

# W WASTELINE



November, 2006  
City of Omaha  
Mike Fahey, Mayor

**Yardwaste Collection  
Ends for 2006  
The Week of  
November 27 -  
December 1, 2006**

Recycling, Garbage and Yardwaste Information for the Citizens of Omaha, Nebraska  
Public Works Department Robert G. Stubbe, P.E., Director Environmental Quality Division

## Just One More Truck

Omaha is now more than 10 months into its new single-stream recycling collection program. Although Omaha made a successful transition to this new program, we are certain that we can do even better. So in August a promotional campaign was announced with a goal of increasing recycling by 10% over the next twelve months. By doing this, the City will be sending one more truck to the recycling processing facility each day instead of the landfill. In a year's time this will free up \$110,000 for other City services.

### Partnering in Promotion

The Curbside Value Partnership (CVP), funded by the Can Manufacturers Institute, and the aluminum industry, has facilitated this promotional campaign. Omaha was selected as a

CVP community because of the new single-stream collection program and the overall size of the program. CVP communities have more than 100,000 eligible households and are not a deposit law state, such as Iowa with their nickle deposit on bottles and cans.

The campaign in Omaha aims to increase resident participation in the City's curbside recycling program,

specifically focusing on education and outreach to collection routes where participation has been lower than other areas of Omaha.

### Get a Bin

When the promotional campaign was announced, the City encouraged every household to get a bin, and use it

and environmentally. Recycling is a more cost effective use of your tax dollars. In fact, just recycling an old telephone book has an impact of 17¢ on the City's budget - 6¢ that isn't paid to the landfill, and 11¢ revenue for the paper that is recycled. The environmental impact can be just as dramatic - the energy saved by

recycling just one aluminum can is equivalent to six ounces of gasoline.

### It's Your Turn

So if you are a recycler, thank you. Your efforts make a real difference. If you've not gotten on the recycling bandwagon, why not start right now? It's simple, and we're here to help. On the back of **WASTELINE** is a primer of what can be recycled, but first you'll need a bin so if you can't find your bin, call 444-5238 and one will be delivered to you. **O!**



every week. The public responded in a big way. Bin requests hit a record-breaking 350-bin request spike in August 2006, compared to 150 bins requested in August 2005.

But it takes more than bin requests to make recycling successful. Every household needs to make a conscientious effort to recycle, and why not,

### Recycling...It's O! So Easy!

Recycling is important economically

**Recycling...  
It's O!  
So Easy!**



## Prepare for Christmas

Christmas trees are not collected as part of the garbage collection service. Omaha will again operate the Christmas tree collection sites.



The same four sites will be open this year. Watch for the next issue of **Wasteline** for the Christmas tree drop-off site information.

Plan now on how you will dispose of your Christmas tree. Here are three easy options:

- ▶ take your tree to one of the collection sites the same way you brought the tree home;
- ▶ place your tree securely in your yard and wait for yardwaste collection to resume the week of April 2, 2007;
- ▶ consider an artificial tree which can be used for many years. **O!**



## Needles Are A No No!

Recently there have been some tense moments at the Firstar Fiber recycling facility when insulin needles were found in containers destined for recycling.

Hypodermic needles are not recyclable, nor should they



be disposed of carelessly in the garbage. Needles must be disposed of properly. Talk with your doctor, pharmacist or the Douglas County Health Department about the correct way to dispose of needles.

Bottles, cans or plastic containers that hold needles must not be placed in the recycling bin or taken to a recycling drop-off site. **O!**

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1086  
OMAHA, NE



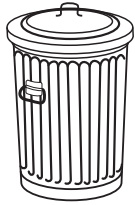
**WASTELINE**  
Omaha Public Works Env Quality Div  
5600 S. 10th St.  
Omaha, NE 68107-3501

# Garbage

Collection Missed?  
Call 444-5238 after 7PM  
on your collection day.

Because of state and federal laws, there are limits to the types of waste you may include in your garbage. Each household is limited to 5 properly prepared trash cans or clear bags of garbage per week.

## Yes!



Trash cans up to 32 gallons and weighing up to 45 pounds when full.

Clear plastic bags and weighing up to 30 pounds when full.



