

“One Person’s Trash...”

Fall 2021

your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Buncombe County Solid Waste Department
828-250-5462
www.buncombecounty.org



Drop off electronics, paint, and HHW at the landfill

Televisions and computer monitors are accepted daily at the landfill during normal operating hours if you can unload the devices without assistance. Residents will be charged a fee of \$10 per TV or monitor, regardless of size. If you have other electronic waste or if you will need assistance with unloading, please deliver your electronics during the hours for household hazardous waste drop-off on the dates listed below. We accept most electronics — other than computer monitors and televisions — from residents at no charge. Businesses may drop off electronics for a fee of 30 cents per pound.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) and paint are accepted only one Friday of the month during the fall and winter (see box for dates and times). HHW includes unneeded household, garden, and automotive chemicals, paints and stains, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, and spent rechargeable household batteries. There is a limit of 20 gallons of paint per event. The fee

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Dates

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on these Fridays

- October 8
- November 5
- December 10



for paint and paint-related items, including water-based sealer, paint thinners, enamels, polyurethane, and flammable liquids, such as gas and kerosene, is \$2 per gallon. There is no charge for pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, motor oil, antifreeze, and lead-acid batteries.

The landfill is located at 85 Panther Branch Road, off of 251 North (Old Marshall Highway), north of Alexander. When you get to the landfill scale house, you will be directed to the collection area.

Fees will apply on some items. Businesses may recycle electronics for a fee but are NOT allowed to drop off hazardous waste. For the safety of staff and residents, materials must be unloaded by the people dropping off the items whenever possible.

Visit our website, www.buncombecounty.org/solidwaste, for more details.

Please sort HHW prior to drop-off

For added safety and efficient drop-off times, we ask that you please sort your household hazardous waste (HHW) before bringing it to the landfill. Oftentimes people will clean out their basements or garages and not really take inventory of what they have until they arrive at the HHW disposal area. This slows down disposal for everyone, causes household wastes to be misplaced and miscategorized, and reduces the efficiency of the overall operation.

Before you come to the landfill, please be sure to presort your items according to these categories:

- Paint**
 - Please keep latex (water-based) and oil-based paints in separate cans. You will be asked to place oil-based paints in a separate bin from latex paints, as we use a different method to dispose of each type.
 - Latex paint should be consolidated into as few containers as possible prior to drop-off.
 - Empty or dried latex paint cans are not considered HHW and should be disposed of in your household trash.
- Household chemicals**
 - Please make sure all chemicals are labeled before bringing them to the landfill. It is easiest to leave them in their original containers so they may be disposed of safely.



- Unlabeled chemicals will not be accepted.
 - Please separate pesticides from all other chemicals.
 - Please check the list of accepted chemicals on the County website, www.buncombecounty.org, before bringing them in for disposal.
- Electronics**
 - Please separate devices from cords.
- Light bulbs**
 - Ensure that fluorescent bulbs are unbroken upon arrival. We are unable to recycle broken bulbs or lamps of any kind.
 - We do not accept CFL light bulbs, but they can be recycled at Lowe’s or Home Depot.
- Flammable liquids**
 - Please label your flammable liquids before arriving.
 - If you wish to keep your container, on request, we can empty your flammable liquids and return it to you.



Please visit our website, www.buncombecounty.org, or call 828-250-5462 for more information. We appreciate your efforts to ensure the best recycling practices are being utilized for these items! Thank you.

Thinking ahead to the holidays and beyond



The Buncombe County Landfill offers free holiday tree disposal for the entire month of January. Residents should follow signs to the landfill yard waste area.



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



ELDERLY/LOW-INCOME DISCOUNT PROGRAM

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY

Over 65? Having trouble getting your WastePro trash/recycling cart to the collection point? You may qualify for the Elderly/Low-Income Discount Program. Learn more at www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/solid-waste/news_detail.aspx?newsid=18368 or call us at 828-250-5462 for details.

Meet Helping Ninjas Leo and Layla

Twelve-year-old Leo Berry and his little sister Layla from Carmel, Indiana, love to show other kids how to make compost. Compost is made from rotting plant-based materials that have been broken down naturally by bacteria and other microorganisms. Composting can take all the garbage that comes from plants — like leaves, banana peels, leftover peas, and even paper — and recycle it to make a nutrient-rich soil amendment that is great for plants and the environment.

Leo, Layla, and a group of their friends formed a group called the Helping Ninjas about four years ago. According to Leo, Helping Ninjas are “highly skilled at helping,” and they do all sorts of projects for people and the environment. Over the years, they have planted organic gardens and donated the vegetables they grew to a nearby food pantry, they have planted pollinator gardens, they have taught students about composting, and more.

