

# **Dakota County Online Focus Group - Report on Results -**

---

December 20, 2019

---



Opinion Research on  
Elections and Public Policy

**Probolsky Research**  
3990 Westerly Place Suite 185  
Newport Beach CA 92660

Newport Beach (949) 855-6400  
San Francisco (415) 870-8150  
Washington DC (202) 559-270

# Table of Contents

<b>Qualitative Report .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction & Method .....	1
Emerging Themes and Recommendations .....	1
Summary of the Results .....	4
<b>Appendix A: Discussion Guide .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Appendix B: Transcript .....</b>	<b>39</b>

# Qualitative Report

## Introduction & Method

Probolsky Research conducted an online focus group discussion among Dakota County residents. The group was moderated by Adam Probolsky and focused on residents' attitudes, knowledge and forward looking thoughts on recycling in Dakota County.

### Online Focus Group: Dakota County Residents

**Date:** December 10, 2019 to December 15, 2019

This memorandum highlights key commentary from the discussions, with our goal of delivering actionable information. You will also likely find reviewing the transcript to be helpful towards developing a rich, unique understanding of the vernacular and tone of participants.

It is important to note that while the results of the online focus group are not statistically significant, they do help us uncover common language, themes, and messages to test further.

We have provided both the discussion guide and transcript for the focus group session as an appendix.

This discussion took place online, and participants were able to type their responses to questions asked in the initial discussion guide and subsequently by the moderator.

## Emerging Themes and Recommendations

Residents express a strong understanding of recycling practices, and commonly identify boxes, cans, water bottles, glass jars, newspaper, paper, and plastic containers as household items that can be recycled in a regular home recycling cart. Similarly, residents identify batteries, electronics, paint, hazardous items, TVs and appliances as items that can be recycled only at a drop-off location.

There is strong awareness of Dakota County's recycling services – with several residents referencing Dakota County services, websites and drop-off locations as helpful recycling resources. For example, one resident stated: “The recycle center Dakota County accepts TV's, metals, electronics, household cleaning products, paints,

some plastics, batteries. They're located just north of Yankee Noodle Road on Dodd Road.”

In the area of non-recyclable goods, residents identify tires, furniture, medications, Styrofoam and large appliances as items that cannot be recycled either in a recycling bin picked up by their trash hauler or taken to a recycling center.

Recycling is considered important or very important by all of the residents participating in the focus group. Residents say that it is very important to understand which items should be recycled and reference the environmental impacts on future generations.

Among residents, there is a common understanding about preparation requirements prior to recycling. Residents know that containers need to be cleaned, cardboard needs to be broken down. However, there is confusion about whether lids and caps should be removed from containers and bottles.

The top of the recycling bin is the primary source of information used by residents to decide what items to recycle. If the top of the bin does not answer the question about an item, they will turn to Google, or seek out a list from Dakota County, their trash hauler, or community association. Residents are aware of mailers that have been distributed by Dakota County with information on recycling. A few residents operate on a default assumption that most items are recyclable.

Residents identify milk cartons, containers, shampoo bottles, water bottles, plastic soda bottles and juice bottles as plastics that can be recycled. Several residents reference containers marked 1-7 as recyclable. If asked to explain what items are recyclable to friends, residents say paper, cardboard, bottles and cans. Several residents said that they would direct them to online resources, such as the Dakota County recycling website, for additional information.

In applying specific terms for recyclable items, residents overwhelmingly use the term “pop can” for Coca-Cola beverage container. The term “cardboard” is most prevalent for describing a cracker box. Orange juice is identifiable as a “juice carton” or “juice box.” Beans are contained in a “can.” Potato chips are contained in a “chip bag.” “Ice cream” is the operative term, with variations of “ice cream tub,” “ice cream container,” or “ice cream carton.” Toilet paper comes on a “cardboard tube” or “toilet paper roll.”

Residents alternate between describing the packaging and the package contents. For example, residents overwhelmingly describe cottage cheese as a “plastic food container,” or “plastic container;” however, use “yogurt cup” or “yogurt container.” In describing laundry detergent, residents are split into two groups: 1) focused on

plastics, e.g. “plastic bottle,” “plastic jug,” or “plastic container”; and 2) focused on laundry, e.g. “detergent bottle,” “laundry bottle,” or “liquid detergent.”

Most residents do not use specialized terms to describe plastic packaging. Only a small number of residents used the term “clam shell” container or “blister” packaging. There is a potential for some confusion in describing “plastic” items – with a similar terminology used to describe “**hard**” blister plastic, plastic “**wrapping**” and plastic “**pouches**.”

When deciding what to recycle in a public place, residents rely on information, pictures, and directions posted on the recycling receptacle, described as a “bin,” “container,” or “trash cans.” All residents say that they rely on sign or a label on the recycling collection container to determine whether to place an item in the container. Restrooms are the primary location that residents expect to find the recycling bin at an event or a park.

Residents expressed a strong and overwhelming preference for Image C, citing the real imagery as practical, useful, and especially helpful for children to determine which items are recyclable. Residents like signs that they perceive to be useful, colorful, and self-explanatory. When asked to identify any missing items, residents would recommend adding a milk carton. Signs with “colorful pictures of everyday products” are considered to be “very clear.” Residents also verbalize support for the “big print” and “larger font”.

A small group of residents expressed a preference for Image A – with those residents appreciating the generic and non-descript imagery that could withstand changing product packaging. Residents express strong dislike for signs that are viewed as plain, less specific, less colorful and not as useful in identifying recyclable materials.

Residents overwhelmingly describe “organics recycling” as relating to “compost” or “compostable items”. Specifically, residents identify “yard waste” and “food waste” as items that are “organics recycling.” Residents believe that “food waste,” “leftovers,” and “yard waste” should go into the “organics recycling” bin. However, when asked where they put most of their food scraps, most residents say either the garbage disposal or trash bin – with a small number putting food scraps in their compost pile. Residents overwhelmingly believe in the importance of recycling for its environmental impacts for future generations. Residents consider recycling a responsibility that takes time to learn proper procedures but is worth the environmental benefits.

Residents cite time, complexity, difficulty and lack of containers as barriers to recycling.