Up to 5 containers of garbage per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).

Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.

Note: Garbage cans must be removed from the curb by 10AM the day after collection.

## No!

- A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
- Rocks, dirt and concrete.
- Dead animals.
- Any liquids.
- Loose pet waste or cat litter.
- Tires, engines or other large auto parts.
- Bulky items (couches, chairs, stoves, etc.).
- Dark plastic bags that you can't see through.
- Motor oil and automotive batteries.
- Cardboard boxes (empty or full) when not in a can or bag.
- Items outside a can or clear bag.

## Worth Noting

Recently, Random House became the first major U.S. publishing company to commit to using a substantial amount of recycled paper in its books. The publisher has set two goals: 10 percent recycled-content paper for its "glossy" titles, such as cookbooks and art books, by 2008, and 30 percent recycled content in all other books by 2010. Because Random House holds about 13 percent of the

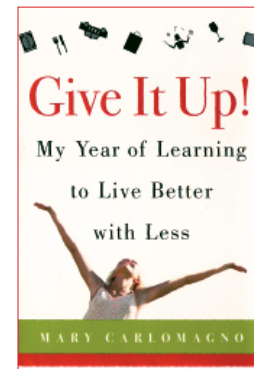
adult book market, these measures equate to preserving more than 550,000 trees each year.

According to the Green Press Initiative, which campaigns for more recycled paper in books and other printed materials, Random House is the first major publisher to join around 100 smaller companies that have already made the move to recycled-content paper.

# What Could You Live Without?

When I set out to write this book, my intention was to eliminate unnecessary facets of life, in essence to determine what I could live without.

Mary Carlomagno  
"Introduction," *Give It Up!*



What could you live without? After being hit on the head by boxes of shoes falling from her overfilled closet shelves, author Mary Carlomagno set out to answer this question.

Each month for a year, she gave up something that she valued something whose sacrifice created for her "a personal and significant touch factor." Her choices were personal coffee, reading the newspaper, television, eating out. But the lessons she learned can teach us some things about our own wants and needs.

During the summer, you may take some time off or you may have a different routine. Use some of this time to think about what you could live without. What possessions do you value and which just create clutter? Do you have habits that cost money and create waste?

While setting out to give up something every month for a year may seem daunting, try giving up one of your favorite "wants" for a week or a month. See what you learn about yourself.

## Read More About It!

Here's a selection of books about choosing to live with less.

*Choosing Simplicity: Real People Finding Peace and Fulfillment in a Complex World* by Linda Breen Pierce (Gallagher Press, 2000)†

*Living Simply with Children: A Voluntary Simplicity Guide for Moms, Dads, and Kids Who Want to Reclaim the Bliss of Childhood and the Joy of Parenting* by Marie Sherlock (Three Rivers Press, 2003)

*Simplicity Lessons: A 12-Step Guide to Living Simply* by Linda Breen Pierce (Gallagher Press, 2003)

*Give It Up!: My Year of Learning to Live Better with Less* by Mary Carlomagno (William Morrow, 2006)†

*What Kids Really Want that Money Can't Buy: Tips for Parenting in a Commercial World* by Betsy Taylor (Warner Books, 2003)†

*Voluntary Simplicity: Toward a Way of Life That Is Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich* by Duane Elgin (Revised Edition, Harper Paperbacks, 1998)†

† Indicates the book is available from the Omaha Public Library.

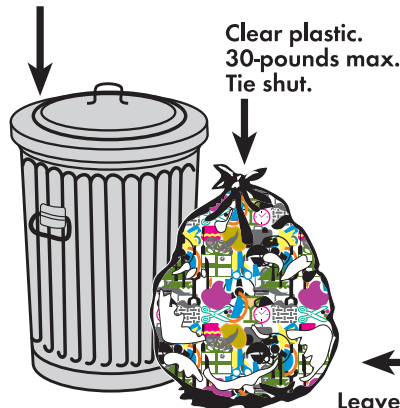
[www.wasteline.org](http://www.wasteline.org)

## Collection Pointers

Within 5 feet of curb or alley  
Collection problems: 444-5238

### Garbage: Up to 5 containers

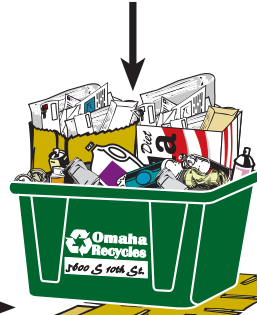
Metal or plastic can with handles.  
32-gallon, 45-pound max.