Leo and Layla first started composting in 2018, when the Helping Ninjas applied for a Carmel Green Teen grant to pay for seeds and supplies to plant a garden and teach other kids in the local elementary schools how and why to compost. This was one of Leo’s favorite projects. The students worked with their school cafeteria manager to start composting cafeteria scraps (apple cores, leftover carrots, potato peels, etc.) by using a school worm composting bin that could also be used by teachers as a fun, educational tool. Leo noted that composting with worms is called vermicomposting.

“I think it is important that all kids learn how to help the Earth by composting,” says Layla. The Helping Ninjas have been

busy doing their part, teaching over 150 kids in after-school programs throughout their area how composting works by having them make take-home, mini compost bins in glass jars. (See below to make your own compost jar, which is a fun science project to do at home.)

Leo, Layla, and the Helping Ninjas continue teaching kids and adults to compost. Composting is easy and inexpensive because you just use what gets thrown away



*Leo and Layla
having some
fun in the
garden*

anyway. In America, food scraps and yard waste together make up about one-third of what we throw away, so composting at home and at school can provide free plant food while keeping a lot of garbage out of landfills. Compost can be used as a nutrient-rich soil amendment to create healthier lawns, flowers, gardens, or other plants.

Layla adds, “Whether you are a kid who likes composting, planting flowers for pollinators, or recycling, every little bit helps.” Find your inner ninja and try composting today!

To learn about the Helping Ninjas or to start a group of your own, visit www.helpingninjas.com.



Credit: SerrNovik | iStock | Getty Images Plus

The leaves are turning brown, but keep your habits green

Fall brings about many changes. Kids are in school and ballfields are lit for football and soccer games. The days are getting shorter and gradually cooler, too. Outdoors, the leaves are changing colors. Although the leaves are red, yellow, and brown, yard cleanup and raking can be green. As you gather leaves and prepare your lawn and garden for winter, here are some hints that are good for your yard and the environment:

- After gathering the leaves, put them into your compost bin. Mix them in slowly over the next several months with additional “green” debris, such as fruit and vegetable scraps. If you put in too many leaves at one time, it can slow the composting process.
- Use the bag attachment on your mower to shred leaves. These leaf bits can be used as mulch. Leaf mulch protects the soil and the helpful creatures that live in your garden from winter’s harsh temperatures.
- If there is only a sprinkling of leaves on your lawn, use your mulching mower instead of a rake. The mower will shred the leaves into small pieces and drop them back onto the lawn. These leaf bits protect your grass during the winter and decompose by spring.
- Need more information about composting? Check out our new webpage where we provide resources and information on backyard composting and compost services available in Buncombe County: www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/solid-waste/recycling.aspx#sec-composting.
- After you’ve composted and mulched your leaves, you might have a few bags left over. Yard waste, including bagged leaves, lawn clippings, branches, and brush, is accepted at the Buncombe County Landfill. Fees may apply. Mulch can be purchased on site, as well. Please contact us at 828-250-5462 for details.

Remember — please don’t burn fall leaves. If you burn piles of leaves, you can accidentally start fires that get out of control, putting people and homes in danger. Plus, leaf burning puts pollutants into the air, making it harder for people to breathe, especially children, the elderly, and those with breathing difficulties.

Make compost in a jar

Based on Leo and Layla’s Helping Ninjas project

A composting jar is a fun way to learn about composting and watch it in action. This is a great project to do around Halloween because you can use chopped up pumpkin parts (minus the seeds) as the vegetable scraps. Make sure you add the soil to introduce decomposer microorganisms (tiny creatures including bacteria and fungi) that help break down the food scraps to make compost.

What you need for each jar:

- 1 large (1-liter) empty mason or other large jar OR the bottom half of a 2-liter soda bottle
- 1 empty paper towel tube, cut into 1” pieces (can use 2 empty toilet paper tubes or half of a cardboard egg carton instead)
- 1 cup of vegetable or fruit scraps (leftover bits of items that would normally get thrown away)
- 1 cup of brown leaves
- ¼ cup of soil (dirt from the ground or packaged potting soil)
- ½ cup of water
- spoon for mixing



Photo courtesy of Lindsey Berry of Helping Ninjas

Directions:

In a large jar, add the cut-up cardboard, vegetable or fruit scraps, dry leaves, and soil. Stir or place the lid on and shake. Add water. Stir or shake. **Take the lid off.** Place the jar on the kitchen counter or near a windowsill and watch the food scraps become compost! Continue to stir the jar once or twice a week. Add a tablespoon or two of water each week if the mixture looks dry.

It takes about four weeks for the mixture to become compost. You will know the compost is ready when the mixture looks like soil. The smaller the food scraps, the faster the mix is broken down to become compost.