Although residents do not see themselves as being inconvenienced by the hassle of recycling, they believe other people in the community are. This group of residents cites the inconvenience and demands of “family obligations and responsibilities” for making it hard to follow through on proper recycling procedures. Residents say that recycling needs to be easy to understand and that recycling items should remove the confusion over what items should be recycled.

Residents say that the process should be easy to understand and eliminate confusion about which items go into which container. As one resident put it, “It needs to be easy not time consuming because its easiest to throw everything in the regular trash.” Some residents would like to see a yearly program to recycle larger items as well as regular flyers to educate about proper recycling practices.

Residents overwhelmingly prefer Image A for being “more eye catching” due to its colors and display of actual items.

## Summary of the Results

Quotations from focus group participants appear below as indented text. Three periods within quotations signify omitted text, usually repeated or filler words, such as “um,” “you know” and similar phrases. Three periods sometimes signal the omission of words irrelevant to the message, but under no circumstances are words omitted in a manner that might change the participant’s meaning. In a few instances, words within a quotation appear in brackets. These words are added for clarity and to facilitate interpretation of the participant’s meaning.

### **Items: What household items can be recycled in your regular home recycling cart?**

Residents commonly identify boxes, cans, water bottles, glass jars, newspaper, paper, and plastic containers as household items that can be recycled in a regular home recycling cart.

- “Plastic bottles, cardboard, glass, paper, newspapers, aluminum cans, cereal boxes, mail, grocery bags” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “Plastic bottles and jars, glass bottles and jars, tin cans, aluminum cans, aluminum foil, cardboard boxes. pizza boxes” – Jeff (Male, 56, Hastings)

- “I think anything that doesn't compost should be recycled. Cardboard, papers, glass, wood, plastics, metals, hazardous materials and products such as paints, used oil, combustible fuels.” – Lorenzo (Male, 57, West St. Paul)
- “Water bottles, grocery bags, pop cans, glass containers, paper bags, plastic bags, food waste, light bulbs, newspaper, cardboard boxes” – Ahabdul (Male, 27 Apple Valley)
- “Water bottles, canned goods, cardboard boxes, newspaper, regular paper, school papers, junk mail, pop cans, beer bottles, beer cans, liquor bottles, milk jugs, pizza boxes that are cleaned, egg cartons” – Katie (Female, 40, South St. Paul)
- “Mail, scrap paper, cardboard, paper bags, erasers, stoppers, certain parts of boots, bottles, broken plastic plates, broken plastic cups, screws, whole lot of empty wine boxes” – John (Male, 72, Hastings)

**Items: What household items can be recycled only at a drop-off location?**

Residents identify batteries, electronics, paint, hazardous items, TVs and appliances that can be recycled only at a drop-off location.

- “The recycle center Dakota County accepts TV's, metals, electronics, household cleaning products, paints, some plastics, batteries. They're located jut north of Yankee Noodle Road on Dodd Rd.” – Lorenzo (Male, 57, West St. Paul)
- “Batteries some small appliances some electronics some household chemicals some hazardous materials Google dakota county recycling zone when in doubt” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “electronics- computers, tv's, tablets, cell phones, batteries, car batteries, car oil, mattress and box springs, paint, large furniture items, kitchen appliances, yard waste such as leave” – Nancy (Female, 68, Eagan)
- “Paint, batteries, small appliances, some chemicals household, TVs” – Michelle (Female, 49, Apple Valley)

**Items: What household items cannot be recycled either in a recycling bin picked up by your trash hauler or taken to a recycling center?**

Residents identify tires, furniture, medications, Styrofoam and large appliances as items that cannot be recycled either in a recycling bin picked up by your trash hauler or taken to a recycling center.

- “Prescription drugs, Styrofoam, fireworks, hazardous items, batteries, microwaves,” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “Large appliances Egg cartons Dirty cardboard Windows and mirrors Styrofoam (packing peanuts, cups, packaging materials) Plastic bags but those are collected at Cub” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “vehicles, medications, tires” – Nancy (Female, 68, Eagan)
- “Sharps, mattresses, large appliances, hazardous chemicals, tires” – Michelle (Female, 49, Apple Valley)
- “Mattresses, scrap metal, tires, car batteries, motor oil, fake Christmas trees” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)

**Importance: How important is it to you to understand what items should be recycled?**

Residents say that it is very important to understand which items should be recycled and reference the environmental impacts on future generations.

- “It is important but much of it is common sense these days. If I'm unsure of whether an item is recyclable, I look it up on my hauler's website or on the Dakota County Recycling Center's website.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
- “Pretty important. Crud in the recycle stream gums up the works” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “Important but not to the point of being expert on every single household item.” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)
- “It’s very important, especially with global warming, and hurting our environment.” – Ahabdul (Male, 27 Apple Valley)
- “Very important so I can teach my kids.” – Marisa (Female, 40, Rosemount)

- “I think our younger generation gets this more than most adults now and they now have activist kids such as Greta who are huge on Climate change and recycling is just one part in that.” – Katie (Female, 40, South St. Paul)
- “it is very important because it benefits everyone when the community recycles” – Selena (Female, 45, Apple Valley)

**Recycling Preparation: Are you aware that some items may need preparation prior to going into the recycling bin?**

Residents express a basic understanding about preparation prior to recycling, including that containers need to be cleaned, cardboard needs to be broken down.

- “I've been told that paints can go into the trash as long as they have hardened. That to me is preparation. Or, for lack of a better word. 'Waiting period'.” – Lorenzo (Male, 57, West St. Paul)
- “Rinse out beverage containers, milk, pop, juice etc. and also food containers, Break down cardboard boxes and sparkling water boxes etc.” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “Containers need to be cleaned, cardboard needs the be cut down if too large. That’s about all I know.” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)

Residents have an unclear understanding on whether lids and caps should be removed from containers and bottles.

- “I know to clean/rinse my recyclables, as well as removing lids from bottles.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)
- “Clean all containers, ensure no non-recyclable items were included, put plastic caps back on bottles or lids back on plastic containers.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)

**Decision-Making: How do you determine what items can be recycled?**

Residents obtain information about what to recycle by 1) looking at the top of the bins, or 2) seeking a list from Dakota County, their trash hauler, or condo association. Other residents treat most items as recyclable.