Clear plastic.  
30-pounds max.  
Tie shut.

### Recycling: Must use bin

No plastic bags.  
No glass.  
Paper in paper bag or box.  
Flatten cardboard boxes.

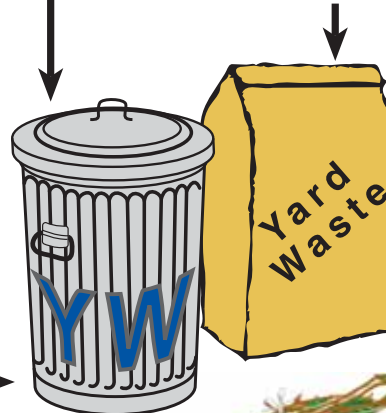


### Yardwaste: No container limit

Growing Season Only

Metal or plastic can with handles.  
32-gallon, 45-pound max.  
Marked YW.

Paper bags only.  
40-pounds max.



Leave space between

Leave space between



Set out by 6AM

Bundle with string.  
4-foot long max.  
2-inch diameter branches max.  
30-pounds max.



## Solid Waste Assistance



Special collection assistance for garbage, yardwaste and recyclables is available to households where all residents in the home have a medical disability, or are age 70 or older.

To apply, call 444-5238 from 8AM to 8PM weekdays.

## UnderTheSink

Special Waste Facility



Properly dispose of unwanted household, lawn, garden and automotive chemicals by making an appointment at UnderTheSink, 444-sink [444-7465].

There is no charge.

# Pack Healthy, Low-Litter Lunches

Do you "brown-bag it"? If so, a lunch bag full of heavily packaged and heavily processed food may not be the best choice for your body or our environment. Instead, pack a healthy lunch in reusable containers.



▶ Pack healthy foods that don't need a container, such as oranges, apples, plums, and bananas.

▶ Use washable, reusable containers. Or, save and wash the tubs that held sour cream, yogurt, or butter.

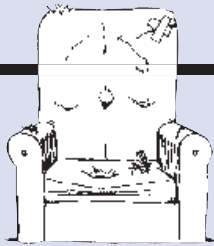
## Here are some tips:

- ▶ Choose a small canvas bag, lunch box, or insulated lunch tote.
- ▶ If you need to keep food cold, freeze water in a reused bottle to make an "ice pack." (Be sure the bottle has been thoroughly cleaned and fill it about ¾ full with water. Put the lid loosely onto the bottle and freeze it upright. Screw the lid on tight before putting your "ice pack" into your lunch bag.)
- ▶ Pack foods you like in amounts that you will eat.
- ▶ If you plan to heat something in a microwave, be sure to put it into a microwave-safe plastic or glass dish. The microwave is no place for a reused yogurt or butter container - save them for the cold food!
- ▶ Put your drink in a refillable bottle or opt for a recyclable drink container. (Be sure to recycle it!)
- ▶ Don't forget a cloth napkin and reusable flatware.

# Bulky Item Disposal

There are options for bulky items not permitted through regular collections. Omaha has a low cost, co-pay system for disposal through a local solid waste transfer station.

Call 444-5238 for information. **!**



# Yardwaste

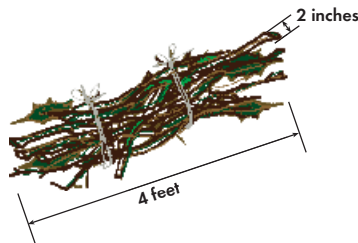
Ends the Week of Nov 27-Dec 1

There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that can be collected. Place yardwaste within 5-feet of your curb and leave 2-feet of space between Yardwaste and Garbage containers. Yardwaste collection season will end the week of November 27-December 1, 2006.