NOTE: Never add these to a compost pile: dairy products, like milk and cheese; anything that came from an animal, like meat or bones; pet waste; or fats. These items attract pests and make the compost stink.

Donate used clothing and household textiles



Buncombe County Solid Waste does not offer clothing and textile recycling. If you have items that you don't want to sell, consider donating gently used goods to charity-based organizations, such as Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry, Asheville Humane Society, Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, Baby Equipment and Resources (BEAR) Closet, Salvation Army, Hearts with Hands, Homeward Bound of WNC, MANNA FoodBank, Goodwill, or Asheville Habitat ReStore. The Asheville Habitat for Humanity ReStore also accepts building materials and some appliances for reuse; contact them at 828-254-6706 for details.

No bags or Styrofoam, please!



Please keep ALL plastic bags and Styrofoam out of blue recycling carts and drop-off bins. Styrofoam can only be recycled at Asheville Greenworks Hard 2 Recycle events, which occur quarterly. Visit www.ashevillegreenworks.org to find for event days and locations.

Recyclables should be placed unbagged directly into drop-off bins and carts. If you choose to collect your recycling in plastic bags, please empty recyclables into your cart and reuse the bag for another purpose or throw it into the trash. Plastic bags mixed in with other recyclables tangle equipment in our sorting facilities and do not get recycled. Clean, dry plastic bags and plastic wrap can be gathered together for recycling and dropped off in plastic bag recycling bins at local Ingles and Walmart stores. Thank you for your help!

Have inkjet cartridges?

Did you know that stores, including Staples, Office Depot, Best Buy, and Walmart, accept cartridges for recycling? Some of these stores even give you a credit (or rewards dollars) for your empty cartridges. These businesses send your empty cartridges to be cleaned, inspected, refilled, and resold or to be used for parts. The remainder are recycled or disposed at waste-to-energy facilities or landfills. Please drop off your inkjet cartridges for recycling instead of tossing them into the trash. When it's time to purchase new ink or toner, consider buying remanufactured cartridges. When you do, you will save money on ink and toner and support a closed-loop recycling system.



Food expert focuses on food waste

According to the USDA, as much as 30-40% of our food supply goes to waste. That's a lot of food tossed out or left to rot that families across the country need. Food waste happens from production to purchases, and both businesses and individuals need to do their part to reduce food waste.

That's why celebrity chef and activist Andrew Zimmern partnered with grocery store ALDI to educate on food waste and share ALDI's commitment to reduce 50% of food waste by 2030. Using the EPA's "Food Recovery Hierarchy," ALDI strives to prevent, recover, and recycle food waste, in that order. Zimmern has long been a sustainable food activist, raising awareness on his show *Bizarre Foods*, which demonstrates how cultures in the U.S. and around the globe use food sustainably.

Food waste is "interrelated with our personal health crisis and our hunger crisis here in America," Zimmern told Waste360. When every part of the supply chain agrees to do its part to reduce food waste, we can not only prevent waste but also help improve the global environmental situation and improve food access in our communities. Zimmern hopes to convince Americans that food outside our comfort zones — head-on shrimp, goat, and goose,

for example — is not only delicious but also a part of a sustainable food economy.

So how can you reduce food waste at home? Zimmern has two main tips: Have a smaller refrigerator and write down every food item you throw away. Don't run out and buy a new, small refrigerator. Instead, remove a shelf and a bin to reduce how much food you can leave inside to waste away.

Then, keep a notepad near your garbage bin and record what you throw away. Look for patterns and then research creative solutions for using your food waste. Use vegetable scraps in soup stock. Buy smaller sizes of milk if it goes bad before you finish it. Set a reminder on your phone to use frozen meat before it spoils. After a year of creative thinking

and partnerships due to food surpluses at restaurants and shortages at home, Zimmern hopes Americans will remember how our "convenience culture" needs to change. By thinking more about sustainability and using what we have, we can conserve resources needed to produce food and ensure what we have is used.

For more food waste reduction tips, visit www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home.



Andrew Zimmern partners with ALDI to promote waste reduction in the kitchen.

Reduce your holiday budget and stress with thoughtful, eco-friendly gifts

Would you like to make your holiday season a little less stressful and turn it a brighter shade of green? Would you like a season that focuses more on people than stuff? Here are some ideas to mix, match, and make your own!

