

“One Person’s Trash...”

your guide to reducing,
reusing and recycling



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

Fall 2019



Your safety is our priority

The Buncombe County Landfill’s mission is to protect the health and safety of all citizens by disposing of all waste generated in Buncombe County in the most efficient, cost effective, and environmentally sound manner possible.

To fulfill this mission, we need you to follow certain safety guidelines while dropping off waste and recycling at both of our busy facilities. Each month, about 16,500 tons of trash are processed at our landfill in Alexander. Each day, our Transfer Station in Asheville handles about 700 tons of garbage and recycling. At each location, large trucks, front loaders, and other equipment are needed to manage this volume of mate-

rial. Keeping you safe in this environment is our priority, but we need your help.

On-Site Safety Guidelines:

- Remain near your vehicle at all times.
- Exit our facility promptly after dropping off waste. Loitering is not permitted and is extremely unsafe!
- All children under the age of 15 MUST remain in the vehicle at all times.
- Wear closed-toe shoes and high-visibility clothing.

Thank you for following these rules and doing your part to keep yourself and others safe during your visits to our facilities!

Celebrate America Recycles Day



Every November since 1997, America Recycles Day has reminded us why we need to recycle. This November 15, join people across the country in celebrating recycling.

The America Recycles Day 2019 celebration will include a week-long series of recycling-focused events. Starting on Veterans Day, November 11, Keep America Beautiful (KAB) will partner with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other organizations to showcase veterans and the role the Department of Defense plays in recycling. Throughout the week, government and recycling industry experts will create and present a “State of Recycling” briefing on Capitol Hill and communities across the U.S. will pledge their support for recycling with local events.

“Recycling is more relevant today than it ever has been,” stated Randy Hartmann, Senior Director of Affiliate Operations for

Electronics piling up? Hazardous waste getting you down?

Recycle them properly at Friday drop-off events at the Buncombe County Landfill. County residents can drop off old televisions, computers, and other electronics, as well as unneeded household chemicals, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs, and spent rechargeable household batteries.

All of these items are accepted in a special collection area which is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. only on these Fridays during the coming months:

- September 27
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

When you get to the landfill scalehouse, you will be directed to the recycling area. Proof of county residency is required. Bio-hazardous materials,



radioactive materials, and explosives are NOT accepted at any time. If you have questions, please call the landfill at 828-250-5462.



Attention, Businesses

Businesses are NOT permitted to drop off hazardous waste. However, businesses may recycle electronics and televisions for a fee at the landfill during the Friday-only collections. Businesses that wish to drop off electronics must call the Solid Waste Department at 828-250-5462 prior to arrival to make arrangements. To participate in this program, proof that your business is located in the county is required.

KAB. “As American consumption continues to increase, recycling is one small step to reduce our carbon and energy footprints.”

North Carolina is home to more than 650 recycling businesses employing almost 17,000 workers. These businesses depend on your recyclables.

Hartmann emphasizes, “People need to know when they recycle that it does make a difference. When they recycle that plastic bottle, it’s going into a park bench or another plastic bottle. It is getting reused and it is making a difference.”

If you have questions about local recycling programs, visit our website at www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/solid-waste/recycling.aspx or call 828-250-5460.

To learn more about America Recycles Day or to take the #BeRecycled Pledge, visit www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org.



Need moving boxes?

The Transfer Station has a moving box exchange. If you are in need of some boxes, stop by and take as many as you need. If you have used moving boxes, drop them off to share with a neighbor.

Love living with less

Would you like to spend less time deciding what to wear, less time looking for the things you need, and less money buying THINGS in the first place? Would you like to have more time and money to achieve your goals and pursue your dreams? With his book, *The Minimalist Home* (Water-Brook, 2018, 239 pages), Joshua Becker provides the system and tools you need to do this and more.

In the book, minimalism is defined as “the intentional promotion of things we most value and the removal of anything that distracts us from them.” In a word, this means “optimizing” your possessions to achieve your desired goals. He differentiates minimalism from organization. If you organize your possessions, you will eventually deal with those items again. If you minimize, then some items leave your house forever; you will not have to think about them again. This allows you to move on, focusing on the next stage of your life.