## Yes!



- ▶ Grass clippings and leaves.
- ▶ Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit.
- ▶ Trash cans up to 32 gallons and weighing up to 45 pounds, marked with a YW on both sides.
- ▶ Special yardwaste paper bags weighing up to 40 pounds.
- ▶ Unlimited number of properly prepared marked cans, paper bags or brush bundles.
- ▶ Bundles of branches and brush, tied with string or twine. Bundles may weigh up to 30 pounds.
- ▶ Branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length.



## No!

- ▶ Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection.
- ▶ Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- ▶ No saw dust, lumber or treated lumber/wood.
- ▶ Litter, trash or garbage.
- ▶ Whole cans of dirt or sod.
- ▶ Street sweeping sand, litter or rocks.
- ▶ Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- ▶ Pet waste or kitty litter.
- ▶ Branches over 2 inches in diameter.
- ▶ Branches over 4 feet long.
- ▶ Plastic twine, nylon twine or wire used to bundle brush or branches.
- ▶ Rope of any kind.
- ▶ Unbundled brush.

## Yardwaste Collection for 2006 Ends The Week of November 27 - December 1, 2006

2005	Garbage		Recycling		Yardwaste	
January	7,484	86%	1,207	14%	-	0%
February	6,956	86%	1,166	14%	-	0%
March	8,327	86%	1,405	14%	-	0%
April	8,254	55%	1,392	9%	5,478	36%
May	8,289	56%	1,405	9%	5,196	35%
June	9,260	61%	1,475	10%	4,483	29%
July	8,215	69%	1,315	11%	2,359	20%
August	9,035	64%	1,449	10%	3,583	25%
September	8,264	65%	1,437	11%	3,000	24%
October	7,729	60%	1,319	10%	3,801	30%
November	8,465	50%	1,451	9%	7,112	42%
December	7,993	79%	1,690	17%	378	4%
<b>Total 2005</b>	<b>98,270</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>16,710</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>35,391</b>	<b>24%</b>
Total 2004	100,479	65%	17,339	11%	37,451	24%
Total 2003	97,873	65%	17,380	12%	35,078	23%
Total 2002	96,909	66%	17,816	12%	32,462	22%
Total 2001	97,973	65%	18,851	12%	34,686	23%
Total 2000	94,717	64%	20,253	14%	32,185	22%
Total 1999	92,512	64%	19,582	14%	31,761	22%
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%



## Omaha's Premium Quality Compost

OmaGro is a natural compost product made exclusively of grass clippings, leaves and ground wood.

**Call 444-6665 to find a retailer near you.**

Ask for **OmaGro** at your favorite garden supply store or buy it direct from the production facility!

[www.omagro.com](http://www.omagro.com)

**City of Omaha Composting Facility**  
15705 Harlan Lewis Road  
Bellevue, NE 68123-5728





# Recycling

Place Materials  
Out in Green Bin

All Clean Paper In a Paper Sack or Small  
Cardboard Box  
(Do not use plastic bags)

Includes: Most all clean paper.  
Things like:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Magazines       | Greeting Cards    |
| Newspaper       | School Paper      |
| Detergent Boxes | Phonebooks        |
| Paperback Books | Junkmail          |
| Catalogues      | Wrapping Paper    |
| Cereal Boxes    | Paper Egg Cartons |

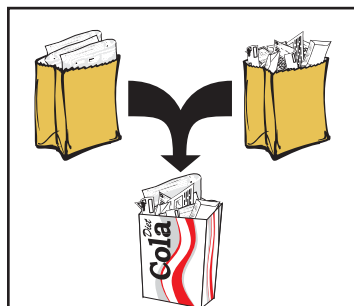
Lay sack or box either inside bin, on top of bin, or next to your bin with opening facing away from wind.

Corrugated cardboard. Break down flat and place under bin. For lots of boxes, fold and stuff multiple boxes into one box. Set out next to recycling bin.

**NO!** Do not include: Any soiled paper or these non-recyclable items:

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Pizza Boxes  | Hardbound Books |
| Milk Cartons | Rubber Bands    |
| Styrofoam    | Paper Plates    |
| Juice Boxes  | Plastic Bags    |
| Tissue Paper |                 |

Yes



All recyclable paper may go into the same paper sack or a small cardboard box.

Newspapers don't need to be kept separate.