- **Make a list and check it twice.** Write down the names of all the people on your gift list.
- **Create a realistic budget.** Decide how much you would like to spend on holiday giving. Periodically evaluate how much you are spending compared to the budget you developed.
- **Give the gift of your time.** Giving your time is budget-friendly, improves relationships, and creates less waste.
- **Make unique, homemade gifts.** Put your skills to work and be creative!
- **Give experiences.** Event tickets, museum or zoo memberships, park passes, or gift cards for movies or streaming services create memories.
- **Remember your bags.** Whether you are shopping at antique stores, second-hand stores, or the mall, carry reusable bags with you.



- **Wrap it up.** Choose reusable gift bags. Use fabric scraps, magazine pages, the Sunday comic section, colorful brochures, or old maps to create unique gift wrap. Make the wrapping part of the gift by using a dish towel or scarf.
- **It's the thought that counts.** We all love holiday gifts. But no one wants to give or receive gifts that are unwanted, regifted, unused, or thrown away. Perhaps there is a better way to honor your relationships while reducing unnecessary costs and waste.

RECYCLE ALL TOGETHER

PLASTIC

Bottles, tubs, jugs and jars



No pumps Empty and rinse

METAL

All cans



Empty and rinse

GLASS

Bottles and jars



Empty and rinse

PAPER

Paper, cartons and cardboard



Flatten cardboard

KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT!



- Aerosol cans
- All batteries
- Ceramic items
- Clothing or textiles
- Diapers
- Disposable cups (plastic and paper)
- Electronics
- Food-tainted items
- Hazardous waste
- Household glass
- Medical waste
- Plastic bags/wrap
- Plastic clamshell packaging
- Scrap metal/wood
- Shredded paper
- Styrofoam/peanuts
- Tangles (cords, hoses, wires, etc.)
- Tires
- Toys

PLEASE DON'T BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES!



If you have any questions, please contact the **Solid Waste Office at 828-250-5460** or the **Landfill at 828-250-5462**.

TV/PAINT RECYCLING EVENTS

Buncombe County Landfill also accepts the following items from residents* **ONLY** during TV/Paint Recycling events. Check our website for event details and dates.

-  **Electronics:** Cell phones, keyboards, etc.
-  **Televisions, computer monitors and CPUs:** Everyday drop-off is available for residents who are able to self-unload.
-  **Paint:** Paint, paint thinners, water sealer, enamels, etc. 20-gallon limit per event.
-  **Flammable liquids:** Gasoline and kerosene.
-  **Pesticides:** Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.
-  **Unbroken fluorescent bulbs:** 20 bulbs max per month. Check online for bulb disposal guidelines.

NOTE: Bio-Hazardous materials, radioactive materials and explosives are **NOT** accepted.

*Businesses can recycle electronics by the pound for a fee. No business hazardous wastes will be accepted.

ACCEPTED EVERY DAY


The landfill also accepts the following materials every day at the Convenience Center from residents only – no commercial quantities.

- **Used cooking oil**
- **Motor oil**
- **Lead acid batteries**
- **Automotive fluids, oil filters and anti-freeze**

Buncombe County Landfill Convenience Center

Directions to the Buncombe County Landfill:

From I-240 East or West, take Exit 4A to 19/23 North. Travel 1 mile and then take UNC-A exit. At the end of the exit, turn left. Go to traffic light and turn right onto 251 North. Continue on 251 North for 13½ miles to Panther Branch Road. Turn right onto Panther Branch Road and travel 1/10 of a mile to the Buncombe County Landfill, which is located on the right. The new landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.




81 Panther Branch Road, Alexander • 828-250-5462
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Buncombe County Transfer Station Convenience Center

Directions to the Transfer Station:

From I-240, take exit 1B (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. Turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left. From I-40, take exit 47 (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. After crossing I-240, turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.



190 Hominy Creek Road, Asheville • 828-250-6205
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Important Phone Numbers for County Residents

Junk Yards/Junk Cars – Haylee Madfis.....	828-250-4865
Bioreactor Manager – Kristy Smith.....	828-250-5473
Buncombe County Landfill.....	828-250-5462
Buncombe County Transfer Station.....	828-250-6205
Waste Pro – Residential Trash Pickup.....	828-684-7790
Mobile Home Removal – Haylee Madfis.....	828-250-4865
Environmental Control – Kim Spillars.....	828-250-5470
Recycling Coordinator – Cassandra Lohmeyer.....	828-220-1361

Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents

Asheville City Sanitation – Trash Pickup.....	828-259-5857
Curbside Management – Recycling.....	828-252-2532

Like us on Facebook!

Get announcements directly in your News Feed about Buncombe County Government activities and programs, including solid waste and recycling. Plus, you'll be able to post your questions and comments, find county job listings, and more. Like us today at www.facebook.com/buncombeGov.



We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Buncombe County Solid Waste Department
81 Panther Branch Road, Alexander, NC 28701
828-250-5460 • www.buncombecounty.org

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