- “Like I said. If they don't compost. Recycle. That would be my best opinion.” – Lorenzo (Male, 57, West St. Paul)
- “Most items can be recycled but there are lists out there if you do a search on the county website. Like no plastic bags they need to go back to a store that takes them for recycling.” – Cliff (Male, 49, Burnsville)
- “List received in mail or looking it up online.” – Michelle (Female, 49, Apple Valley)
- “I have a list I consult from a Dakota County mailing for items where I am not sure. Otherwise, the vast majority of my recycling is very typical recyclables with recycling symbols on them.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)
- “Generally by calling our trash hauler or going to the Dakota Co website” – Rachel (Female, 34, Eagan)
- “Look at the list my Condo Association gave to all of us if I don't already know...” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “Look on top of bins” – Jeff (Male, 56, Hastings)
- “I refer to the list that is provided on the bin.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)

**Decision-Making: If you are unsure if an item was recyclable, where would you look for information?**

When deciding whether an item is recyclable, residents turn to Google, Dakota County website, and the packaging.

- “Google! This is the information age. Sometimes I think I get better answers from Google than when I call the city. When I get placed on hold I often times hang up. Perhaps I'm impatient. I want answers now. Don't count me out though. I do refer to the county website.” – Lorenzo (Male, 57, West St. Paul)
- “I would google it” – Marisa (Female, 40, Rosemount)
- “The packaging, or the google tool!” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)
- “Go online to city, county and waste companies to check what can be recycled.” – Ann (Female, 77, Burnsville)

- “Dakota Co website.” – Rachel (Female, 34, Eagan)
- “Dakota county and Google in that order.” – Evan (Male, 39, Apple Valley)

**Cart: Do you look for information on the cart provided by your hauler?**

Residents are split evenly between those who obtain information from the recycling cart, and those who do not use the cart as a recycling guide.

- “I do.” – Jeff (Male, 56, Hastings)
- “No, there is no recycling information on my trash carts.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)
- “Absolutely. Previous trash vendor did not have it and eventually we printed out a list from their website” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “Usually my 1st resource.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)
- “Yes I do. My hauler has a very nice picture list on the top of the recycling container which I use frequently.” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)
- “No, there is no information listed on my cart” – Cliff (Male, 49, Burnsville)
- “No.” – Amanda (Female, 34, South St. Paul), Rachel (Female, 34, Eagan)

**Plastic: Thinking specifically about plastic items, which ones are recyclable?**

Residents identify milk cartons, containers, shampoo bottles, water bottles, plastic soda bottles and juice bottles as plastics that can be recycled. Several residents reference containers marked 1-7 as recyclable.

- “Rinsed out Milk, Pop & Juice bottles.” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “Jugs jars containers I know bags are not” – Jeff (Male, 56, Hastings)
- “#s 1, 2, &5 on plastics.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
- “Containers marked 1-7. Need to be clean.” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)

- “Milk, juice, water, food and household solid and liquid container” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)
- “Anything with a cap or neck but not the sprayer part since it is made of different materials. I also recycle cottage cheese type plastic containers I also recycle clam shells” – Tracy (Female, 50, Burnsville)
- “Beverage bottle, shampoo and conditioner bottles, liquid soap containers, plast spray bottles.” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)
- “Plastic water bottles Plastic containers and milk jugs” – Maria (Female, 74, Lakeville)

**Recyclable: If you were speaking to a friend, how would you explain what kinds of items can and cannot be recycled?**

If asked to explain what items are recyclable to friends, residents say paper, cardboard, bottles and cans. Several residents said that they would direct them to online resources, such as the Dakota County recycling website, for additional information.

- “I would tell them to check with their hauler, but otherwise, typically paper, cardboard, glass bottles and plastic containers can usually be recycled.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
- “I’d probably just explain based on my general knowledge and go from there.” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)
- “paper, cardboard, tin cans, glass bottles, and most plastic containers can be recycled. Bigger stuff and some small appliances and electronics can be recycled at the recycle zone or sometimes at the vendor (like Best Buy). When in doubt, check with the haler or the county.” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “By educating each other on doing what is right and also just looking up ways to be proactive.” – Ahabdul (Male, 27 Apple Valley)
- “I would compare my list of do' s and do not' s with my friend. If our lists differed we would research and educate ourselves on those items.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)

- “I would just give them a list like the ones we have discussed here already and if they want more details go to the website <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/RecyclingZone/Materials/Pages/default.aspx>” – Cliff (Male, 49, Burnsville)
- “Some plastic, all paper and cardboard and if you have electronics/batteries look it up. If anything is too big or you have metal, go to Dakota Country.” – Evan (Male, 39, Apple Valley)

**What would you call the container or product.**



Residents overwhelmingly identify the Coca Cola can as a “pop can” – with a small group describing it as an “aluminum can” or “soda can.”

- Pop Can (15x)
- Soda can (4x)
- Aluminum can (3x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents most frequently reference “cardboard” in some manner when describing the Cheez-It box, with others describing it as simply a “box.”

- Cardboard, cardboard container, or cardboard box (11x)
- Box, or empty box (7x)
- Cracker box (3x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents most frequently describe this orange juice as a “juice carton” or “juice box.”

- Juice carton or juice box (11x)
- Carton (4x)
- OJ carton (3x)
- Cardboard beverage (3x)

**What would you call the container?**



In describing the above item, residents are split into two groups: 1) focused on **plastics**, e.g. “plastic bottle,” “plastic jug,” or “plastic container”; and 2) focused on **laundry**, e.g. “detergent bottle,” “laundry bottle,” or “liquid detergent.”

- Plastic bottle, plastic jug, or plastic container (11x)
- Detergent bottle or detergent jug (5x)
- Laundry bottle or laundry container (5x)
- Liquid detergent, liquid soap or Tide bottle (4x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents overwhelmingly describe the above item as a “plastic food container,” or “plastic container.”

- Plastic food container, or plastic container (19x)
- Cottage cheese or dairy container (5x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents describe the above item as a “yogurt cup,” or “yogurt container.”