Containers Loose in the bin  
(Not in plastic bags)

Aluminum cans & Steel (tin) cans, including empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans. Please don't flatten aluminum cans.  
Tip: Place end of food cans inside can and crimp closed.

Plastic bottles marked PETE, including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouthwash, shampoo or cleaners.

**NO!** Don't recycle these plastic items, no matter what: Frozen food trays, plastic cups, toys, cookie trays, motor oil bottles, lawn chemical bottles, or hazardous chemical bottles

Plastic bottles, tubs or snap top containers marked HDPE, including those that held milk, juice, cleaners, or other food items.

**NO!** Glass bottles or jars. (Glass may be taken to drop-off sites or placed in garbage)

**NO!** Lids of any kind. Remove and throw in garbage.

Yes



Make room in your bin by flattening plastic bottles.

## Recycling Drop-off Sites

Recycling glass and the occasional extra bunch of recyclables is easy. Here are the drop-off sites that serve the city:

**North West:** Scrap Central  
8518 Blondo Street  
Open: Monday Friday: 9AM 5PM  
Saturday: 9AM 3PM

**South West:** Firststar Fiber  
10330 "I" Street  
Open: Monday Friday: 7AM 7PM  
Use the East driveway to Firststar. Turn off I Street, then turn left into the fenced parking area on your left before you reach the guard shack.

**North East:** CARE Recycling  
4420 IZARD Street

**New Hours!**  
Open: Monday Friday: 7AM 7PM

**South East:** River City Recycling  
6404 South 60TH Street  
(Between Harrison & Q Streets)  
Open: Monday Friday: 8AM 4:30PM  
Saturday: 8AM NOON (Winter)  
Monday Saturday: 8AM-4:30PM  
(Spring, Summer, Fall)

**Other Recycling Sites**  
(not City sponsored)

HyVee at Applewood Center  
South 96TH & "Q" Streets

Weyerhaeuser Recycling  
7200 North 16TH Street

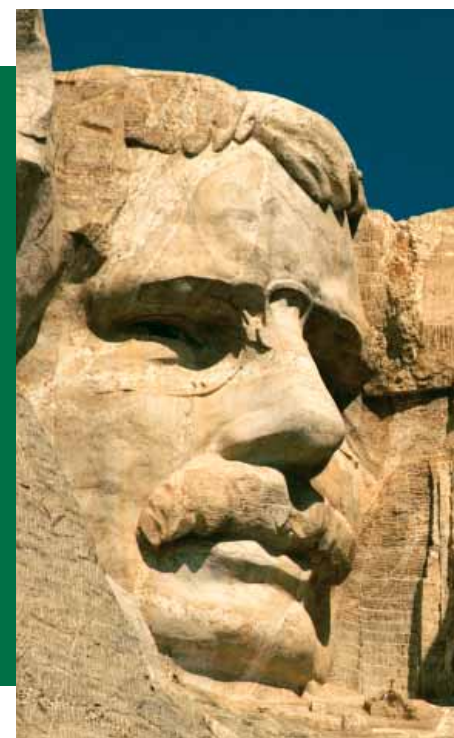
HyVee at Oakview Mall  
South 144TH St & West Center Road

HyVee at Welch Plaza  
South 180TH & "Q" Streets

## Quotes Requoted

*To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.*

Theodore Roosevelt, 1858-1919  
26th President, Soldier,  
Conservationist



## Recycling Collection Tips

**NO!** Glass in recycling bin. Take to a drop-off site or place in garbage.

**NO!** Lids. Remove snap top and screw on lids from all containers and place in garbage.

**NO!** Plastic bags, Styrofoam®, motor oil bottles, plate glass, syringes, light bulbs, batteries, drinking glasses or pizza boxes.

All containers must be bottles with screw top lids. No snap top containers or plastic cups.

Containers marked may be bottles or snap top containers.

The green bin must be used for setting out recyclables.

Remove bin from curb as soon as possible after collection.

Flatten plastic bottles for extra space in bin and to reduce litter (Flattened bottles don't blow away as easily).

## Bin Replacement

If your recycling bin becomes damaged or lost, call 444-4500.



**Keep America Going, Recycle!**