



Bowling Green Recycling Center

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Tour the Center



The Bowling Green Recycling Center is a processing and marketing center for the recyclables received from the Bowling Green and southern Wood County area. The Center celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2003.

The BGRC consists of two buildings: one for processing and one for an office and maintenance shop. There are collection areas to receive recyclable materials, machines to process the materials into forms required by the markets, and storage and transportation areas to send materials to the markets which will make them into new products and packaging.

Collection Areas

Drop Off Area

The 24 Hour Drop Off area opened in June 1988. Please read the signs, located by each container, to guide you as you sort your recyclables at the BGRC. Proper preparation, separation, and placement of the recyclable materials into the marked containers is essential. Recyclables improperly prepared, not separated, or mixed with trash cannot be recycled and go to the landfill. There are resources available to help you with your recycling, including a brochure available at the front of the 24 Hour Drop Off and a recycling hotline courtesy of the Wood County Solid Waste District: 419-354-9297.

Recycling Collection Vehicle Unloading Area

Recycling collection vehicles enter the BGRC through one large garage door to unload and then exit through another door. The three City of Bowling Green curbside recycling trucks have separate bins for each of the items collected. At the curb, the collection crews sort the recyclables into each section on the truck. At the BGRC, each bin is emptied directly into the processing equipment. Each truck has a plastic compactor section, which increases the capacity collected. All collection vehicles are weighed on the scale inside the processing building to track the percentage of materials city residents are recycling.

Satellite Locations

There are 16 satellite locations around the county serviced by the BGRC. Each location is open during the month at select times. Pick up our *Satellite Locations* brochure to find out more information about locations and scheduled times.

Processing Area & Equipment

Glass

The BGRC currently pulverizes all glass. The bottles and jars go through the crusher and come out as cullet. Cullet is small, broken pieces of glass. The cullet is then fed through the pulverizer, resulting in a much finer material that resembles small stone or sand. The processed glass is used for road base material. The BGRC was not able to purchase its first glass crusher until it had operated for five years. Originally, glass was crushed using a sledge hammer and was stored in steel barrels. It was two years before enough glass was collected to ship a truckload! Currently, it takes about two weeks to accumulate enough glass to ship the pulverized material. A "Glass Buy Back" program began in September 1988, offering 2 cents per pound of material turned in, but was discontinued in 1990 due to glass' low market value.

Balers

The BGRC has four large horizontal balers. The balers are used to flatten the materials for more efficient transportation of the recycled items. Bales are tied with wire and then moved with a forklift. Balers are used to process cardboard boxes, newspaper, office paper, magazines, steel cans, and plastic bottles.

Cardboard boxes are used to make new boxes, cereal boxes, and other types of packaging.

Office paper and junk mail are checked for contaminants – such as plastic bags and slick, glossy paper – and are shipped to manufacturers who add them to virgin materials and make the mixture into tissue, paper towels, recycled paper, or other paper materials.

Newspaper bales are sorted at the BGRC into a lower grade and higher grade, depending on the content of "contamination" – that is, non-newsprint materials like catalogs and magazines which should have been sorted out in the Drop

Off. Lower grade bales are sent to be made into housing insulation. Higher grade bales, which are worth more, are sent to be made into new newspaper.

Plastic bottles are baled and shipped to be made into plastic strapping, carpet fiber, drainage tile, or plastic lumber. Recycled plastic can now even be cleaned and remade into new plastic containers for the purpose of food packaging. A Bowling Green plant, Phoenix Technologies, Limited Partnership, received the very first patent for this type of process. Plastics from the Center are sorted, ground, and washed elsewhere with other PET plastics before being returned to Phoenix.

Magazines are baled and shipped out to be used to de-ink newspapers or to make new glossy paper.

Steel cans are baled and then shipped to steel mills where they are made into cans, cars, or any other steel product.

Can Sorter/Crusher

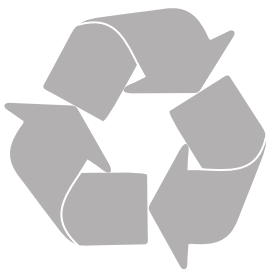
This machine mechanically separates the aluminum beverage cans from the steel cans by using a magnetic roller. This magnet is able to separate the steel from the aluminum because steel is attracted to the magnet, while aluminum is not. The aluminum cans fall into a crusher, are weighed on the machine's internal scale, and are then blown through a tube and into a semi-truck trailer outside. The cans are recycled into new cans which saves the manufacturer the expensive costs of purchasing and importing bauxite ore, the virgin mineral used to make new aluminum. An aluminum can may be composed of any percentage of recycled material, including 100%. Recycling one aluminum can will save three hours of electricity. Any steel cans go down a separate chute and are baled before being shipped to market.

Book De-Binder

This equipment makes it possible to recycle the paper inside out of date and unwanted books. The machine removes the glue and binding of the book with a sharp blade, then removes the covers through a suction process. The inside paper falls and is carried to a separate container from the bindings and covers. The paper is then recycled with the rest of the office paper.

Storage & Transportation

All the processed recyclables need to be stored until truckload quantities have been accumulated. This requires enough space for one truckload for each different item. The recyclables are then shipped to different locations for processing back into products that we all use. Some items, such as paper, magazines, and newspaper, must be stored inside and are usually inside a semi-trailer at the loading dock in the rear of the BGRC. Other items, such as steel and plastic, may be stored outside, stacked in bales two high, and stay there until they are shipped to market.



Come visit us at the Bowling Green Recycling Center!
24 Hour Drop Off for recyclables!

1040 North College Drive
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

For more information on recycling or to schedule a tour,
call the Wood County Solid Waste District at 419-354-9297
or visit us on the web at www.bgreycling.com.

