



# Are you recycling at school?

If you are, hurray! If you aren't, the Knox County Recycling and Solid Waste Management District can help you get started.

We will visit your school, explain what you can recycle, and help you choose bin locations.

Republic Services will provide outdoor collection carts or bins and will pick up your recycling.

In 2015, Knox County recycled 1,020.72 tons, keeping all of that out of landfills. That much recycling weighs as much as about 32,150 fourth graders! That's a lot, but we could be recycling more in our county. You spend many hours each week at school, so shouldn't you be recycling there?

If you are ready to recycle at your school, ask your teacher or principal to call 812-895-4878 or email [kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us](mailto:kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us). We have recycling grants that can help you buy classroom recycling bins and other supplies.



## ABCs

No, we aren't talking about the alphabet. You have known that for years. We are talking about a special recycling program called ABC, which stands for "A Bench for Caps."

Each school that takes part collects plastic bottle caps. With 400 or more pounds of caps and a \$225 recycling grant from the Knox County Recycling and Solid Waste Management District, your school can get a bench made from plastic lumber from Green Tree Plastics in Evansville. With the ABC program, you can work hard to collect caps and then sit and enjoy your hard work on a bench that will last a lifetime. ABC can help you, your classmates, and your families get excited about recycling.



If you want to know more, visit <http://greentreeplastics.com/abc-promise-partnership> or [www.knoxcountyrecycling.org](http://www.knoxcountyrecycling.org) or contact the District at 812-895-4878 or [kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us](mailto:kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us).

## Join a brigade

Another way to get excited about recycling at school is to join a TerraCycle Brigade. Schools that take part set up stations to collect hard-to-recycle items, which are then "upcycled" by TerraCycle. (Upcycling turns old products and packages into new and better items.) You can become part of a Brigade, too!

TerraCycle Brigades earn points. The points can be turned into cash payments for your school, used to buy TerraCycle products, or donated to charities.

To get started, simply sign up at [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com) and join the Brigade program for the items that you want to collect. There are currently more than 30 Brigade programs that collect items such as food packaging (like drink pouches and lunch kits), office supplies (like pens and tape dispensers), and personal products (like makeup and diaper packaging and toothbrushes). You can join as many Brigade programs as you like, and it's all free. Parents and grandparents can collect things at home and send them to school with their children and grandchildren for recycling.

To see TerraCycle products, which range from pencil cases and backpacks to flower pots and compost bins, visit [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com).

## Litter is a (bad) choice

Most of us know that litter is really bad for wildlife and even people. Plus, it is really ugly! Cigarette butts, crumpled and cracked plastic water bottles, fast food wrappers, sharp metal cans, and discarded drink cups make a mess of parks, playgrounds, roadsides, and stream banks. Wind, water, animals, and traffic move litter around, sending it into storm gutters, into fences and trees, and onto lawns and parking lots. Sometimes litter ends up in waterways and washes out into our oceans, causing serious problems for marine life.



Keep America Beautiful has been working for over 60 years to help reduce litter in our country. This organization has some good news to share. Over the last 40 years, litter in America has decreased by 61%! But there is still a lot of work to do. Over 51 billion pieces of litter appear near roadways each year. That's **6,729 items per mile** of roadway. In surveys, nearly half of all Americans admit to littering at least once.

If people know littering is bad, why do they sometimes do it? According to Keep America Beautiful research, the biggest reason why people litter is because they don't feel responsible for keeping an area clean. So, outside of their own yards or neighborhoods, they may not think litter will affect them. Or, they may think that someone will come along and pick up after them. Once an area looks littered, people think it is okay to throw more trash there.

It doesn't have to be this way. People choose to litter—and they can choose not to. Before you drop that cheeseburger wrapper out of your car window, stop and make the choice to take it to a trash can. If everyone chooses to stop littering, people and wildlife will be healthier and our roads, streams, and other areas will be more beautiful than ever before.

If your class or club wants to organize a litter cleanup, let the District know. The Knox County Recycling and Solid Waste Management District has recycling grant money for groups that take part. With questions about recycling grants, call 812-895-4878 or email [kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us](mailto:kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us).





## We'd love to pay you a visit!

Sometimes special guests come to school, scouts, or club meetings to share new ideas or tell us about what they do. Learning something new from a guest can be fun because they talk about the things that happen outside of school. A police officer may come to talk about staying safe in our neighborhoods. A dentist may come to talk about taking good care of our teeth. Did you know that we can come to speak to your school or group? Our fun presentations will teach you about keeping our earth safe and healthy.