- Yogurt container or yogurt cup (14x)
- Plastic container or plastic food container (9x)
- Plastic yogurt container (2x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents use a variety of words to describe the above item, including “plastic fruit container”, or “plastic container.” A small number of residents identify it as a “clam shell” container.

- Plastic fruit container (8x)
- Plastic container or plastic (7x)
- Fruit carton or raspberry container (5x)
- Clam shell (4x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents describe the above item as a “can” – with a smaller group specifying “tin” or “aluminum can.”

- Can or food can (12x)
- Aluminum can (5x)
- Tin can (4x)
- Soup can (2x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents most frequently describe the above item in general terms, e.g. “plastic wrap,” “plastic wrapping,” or “plastic wrapper.”

- Plastic wrap, plastic wrapping, or plastic wrapper (13x)
- Paper towel package or paper towels (8x)
- Plastic bag or plastic packaging (2x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents describe the above item as either a “cardboard tube” or “toilet paper roll.”

- Cardboard or cardboard tube (12x)
- Toilet paper roll (11x)
- Paper tube or paper core (2x)

### What would you call the container?



Residents use multiple terms to describe the above item – with a clear majority using general description, e.g. “plastic container” or “food bag.” A small number of residents describe it as a “pouch” or “resealable plastic bag.”

- Plastic, plastic container, or plastic bag (8x)
- Bag, food bag, or plastic food container (7x)
- Trail mix bag, or resealable plastic bag (4x)
- Plastic snack bag (3x)
- Plastic pouch or snack pouch (2x)

### What would you call the container?



Residents overwhelmingly describe the item as a “chip bag.”

- Chip bag (16x)
- Empty Lays, or potato chip bag (3x)
- Aluminum or aluminum wrapper (2x)

### What would you call the container?



Residents use a variety of ways to describe the above item – with all emphasizing “packaging”. A small group of residents use specific terms, such as “hard plastic,” or “blister packaging.”

- Plastic, plastic case, or plastic packaging (9x)
- Hard plastic or hard plastic packaging (5x)
- Scissor packaging (4x)
- Blister packaging (3x)

**What would you call the container?**



Residents overwhelmingly describe the above item as relating to “ice cream” – with variations of “ice cream tub,” “ice cream container,” or “ice cream carton.”

- Ice Cream tub (6x)
- Cardboard or cardboard container (5x)
- Ice cream cardboard container (4x)
- Ice Cream carton (3x)
- ice cream container (3x)

**Wayfaring: Now let’s talk about recycling bin labels in public places, like parks and events. How do you know what to recycle when you are in a park or at an event?**

When deciding what to recycle in a public place, residents rely on information, pictures, and directions posted on the recycling receptacle, described as a “bin,” “container,” or “trash cans.”

- “I look at the labels on containers.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)
- “The containers are labeled as to what to put in them...” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)

- “I usually look for the blue recycling containers (or ones with a recycling symbol) and either they will say what can be recycled or I use my own judgement and recycle the plastic, glass, cardboard etc.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
- “By the pictures” – Marisa (Female, 40, Rosemount)
- “Pictures on containers.” – Michelle (Female, 49, Apple Valley)
- “I look at the picture on the container” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)
- “Most bins are clearly marked now a days” – Tracy (Female, 50, Burnsville)
- “The trash cans are usually colored differently and have signs on them (kid and or side)” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)

**When you are at a public place, do you look at a sign or a label on the recycling collection container to see what you can put in?**

All residents say that they rely on sign or a label on the recycling collection container to determine whether to place an item in the container.

- Yes (13x)
  - “Yes. Also contextual clues (colors, opening size/shape of openings, etc.)” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
  - “Yes. Most accept the same types of products like plastic, glass, etc.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
  - “Yes. Think of places like Target Field with the pictographs” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)
- Usually (4x)
  - “Yes usually they are labeled” – Tracy (Female, 50, Burnsville)
  - “Yes, usually there are ones that indicate soda cans, cardboard items, or trash.” – Ann (Female, 77, Burnsville)
  - “I usually encounter these at hospitals, and some big businesses.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)

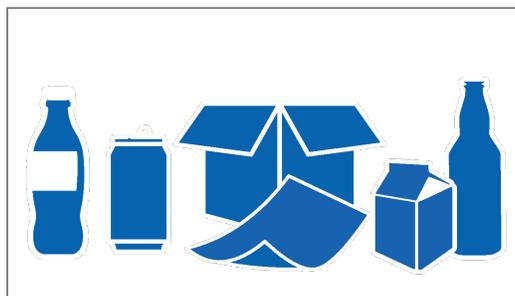
**Wayfaring: How do you find the recycling bin at an event or a park?**

Residents overwhelmingly search for the restrooms to find the recycling bin at an event or a park.

- “Usually by rest rooms” – Michelle (Female, 49, Apple Valley)
- “Recycling containers are usually next to the regular trash by the bathrooms or food areas.” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)
- “I look for the trash cans, especially near exits or bathroom areas.” – Rachel (Female, 34, Eagan)
- “Look right next to or close to the trash cans which tend to be put in corners or next to anything relating to food” – John (Male, 72, Hastings)
- “I look around for them normally they have plenty and are In sight . If I don’t see one many times I bring my recycling home to recycle” – Tracy (Female, 50, Burnsville)
- “They are usually right by the curb of the parking lot or in the event building.” – Ann (Female, 77, Burnsville)
- “I would look for the trash bins and they are usually located next to one another” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)

**Visuals: Looking at these three image groupings, choose what grouping you like more and why.**

A small group of residents expressed a preference for Image A – with those residents appreciating the generic and non-descript imagery that could withstand changing product packaging.



- “Probably A. Seems most explicit an inclusive. B seems incomplete. C seems too busy” –Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “I like "A". I would change the bottle in the left corner of picture to a straighter silhouette like the water bottles in "B" or gatorade bottle in "C". I like the silhouettes verses the actual photos it just seems cleaner and clearer.” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)
- “Definitely A is the best. It looks better to the eye which makes it more likely to be looked at. It also looks professional as well as doing its job of telling you what can be recycled” – John (Male, 72, Hastings)
- “A. Brands and bottle shapes are ever changing so the non-descript clip art is most long lasting.” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)

Only 1 resident expressed a preference for Image B, and that resident also liked Image C.