The author believes, “there is more joy to be found in owning less than we can ever find in accumulating more” and that “owning less creates an opportunity to live more.” While he acknowledges there are other books on the subject, he promotes his “Becker Method” as a way to divide the process into manageable sections, see the benefits right away, and build momentum before deciding the fate of those sentimental items that you don’t use and possibly have not even seen in years.

Becker advises starting in spaces like living rooms, bedrooms, clothes closets, and bathrooms before tackling more difficult areas, like the kitchen, dining room, office, storage areas, garage, and yard. He encourages you to handle each item and consider how you came to own it. Do you need it? Does it have aesthetic or sentimental value? Do the benefits of owning it exceed the burden? According to the author, “If you’re honest about the relative weights of the benefits you get from your possessions and the burdens they place upon you, I believe you’ll decide that many of your possessions really aren’t worth holding on to.” When the decision is difficult or members of your household disagree, Becker suggests you experiment

by doing without that item for a period of time. If, after this trial period, “you find yourself wishing you had the item because it would have come in handy or you otherwise missed it, then maybe you should keep it.”

There is a chapter devoted to each type of room with step-by-step instructions and a checklist at the end to evaluate your efforts. For instance, there are just two questions for the guest room: 1. Is there enough space in my guest room to comfortably accommodate all of the belongings my overnight guests bring with them?, and 2. Is the space relaxing and restful for them? By contrast, the home office checklist has seven questions. As a complement to the detailed instructions, the author spreads data, details, examples, and inspirational testimonials in

sidebars throughout the book.

Becker encourages his readers to sell, donate, and recycle as many items as possible. However, he acknowledges that some things will end up heading to a landfill. He writes, “Let your regret about how much you have to throw away reinforce your determination not to buy so much in the future.”

There are benefits to this process within your current space. With less clutter, any home is more relaxing and less stressful. There will be a “minimalism dividend” where you spend less money, time, and energy on repairs, maintenance, organization, and cleaning. Success can be motivational — you may find you no longer need as large a home. There is an entire chapter on the substantial savings and potential freedom to be found in downsizing your living space.

The author’s enthusiasm is evident as he has found minimalism to be life-changing. “It creates a context where it’s easier for you to change yourself. It offers you abundant resources that you can use to try to accomplish whatever you want,” Becker writes. “Your home has purposes, each room in the home has purposes, and the possessions in those rooms should serve those purposes. Most importantly, you have purposes too. Minimalism will help to reveal those purposes to you and make it easier for you to pursue them.”



Are your old cell phones living in a junk drawer of sadness?

Is there a cell phone graveyard lurking in your home? Maybe it’s a box or a drawer where you put old devices just in case you need them. They were once so valuable to you, but now they just sit there.

In the United States, nearly 1.4 billion cell phones are sold every year, with average Americans swapping theirs out every two years. Smartphones today not only contain all of our personal data, but they also serve as our computer, camera, wallet, video screen, and music player. They are so advanced and valuable to us that it is no wonder many people find them intimidating to repair and painful to discard.

In the eight-minute video “Why Your Old Phones Collect in a Junk Drawer of Sadness,” conservationist and visiting University of California professor Dr. M. Sanjayan notes, “Technology today is innovating so fast and built in such a way that it actually promotes disposability. But as people are becoming more aware, companies are becoming more sensitive to this issue.”

Companies such as iFixit are providing video tutorials and other resources on how

consumers can fix devices themselves. Oftentimes replacing a battery or cracked screen is all that is needed. Manufacturers such as Fairphone are experimenting with designing modular phones that can be easily taken apart and repaired or updated, while other businesses are researching new types of batteries.

So what should you do with the items in your cell phone junk drawer of sadness? First, make sure you completely remove your personal data from all devices. If your phone works and is less than five years old, it can likely be traded in for a new phone or sold on websites such as Gazelle or through local online marketplaces. Never place a cell phone into the trash. Please recycle older or broken cell phones, as they contain many hazardous and useful chemicals that can be used to make new phones. Cell phones are accepted with other electronics for recycling. For more information about electronics recycling, call us or visit our website.

To watch the video, go to <https://youtu.be/eyUqqA8wA0A>.



“Minimalism is a means to a bigger life, not a smaller one.”