Ask your teacher, scout leader, or club sponsor to contact us to schedule a visit. We offer FREE, fun activities about reducing waste and litter, recycling, composting, and more. To see a list of our programs, visit <http://knoxcountyrecycling.org/education>. To schedule, call 812-895-4878 or email [kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us](mailto:kcsolidwaste@co.knox.in.us).



vacationing family, worn out from a day of hiking on mountain trails, left two coolers and a big bag of garbage out on the deck. Buster, Sue, and Mama were clumsy, but strong, and, with no manners and very little grace, they dumped out both coolers and the garbage. Their razor claws tore through everything quickly, and they had quite a banquet. There were cans of fizzy pop, bottles of cool water, a jar of dill pickles, a huge box of honey graham crackers, cans of noodle soup, and plastic packages of hot dogs and buns. Before long, there was a huge mess of shredded plastics and paperboard boxes, punctured cans, and shattered glass jars. The bears were stuffed and were just about to turn and haul themselves back to the woods when they heard a long, slow “whooooooot.”

Buster and Sue covered near their mother, and Mrs. Grizz looked upward. Sleepily perched on a bare branch above their heads sat the wise old owl, Luna.

“Whoooooo do yooooou think yooooou are?” he hooted. “You creatures who live in the forest should know that such waste and litter are not good for our earth.”

“But we were hungry!” growled Mrs. Grizz.

“As you usually are,” hooted Luna, “but you should recycle most of what you left behind. Glass, paperboard boxes, plastics, tin and aluminum cans, and more can all be made into new products by recyclers. Now go on back and clean up after yourselves. The recycling cart is right next to the garbage bin.”

Buster and Sue were convinced, and Mrs. Grizz helped them clumsily spear plastics, cans, and paperboard with their claws and deposit the materials into the recycling cart. When everything recyclable was properly placed, a snarly Mrs. Grizz had to admit that it felt good to keep the earth and their own environment “bear-able.” The only problem was, the cleanup made them hungry!

You can help keep our earth bear-able, too! Here is what you need to know to set up a recycling routine:

## Hold the hazardous waste

The Knox County Household Hazardous Waste facility, which accepts unneeded cleaners, automotive fluids, oil-based paint, and other toxic chemicals, is closed to be cleaned and fixed up. Let your parents and grandparents know that it will reopen in April. In the meantime, hold onto those hazardous wastes. Remember—they never belong in the trash!



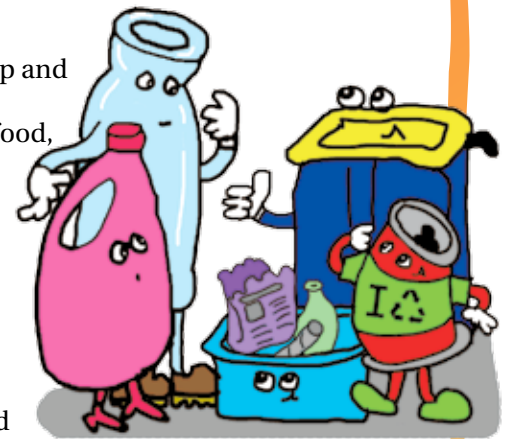
## Making our environment “bear-able”

Whenever Mrs. Grizz and her two bear cubs, Buster and Sue, were hungry for an evening snack—and that was just about every single evening—they lumbered their way through the forest to the edge of the woods. There, Mama and cubs impatiently watched the tourist families finish up their hot dogs and s’mores on the decks of their rented cabins. If the Grizz family was lucky, one of those human families would forget to take their garbage out to the locked bin or would leave their cooler on the deck, and when the sun set...snack time!

One such evening, Mama and her cubs found the best feast ever. One

## What to Recycle

- Aluminum beverage cans, such as pop and juice cans
- Steel cans, including food, soup, pet food, and “tin” cans
- Plastic bottles, jugs, jars, and containers
- Glass bottles and jars
- Newspapers
- Magazines and catalogs
- School papers, printer and copier paper, and mail
- Paperboard, such as empty cereal and gift boxes
- Corrugated cardboard, such as shipping boxes



## Where to Recycle

If you live in Vincennes, you can recycle at the curb. If your family has questions, call the Vincennes Street and Sanitation Department at 812-885-2520. People who have Republic Services pick up their trash can pay a fee for curbside recycling; to learn more, call 866-760-2182.

Everyone else in our county can recycle at the drop-off sites: in Vincennes at Republic Services; the Bicknell Recycling Center (accepts #1 and #2 plastics only); and at the Decker, Monroe City, Sandborn, and Oaktown Recycling Trailers. If you have questions, call us at 812-895-4878.

## How to Prepare Recycling

Empty and rinse food and beverage containers. Turn them upside down and let them drip-dry. Break down and flatten boxes. Paper products should be clean.

Throw away trash, including pizza boxes. Don’t spoil recycling by putting trash into bins!

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## Knox County Recycling and Solid Waste Management District

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