- “I’d go with B or C. It gives specific options using branding people may be familiar with.” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)

Residents expressed a strong and overwhelming preference for Image C, citing the real imagery as practical, useful, and helpful for children to determine which items are recyclable.



- “I prefer C the best as it provides real/colored visuals. My child would recognize the items in C before A and B.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)
- “As a designer and art director, especially for packaging, I aesthetically prefer A because its clean, simple and to the point. However in this instance because I feel you need to be very elementary for all ages and abilities, C would be the best route to easily showcase what exactly recycled products are and what they look like. Its not pretty but it is to the point.” – Katie (Female, 40, South St. Paul)
- “C-- It specifically shows what items can be recycled and would be more appealing for others to recycle” – Ann (Female, 77, Burnsville)
- “C. Very recognizable” – Marisa (Female, 40, Rosemount)
- “Most people can recognize what all these mean. They all make sense to me. C is the most obvious, I like that it includes the sport bottle in the picture . I don’t like the Evian bottle in B it’s not a common brand . I like the pop can image in b better c it’s more clear” – Tracy (Female, 50, Burnsville)
- “A is very generic B is way to easy and doesn't list enough different items C is pretty good as it gives a good list of items to add to the bin” – Cliff (Male, 49, Burnsville)
- “I like C the best in using everyday items as examples. Color is also important to gain attention.” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)

**Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don’t you like? What’s missing?**



Residents like the sign for its usefulness, colors, and self-explanatory nature. When asked to identify any missing items, residents would recommend adding a milk carton.

- “Pretty easy to understand. If children can understand it . That's a big plus.” – Lorenzo (Male, 57, West St. Paul)
- “I like this sign’s simplicity. I think it would help me easily recycle a wide range of items.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)
- “I like the color scheme and the examples.” – Rachel (Female, 34, Eagan)
- “Yes, it self explanatory - easily understood, appealing...” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “It looks nice makes it easy to figure out what can go in the bin” – Jeff (Male, 56, Hastings)
- “Very colorful. I don't see anything specifically that is missing” – Nancy (Female, 68, Eagan)
- “Milk cartons and jugs are missing.” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)

**Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?**



Residents express strong dislike for the sign, which is viewed as plain, less specific, less colorful and not as useful in identifying recyclable materials.

- “Is that a permission sign to mix newspapers with bottles and cans? Maybe you would need to include an x'ed out item (laundry detergent is not on this picture, so I assume it could t go here but not clear...)” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)

- “It seems less specific than the previous one. It also lacks colorful items so it seems like you can recycle less.” – Evan (Male, 39, Apple Valley)
- “It’s all right. Not very eye catching.” – Marisa (Female, 40, Rosemount)
- “It’s quiet clear and to the point, but it needs some redesign aesthetically. I feel like it’s also missing a few other items” – Ahabdul (Male, 27 Apple Valley)
- “Light duty recycling in a public venue. Missing many of the household recyclables like cardboard and food containers” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “Not eye catching looks amateurish and not as specific as the last one so it losses that quality” – John (Male, 72, Hastings)
- “The layout seems to be better but the product list is shorter. So missing is more definition on cardboard products.” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)

**Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don’t you like? What’s missing?**



Residents like the design of the sign; however, believe that it is less specific and useful in determining which items are permitted.

- “Yes, for the most part. But not as specific as the others.” – Evan (Male, 39, Apple Valley)
- “Clear, uniform, timeless if you will, just not listing any items not permitted.” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)

- “I like the design of this sign. I wish it had the types of plastic labeled.” – Rachel (Female, 34, Eagan)
- “I like the simplicity and the addition of the words adds greater clarity.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)
- “This one is a lot more clearer and pleasing to the eyes, plus it has the wordage of what goes in there.” – Ahabdul (Male, 27 Apple Valley)
- “It’s informative and clean. It gives me the direction on what can be recycled there. I like the clean written directions, but I also like to see the specific examples. I can see both sides.” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)
- “Yes it’s clear to me but needs to be more colorful to catch someone’s eye mainly someone who is not a regular recycler. But the more I look at it the more I think it will work” – Tracy (Female, 50, Burnsville)

**Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don’t you like? What’s missing?**



Residents describe the sign as being “very clear” by including “colorful pictures of everyday products.” Residents also verbalize support for the “big print” and “larger font”.

- “This one is also very clear. I like the big print supported by the images. Could someone interrupte this as only the branded items could be recycled.” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)

- “This sign gives good examples of all standard items to recycle.” –Cliff (Male, 49, Burnsville)
- “Yes, I like that tells me what I can recycle.” – Ann (Female, 77, Burnsville)
- “I like the larger font for the wording and I like that there is some other colors included for the pictures.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
- “I love that this sign has colorful pictures of everyday products. I feel it clarifies to the consumer that yes this coke can in my hand for sure goes into this container.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)
- “I think that it does convey the overview of what should be recycled but lacks the visual stimulation of more color and specific items listed.” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)
- “More eye catching than the previous (product outlines), but it feels not quite as complete. Could be taken to not include newspapers and magazines, or tin cans (like soup cans)” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “Perfect! It’s gives written verbal and visual directions! Another thought I had as I was answering these, this helps folks who English May not be their first language or can’t read.” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)

**Organics: What does the term “organics recycling” mean to you?**

Residents overwhelming describe “organics recycling” as relating to “compost” or “compostable items”. Specifically, residents identify “yard waste” and “food waste” as items that are “organics recycling.”

- “Compost which is food, yard waste and animal remains that can be decomposed into their original elements into the ground” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)
- “Compostable items.” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “Any food that has been grown organically? Not positive on this meaning.” – Nancy (Female, 68, Eagan)
- “Anything that is compostable such as food, napkins that are compostable” – Katie (Female, 40, South St. Paul)

- “Organics to me basically means food waste” – Ahabdul (Male, 27 Apple Valley)
- “Packaging that is biodegradable and/or made from naturally composting material?” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)

**Organics: If you saw a bin labeled, “Organics Recycling,” what do you think should go in that bin?**

Residents believe that “food waste,” “leftovers,” and “yard waste” should go into the “organics recycling” bin.