Joshua Becker

Making sure we all get home safely

In 2018, 42 trash and recycling collection workers died on the job. According to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), half of these deaths resulted from a worker being struck by another motorist, followed by collisions and roll-over incidents.

“The industry’s safety record in 2018 was not acceptable, with at least 19 more worker fatalities than in 2017,” noted David Biderman, SWANA’s Executive Director and CEO. “Most of last year’s increase involved collection workers, despite the industry’s success in getting states to pass Slow Down to Get Around laws and efforts by SWANA and others to improve safety on the route, as well as at post-collection facilities.”

Slow Down to Get Around laws, which have been passed by North Carolina and 29 other states so far, require that motorists slow down and move over when they see a collection vehicle on its route. These laws are similar to those requiring motorists to move over when they see emergency vehicles pulled over to the side of the road or school buses preparing to stop.

These laws don’t just protect collection workers — they also protect you and your family. Last year, 101 members of the public were killed in incidents that involved



the trash and recycling industry. About three-quarters of the victims were drivers or passengers of vehicles that collided with collection vehicles.

Sadly, distracted driving causes many of these accidents. The easiest way to ensure that you and collection workers get home safely each evening is to keep your eyes on the road.

Follow these steps to avoid an accident when you see a trash or recycling truck stopped or slowed:

- Slow down when approaching a garbage or recycling truck making its rounds. Stop if necessary to allow workers to do their jobs.
- Look for workers before attempting to pass the truck.
- Check for traffic approaching from the opposite direction before attempting to pass the truck.
- Avoid distractions like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS while driving near a garbage truck.



Vaping creates new types of waste

Chances are, you’ve seen someone “vaping” or you’ve done it yourself. Like most new products and technologies, vaping comes with its own types of waste. If you vape, be sure you dispose of all of your vaping waste properly:

- **Vaping devices:** Don’t litter broken vaping devices! Ask your vape shop for instructions on proper disposal.
- **Pods:** Empty pods can go into the trash. Never litter the caps from pods!
- **E-liquid bottles:** Empty e-liquid refill bottles can be recycled in some cases. Empty plastic bottles can be rinsed and recycled if they are marked with a #1 or #2 on the bottom; otherwise, toss them into the trash. Empty glass bottles can be rinsed and recycled (remove and discard cap and dropper).
- **Batteries:** If you have a vaping device with removable batteries, follow these steps:
 - Remove dead batteries that can no longer be recharged.
 - Tape both ends to cover the contact

points and reduce the risk of fire.

- Keep batteries separate from other metals.
- Dispose of them at the Friday-only collections at the Buncombe County Landfill (see page 1) or in a battery recycling bin at a retail store, such as Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe’s, or Staples. (Check with the retailer before dropping off batteries, or visit www.call2recycle.org for locations.)



Simple steps to backyard composting success

The ingredients you need to make your own compost are readily available — “green” and “brown” organic waste, water, and air. By mixing these ingredients and giving them time to cook, you’ll produce a nutritious amendment for your soil. Follow these steps to create your own compost:

1. Choose a level area in your yard. You don’t want your compost bin to be in the way, but you don’t want it too far away from your source of organic material, either. You’ll need at least a 3 by 5 foot area to give your bin room to breathe and yourself room to work.
2. Select a spot that is out of direct sunlight most of the day.
3. Make sure that you have access to water nearby and a hose that will reach the spot.
4. Build your own bin or purchase a commercial compost bin. The size and type will depend on how much organic material you have available and how fast you want your compost to cook.
5. Mix “brown” yard waste, such as dry leaves and dead plants, with “green” organic waste, such as grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps. You’ll want about half “green” and half “brown” materials. Coffee grounds and tea leaves are also a good “green” organic material (even though they are colored brown); coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen, as are other “greens.” Mix the material as you fill your compost bin. Be sure that fruit and vegetable scraps are at least 10 inches below the surface of your pile — this will keep unwanted animal visitors away. (Don’t put any meats or dairy products in a backyard compost bin or pile.)
6. Chop larger waste, such as twigs, into pieces smaller than 12 inches long. You can chop this material manually using trimmers or loppers, or you can run twigs and branches through a chipper/shredder. (You could share a chipper/shredder with your neighbors or rent one.) Chopping this woody waste will help it become compost more quickly.
7. Turn or stir the compost at least every other week. Use a pitchfork, a shovel, or a compost turner. Be sure that the material is thoroughly mixed each time you turn it. The more often you turn your pile, the more quickly your material will decompose.
8. Add water if your pile becomes dry. Mix the water evenly through the material. During most weather conditions, your pile should be moist but not soaking wet. If your pile becomes soggy during wet weather, turn and mix the material to add air and help

dry it out. A tarp can help keep your composting materials from getting too wet during heavy rains.

