubber bands, plastic bags.

Yes



## Paper sack #2—Mixed Paper





- Includes: Magazines, catalogues, cereal boxes, junkmail (including mailing labels and plastic windows), detergent boxes, greeting cards, wrapping paper, paper back books, office and school paper.
- Lay sack on top of bin.
- *Do not include:* pizza boxes, juice boxes, milk cartons, phonebooks, hardbound books, tissue paper, paper plates, or frozen food boxes.

Yes

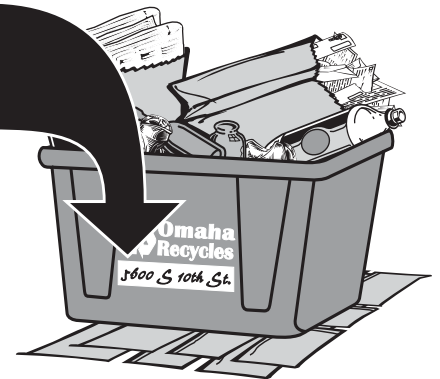


Write your address here.

## Loose in the bin—Containers (*Not in plastic bags*)

- Remove lids and throw in garbage.
- Plastic bottles marked , including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouth wash, shampoo, and cleaners.
-  not included: plastic cups, toys or cookie trays.
- Plastic bottles and tubs marked , including—bottles and tubs that held milk, juice, cleaners, margarine, whipped topping, and yogurt.
-  not included: motor oil or auto product bottles, lawn chemical bottles, toys or cookie trays.
- Glass bottles & jars.
- Aluminum cans.
- Steel (tin) cans, including—empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans. *Tip: Place end (lid) of food cans inside can and crimp closed.*
- Corrugated cardboard. Flatten. Cut to 2 feet by 2 feet. Place in bin or on ground under bin.
- Write your address on the bin, where indicated with a permanent marker.

Yes



## Phonebook Recycling

New phonebooks are being distributed by **USWest-Dex** and **McLeodUSA Publishing Co.** Together, they have worked out a recycling program for you.

Telephone directories are *not collected in Omaha's green bin program*, because the phonebooks are a closed loop recycling program where old phonebooks are turned into new ones.

Telephone books will be collected at all Omaha area Baker's Supermarket parking lots through June 30, 1999.

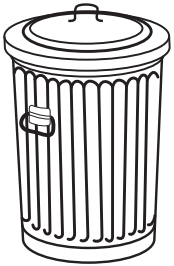
*Do not put phonebooks in your recycling bin.*

# Yardwaste

In 1999, the yardwaste season ends the week of November 29.

Leaves, brush and other yardwaste must be prepared properly for collection. *There is no limit to the number of properly prepared yardwaste containers or bundles that will be collected.*

## Yes!



- 👍 Grass clippings and leaves.
- 👍 Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables & fruits.
- 👍 Trash cans up to 32 gallons and weighing up to 45 pounds, marked with a **YW** on both sides.



- 👍 Unlimited number of properly prepared marked cans, paper bags or brush bundles.
- 👍 Special yardwaste paper bags weighing up to 40 pounds.



- 👍 Bundles of branches and brush. Tied with string or twine and weighing up to 30 pounds.
- 👍 Bundled branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length. Weighing up to 30 pounds.

## No!

- ⊘ Litter, trash or garbage.
- ⊘ Street sweeping sand and litter.
- ⊘ Pet manure.
- ⊘ Kitty litter.
- ⊘ Branches over 2 inches in diameter.
- ⊘ Branches over 4 feet long.
- ⊘ Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- ⊘ Plastic bags of yardwaste.
- ⊘ Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- ⊘ Plastic or nylon rope/twine or wire used on brush.
- ⊘ Unbundled brush.

**Collection missed? Call 444-5238 after 7pm on your collection day.**

## Oma•Gro Retail Outlets

Yardwaste collected in Omaha is composted at the City's facility near LaPlatte, Nebraska. After fully composting and curing, the compost is screened then made available for sale at the composting facility or through these retailers. The compost, called **Oma•Gro**, is available in bags or in bulk. **Oma•Gro** is an excellent soil amendment that revitalizes the soil with the nutrients needed for vigorous plant growth.

- Omaha Composting Facility, 15705 Harlan Lewis Rd, Bellevue, 444-6665 available bagged and bulk. Discount prices.
- Mullhall's Home & Garden Showplace, 3615 North 120TH Street, Omaha, 496-0700, available bagged and bulk.
- Sunrise Lawn & Garden, 8529 Fredrick, Omaha, 399-0288, available bagged only.
- Lanoha Nurseries, 19111 West Center Road, Omaha, 289-4103, available bagged only.
- Sun Valley Landscape, 5601 Harrison St, Omaha, 738-1580, available bagged and bulk.
- Trees, Shrubs & More, 3803 Cornhusker Rd, Bellevue, 291-9374, available bagged and bulk.
- Bloomingdeals Garden Center, 8118 Park View Blvd, LaVista, 592-4034, available bagged and bulk.
- Sherbondy's, 319 16th Ave., Council Bluffs, 323-7985, available bagged and bulk.
- The Village Nursery, 16618 Bestmann Dr, Plattsmouth, 298-8338, available bagged only.

- Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM. Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.
- Spoiled vegetables from your kitchen should go in the household garbage or down the drain using your garbage disposal. Garden waste should be put in with your yardwaste.
- Paint is safe to landfill *once it is dry*. The City has specific instructions available if you call 444-4500.
- Household chemicals can be hazardous if not handled properly. The best way to dispose of these items is to completely use the material in the manner prescribed, so sharing extra material with friends or neighbors is the best disposal method.
- Garbage should be placed in trash cans up to 32 gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds when full, or in see-through bags (clear bags preferred) that weigh up to 30 pounds when full. Garbage cans must have lids.
- Garbage is limited to a maximum five containers of trash per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables and garbage containers so the collectors can identify the materials.

### **Holiday Collection Schedule**

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

The remaining holidays for 1999 are:

- Memorial Day: Monday, May 24<sup>TH</sup>
- Independence Day: This is a Sunday—collection isn't affected.
- Labor Day: Monday, September 6<sup>TH</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 25<sup>TH</sup>
- Christmas Day: This is a Saturday—collection isn't affected.
- New Years Day 2000: This is a Saturday—collection isn't affected.

### **Save your business money—Use the Nebraska Materials Exchange**

Excess materials or the by-product from your business may be a useful item for other Nebraska businesses. The Nebraska Materials Exchange Program is available to help you make the connection. With a short phone call, you may be able to reduce the amount of waste created by your business. The program is looking for larger quantities of a single material which typically come from businesses and institutions. This could be liquids, powders, solids, or most any material. Try the exchange by calling (800) 486-4562, or (402) 486-4622.

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#### **WASTELINE**

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Environmental Quality Division  
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Omaha, NE 68107-3501



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

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