- “Food scraps, packaging made biodegradable material” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)
- “Food waste. But does that include Napkins? Paper plates? I think that the term “Organics “Recycling” needs additional definition and possible education.” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “Food sources, yard waste (if not picked up separately) and animal remains.” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)
- “I would be confused as what would go into it.” – Nancy (Female, 68, Eagan)
- “Food leftovers and some yard waste.” – Ann (Female, 77, Burnsville)
- “If it is a small bin I would assume you can’t put twigs and sticks in it. And if there is no top on the bin, then food compost would be too smelly to put in it for a weekly collection. Leaves also require a large amount of space. Not sure, specify the size of the container maybe?” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)
- “Food and yard trash” – Amanda (Female, 34, South St. Paul)

**Where do you currently place most of your household food scraps?**

Most residents place their food scraps in either the garbage disposal or trash bin – with a small number putting food scraps in their compost pile.

- Trash or garbage (8x)
- Garbage disposal (6x)
- BOTH: Garbage disposal or garbage (4x)
- Compost (4x)

**W 1) Please read the following statements made by two Dakota County residents and tell me which resident you agree with more and why.**

**Smith says, “It is important to properly dispose of all waste correctly and recycle everything we can. It is worth the extra time and effort to get educated on how to properly dispose of all the things we get rid of.”**

**Jones says, “I understand the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling and I do it when I can, but I am not going to spend any time trying to figure out how to properly dispose of all the things we get rid of.”**

**Who do you agree with more, Smith or Jones? Why?**

Residents overwhelmingly agree with Smith, citing the importance of recycling for its environmental impacts for future generations.

- “I agree with Smith. I truly believe that the efforts we put in today create a better tomorrow. We’ve done a mighty fine job post industrial revolution of damaging the earth. Recycling and being mindful of ways to slow the damage and in some cases restore is everyone’s responsibility.” – Skylar (Male, 40, Lakeville)
- “I agree with Smith far more. We are leaving a world for our children and our children’s children. It is our duty to not leave it in worse shape than we got it from our parents. The marginal time it takes to recycle is well spent instead of putting something in the trash that will take hundreds of years to break down.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)
- “Smith - we should do what we can and be educated so it doesn’t seem like a chore to figure out” – Maria (Female, 74, Lakeville)
- “I agree with Smith , he’s consistent and aware.” – Amanda (Female, 34, South St. Paul)
- “Smith. I believe it is important to our environment to be knowledgeable about waste and recycling of materials.” – Nancy (Female, 68, Eagan)
- “I agree with Smith. I feel it is our responsibility to take the time, educate ourselves and those around us. Why let something end up in a landfill when it doesn't need to be. Our landfills are not just going to dissapper. We are simply handing the problem off to our children.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)

- “I agreed with smith because we need to be consciously aware of our environment and to help educate ourselves in doing the right thing that could possible save our children’s lives in the future” – Ahabdul (Male, 27 Apple Valley)

A small group of residents identify with Jones, or believe other people identify with Jones. This group of residents cites the inconvenience and demands of “family obligations and responsibilities” for making it hard to follow through on proper recycling procedures.

- “Smith is correct, however to be honest, I am more like Jones at this point.” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “Smith but I think there is more Jones's out there” – Jeff (Male, 56, Hastings)
- “Jones based on practicality. I have a family obligations and responsibilities . We have an obligation to take care of the environment but yes there is a certain level of inconvenience that is not worth it. That bar is high but it’s still there” – John (Male, 72, Hastings)
- “Jones. Life is so fast and so demanding it is hard to be overly picky. What is initially stated and understood from the flier is what has stuck in my mind when I sort out goods.” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)

**What do you think are the barriers to doing more recycling or understanding how to do it?**

Residents cite time, complexity, difficulty and lack of containers as barriers to recycling.

- “A barrier to recycling is not enough recycling bins at public places, items not being accepted by trash haulers, and not enough education about what is and isn’t recyclable.” – Adrienne (Female, 36, Eagan)
- “Recycling needs to be easily and understandable... if people think it is confusing, they'll just say, I'll recycle that next time!” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “It needs to be easy not time consuming because its easiest to throw everything in the regular trash” – Jeff (Male, 56, Hastings)

- “Confusion over what items on the margins are recyclable. Sometimes we don’t take the time to find out, especially when under time pressure. Single sort does help a lot, as well.” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “The more that recycle materials can be combined into one container, the lesser the barriers will be for people to not want to participate.” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)
- “Its difficult to find what to recycle sometimes. There are one offs and things that are not common and the more difficult it is, the less of a chance of response you will have. Make it easy and in one spot.” – Katie (Female, 40, South St. Paul)
- “Being lazy and not taking the time to clean everything or recycle more than most people do” – Cliff (Male, 49, Burnsville)

**What else should we know about how people handle recycling and proper organics disposal?**

Residents say that the process should be easy to understand and eliminate confusion about which items go into which container. Some residents would like to see a yearly program to recycle larger items as well as regular flyers to educate about proper recycling practices.

- “Recycling has to be clarified - easy to understand how, what, when and where.” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “Cities need to provide more alternatives for organics recycling (even if residents need to pay for a compost barrel, etc.). It would be nice if the trash haulers could provide an option to pick up recycling each week. I realize this may not be possible logistically but it would be better for our family at least.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
- “Make it simple and easy Educate by whatever means possible/ necessary Involve all family members insofar as possible” – Ken (Male, 68, Burnsville)
- “Assist once a year offer to have a free large items for pickup. Lawn furniture, tv's and etc.” – Nancy (Female, 68, Eagan)
- “Notes on containers , Fliers from trash company, each time the Dakota county mailers go out it should always state dos and don'ts and any updates on recycling” – Tracy (Female, 50, Burnsville)

- “Regular fliers might help. Easy info on what to do with specific items. And more info/services related to composting.” – Rachel (Female, 34, Eagan)

**Image A has grouped items and less spacing between each object. Image B has fewer items with more spacing between each object. Which of the images do you prefer? And why?**



Residents overwhelmingly prefer Image A for being “more eye catching” due to its colors and display of actual items.