9. Give your compost up to six months to cook and cure. For faster compost, turn the pile more often. For \$10-20, you can fine-tune your technique using a compost thermometer. With a probe about 20 inches long, a simple compost thermometer allows you to monitor the internal temperature of the pile. If you keep that temperature between 120 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit, your compost can be ready in just two to three months. When the waste has become dark and crumbly, you have compost!
10. Spread the compost as mulch around trees or under bushes, mix it into your garden soil, or combine it with soil or sand to make a great potting soil.



DO compost these:

- Grass clippings
- Twigs and leaves
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea leaves and bags
- Eggshells
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Shredded newspaper
- Dryer lint
- Nutshells
- Stale bread

DON'T put these in the pile:

- Diseased plants
- Weeds that have gone to seed
- Plants that are spread by runners, such as Morning Glory or Buttercup
- Pet or human waste
- Chemically treated wood products
- Glossy or coated papers
- Ashes
- Scraps and bones from meat and fish
- Oils and other fatty food products
- Milk or dairy products

What is vaping?

“Vaping” is the term used instead of “smoking” to describe the use of e-cigarettes of various types. An e-cigarette is an electronic device in which a battery heats and vaporizes a liquid (e-liquid or e-juice), turning it into an aerosol that is inhaled. The aerosol is not hot, but it does result in an exhaled puff or cloud of vapor. There are hundreds of varieties of e-cigarettes — some look like traditional cigarettes, others look like pens or boxes, and some look like USB drives. There are thousands of flavored e-liquid options, most of which contain nicotine.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY RECYCLING GUIDE

RECYCLE ALL TOGETHER

LANDFILL

NOT ACCEPTED IN MIXED RECYCLABLES

PLASTIC

ALL BOTTLES, CONTAINERS & JUGS



PAPER

ALL PAPER, FLATTENED CARDBOARD, CARTONS & NEWSPAPER



GLASS

ALL JARS & BOTTLES



METAL

ALUMINUM, STEEL & TIN CANS



EVERY DAY



MOTOR OIL & OIL FILTERS

SCRAP TIRES

WHITE GOODS (STOVES, REFRIGERATORS, AIR CONDITIONERS)



ANTIFREEZE

LEAD ACID BATTERIES

USED COOKING OIL



SCRAP METAL

WOOD WASTE/ PALLETS

SELECT FRIDAYS ONLY

9 AM - 3 PM
CHECK SCHEDULE ONLINE



PAINT & PAINT RELATED WASTE

HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

FLUORESCENT BULBS & TUBES

GASOLINE

ELECTRONICS

TRANSFER STATION



WHITE GOODS

RESIDENTIAL SHARPS

LEAD ACID BATTERIES



PLASTIC BAGS



HOSES, CORDS, & LARGE PLASTIC TOYS



STYROFOAM



TOILETS & MATTRESSES



LOOSE SHREDDED PAPER

- EMPTY all bottles, cans, and containers (*lids and labels may remain on*).
- BREAK DOWN and FLATTEN corrugated cardboard.
- SECURE the lid on the recycling container to prevent paper from blowing out.
- SET your recyclables out at the curb by 7 a.m. on your recycling day if you have curbside pickup.

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 – Cynthia Fox-Clark.....	828-250-4836
Environmental Control – Kim Spillers	828-250-5470

Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents

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



Curbie recycling drop-off bins available 24/7

Drop off recyclables any day or time in the Curbside Management “Curbie” bins, located at 116 North Woodfin Avenue in Asheville. Visit www.curbie.com or call 828-252-2532 for details.



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
www.facebook.com/buncombeGov

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PLEASE RECYCLE AFTER READING.

CLIP & SAVE