- “Group A is my preference. It contains more items and color with examples that would, in my opinion, help everyone to associate their trash from recycleables if they are not sure.” – Randy (Male, 60, Apple Valley)
- “I prefer A. It has more examples of the types of items that can be recycled while still containing the wording.” – Jason (Male, 45, Farmington)
- “A- more specific examples means less confusion and more success for those trying to follow guidelines” – Maria (Female, 74, Lakeville)
- “A. I see it as more comprehensive and might relate to people more (the small milk carton in image B might not jump out to people...). A has many examples.” – Mike (Male, 72, West St. Paul)
- ““A” caught my eye right away - appealing & easy to understand.” – Janet (Female, 69, Saint Paul)
- “I prefer A because it's has more examples of acceptable items. I like that there are colored pictures of actual items. I feel image A is more eye catching because of the colored items.” – Jillian (Female, 35, Inver Grove)

- “I like "A". The picture shows more examples of items that can be recycled.” – Eir (Female, 44, South St. Paul)

# Appendix A: Discussion Guide

Welcome to the discussion.

Questions have been posted. Please log in now to complete the current questions. After you submit a question, your place will be saved and remembered in case you need to take a break.

The study will remain open for 3 days. We need you to check in daily and answer new questions and respond to what other participants and the moderator are discussing. Only those who fully participate will receive the Amazon gift card.

Your input is valued, and we look forward to a lively discussion.

## Initial Thoughts and Awareness

- 1) What household items **can** be recycled in your regular home recycling cart? Please include a full list, not just a few items.
- 2) What household items can be recycled only at a drop-off location?
- 3) What household items **cannot** be recycled either in a recycling bin picked up by your trash hauler or taken to a recycling center? Please include a full list, not just a few items.
- 4) How important is it to you to understand what items should be recycled?
- 5) Are you aware that some items may need preparation prior to going into the recycling bin? Please provide some examples of what recycling preparation means to you and how you do it.

## Recycling

- 1) How do you determine what items can be recycled?
- 2) If you are unsure if an item was recyclable, where would you look for information? Please be specific.
- 3) Do you look for information on the cart provided by your hauler?
- 4) Thinking specifically about plastic items, which ones are recyclable?
- 5) If you were speaking to a friend, how would you explain what kinds of items can and cannot be recycled?

## Visuals

Here are some products you might encounter on a daily basis. What you would call the container or product.

For instance, if you see this picture, would say “pop can”, “soda can” or something else?



6) Cracker box



7) Juice carton



8) Laundry jug



9) Cottage cheese tub



10) Yogurt cup (individual serving)



11) Berry container



12) Bean can



13) Plastic wrap from paper towels



14) Paper towel/TP roll



15) Food pouch (from trail mix)



16) Chip bag



17) Plastic packaging (the outside packaging – not what it's covering)



18) Ice cream carton



Wayfaring

Now let's talk about recycling bin labels in public places, like parks and events.

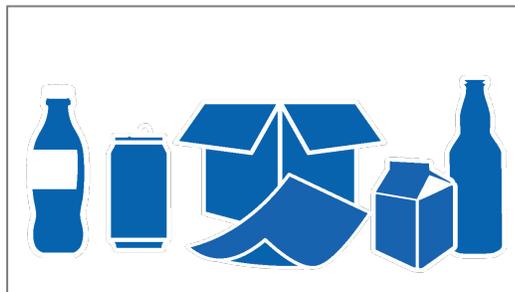
- 1) How do you know what to recycle when you are in a park or at an event?
- 2) When you are at a public place, do you look at a sign or a label on the recycling collection container to see what you can put in?
- 3) How do you find the recycling bin at an event or a park? Please think about the process you would go through and describe it.

Visuals

You are about to review three different types of signs for a recycling container. Tell us what you like about each and what can be improved. Your answers will help design the next generation of recycling signs for Dakota County.

- 1) Looking at these three image groupings, choose what grouping you like more and why.

**A**



**B**



**C**



2) Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?



3) Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?



- 4) Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?



- 5) Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What's missing?



Organics

- 1) What does the term “organics recycling” mean to you?
- 2) If you saw a bin labeled, “Organics Recycling,” what do you think should go in that bin?

3) Where do you currently place most of your household food scraps?

Neighbor to neighbor

1) Please read the following statements made by two Dakota County residents and tell me which resident you agree with more and why.

Smith says, “It is important to properly dispose of all waste correctly and recycle everything we can. It is worth the extra time and effort to get educated on how to properly dispose of all the things we get rid of.”

Jones says, “I understand the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling and I do it when I can, but I am not going to spend any time trying to figure out how to properly dispose of all the things we get rid of.”

Who do you agree with more, Smith or Jones? Why?

Other

- 1) What do you think are the barriers to doing more recycling or understanding how to do it?
- 2) What else should we know about how people handle recycling and proper organics disposal?
- 3) Image A has grouped items and less spacing between each object. Image B has fewer items with more spacing between each object. Which of the images do you prefer? And why?



# Appendix B: Transcript

## Dakota County Discussion

*Transcript of the focus group discussion as of 2019-12-21*

### Welcome to the discussion group

Welcome to the discussion.

Questions have been posted. After you submit a question, your place will be saved and remembered in case you need to take a break.

The study will remain open for 5 days. We need you to check in daily and answer new questions and respond to what other participants and the moderator are discussing. Only those who fully participate will receive the Amazon gift card.

Your input is valued, and we look forward to a lively discussion.

Jeff

Lorenzo P

Ken B

AV Rez

knoppers

Ahabdul

Hello

**knoppers**

Good day!

**Jillian P**

Hello

**Marisa H**

Hello

**Michboyle**

Hi

**Skylar H**

**klauder**

Hi

**Alpha**

Hello

**Tracy B**

Hi

**Ahabdul**

Hello fellow resident

**Mike S**

**AWhaley1**

**Adrienne B**

**Missb**

**Retprin**

**JohnK**

**Jdkuchel**

Hi

**Ian M**

**SHayslett**

**Cliff H**

Hello

**Maria K**

**AVSAHD**

**Janet O**

**Debma**

**Rachel M**

### **Initial Thoughts and Awareness**

What household items can be recycled in your regular home recycling cart? Please include a full list, not just a few items.

**Janet O**

Plastic bottles, cardboard, glass, paper, newspapers, aluminum cans, cereal boxes, mail, grocery bags

**Jeff**

Plastic bottles and jars ,glass bottles and jars, tin cans, aluminum cans, aluminum foil , cardboard boxes. pizza boxes

**Lorenzo P**

I think anything that doesn't compost should be recycled. Cardboard, papers, glass, wood, plastics, metals, hazardous materials and products such as paints, used oil, combustible fuels.

**Tracy B**

i agree

**Alpha**

Aluminum and steel cans Food and beverage cartons Bottles and jars  
Paper, newspapers, magazines Cardboard Laundry detergent bottles and other similar bottles (#s 1, 2, & 5 plastics)

### **Ken B**

Newspaper Mail (envelopes, letters, paper enclosures) Plastics - numbers 1-7 Cereal boxes and similar packaging Glass bottles Tin cans including aluminum cans Cardboard Anything on the list the trash hauler supplies (includes all of the above)

### **AV Rez**

Plastic Glass Paper Cardboard Aluminum

### **knoppers**

plastic, cardboard, paper, glass, aluminum, paper towels, paper plates, some plastic bags.

### **Ahabdul**

Water bottles, grocery bags, pop cans, glass containers, paper bags, plastic bags, food waste, light bulbs, newspaper, cardboard boxes,

### **knoppers**

I don't believe all grocery bags are recyclable. Target just changed their bags to recyclable.

### **Jillian P**

Newspaper, plastic bottles, milk jugs, cans.

### **Marisa H**

Aluminum cans rinsed Glass jars/bottles rinsed Plastics (bottles, milk jugs) rinsed Newspapers Cardboard Junk papers

**Missb**

I've been seeing educational ads for dakota county and mail recycling. Does that mean all mail?

**Michboyle**

Cardboard, glass, cans, plastic, newspaper, magazines.

**Skylar H**

Glass, paper, cardboard, aluminum, some steel (?), plastics.

**klauder**

Water bottles, canned goods, cardboard boxes, newspaper, regular paper, school papers, junk mail, pop cans, beer bottles, beer cans, liquor bottles, milk jugs, pizza boxes that are cleaned, egg cartons

**knoppers**

I'm hesitant about the "egg cartons"?

**klauder**

Why is that?

**knoppers**

I am not certain they are a recyclable product?

**Jillian P**

Very detailed list, you have given me some ideas. Thank you

### **Tracy B**

Cans plastic bottles paper Junk mail Newspaper jars Paper towel and toilet paper rolls Clam shells Card board Egg cartons Clean pizza boxes Clean aluminum foil

### **Ahabdul**

Love the list ideas

### **JohnK**

Mail, scrap paper, cardboard, paper bags, erasers, stoppers, certain parts of boots, bottles, broken plastic plates, broken plastic cups, screws, whole lot of empty wine boxes

### **knoppers**

"Certain parts of boots"?

### **JohnK**

As far as I can tell the rubber on boots can be removed and then recycled

### **Mike S**

Newspapers, glass, cans,

### **Adrienne B**

Aluminum cans, glass jars, corrugated cardboard, other cardboard with no food residue, plastics with the recycling sign, most paper that is like magazines, newspapers, printer paper.

**Adam P. Moderator**

What kind of paper can't be recycled?

**Adrienne B**

Wrapping paper

**AWhaley1**

Cans, aluminum, newspaper, scrap paper, water bottles, plastic, milk jugs, boxed food containers, cardboard

**Missb**

Plastic soda bottles, plastic laundry detergent containers, plastic liquid soap containers and plastic pill bottles. Cardboard items such as boxes from shipping, food items, shoes, toilet paper and paper towel rolls. Empty cans, soda cans, food cans, cat food cans.

**Retprin**

newspapers glass containers cardboard items magazines books carry out containers pop cans

**Jdkuchel**

Aluminum, cardboard, plastic, glass and paper I think

**Rachel M**

Cardboard, paper, aluminum, glass jars, plastic #1-7

**Adam P. Moderator**

What is plastic #1-7? Do you think other people know what this is?

### **Tracy B**

i think a lot of people know there are numbers but not sure what all the numbers mean and most people won't look it up

### **SHayslett**

I am really not sure what is allowed, but would like to know myself.

### **Cliff H**

pop cans, soup cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, scrap paper, junk mailings, magazines, clean empty plastic containers, and glass bottle and jars.

### **Maria K**

Pop cans Plastic water bottles Newspaper Aluminum food cans Glass jars  
Printer paper Cardboard Milk jugs

### **AVSAHD**

Plastic, cardboard, paper, glass

### **Debma**

Boxes (food and shipping) Metal cans (food) Plastic milk and juice jugs  
Paper Magazines Junk mail Tp rolls

## **Initial Thoughts and Awareness Part 2**

What household items can be recycled only at a drop-off location?

**Janet O**

Paint, batteries, computers, televisions, microwaves, cleaning products, fluorescent light bulbs "Alpha" has a terrific list below!

**Jeff**

Paint, batteries, light bulbs, steel. Oil

**knoppers**

Oh yes, I forgot light bulbs!

**Ken B**

It's a great list. It appears to be derived from the ones on the recycle zone website.

**Ken B**

Oops... should have been attached to Janet O, above. Sorry

**Lorenzo P**

The recycle center Dakota County accepts TV's, metals, electronics, household cleaning products, paints, some plastics, batteries. They're located jut north of Yankee Noodle Road on Dodd Rd., eagan

**knoppers**

Haha! Off of Yankee "Doodle" Road!

**Lorenzo P**

Got you to laugh a little Whoppers! I was actually expecting more giggles . Seems like you were the only one to catch that my friend!

Have some laughter in life.

### Alpha

Aerosols Antifreeze Auto batteries Batteries (all rechargeable, single-use, and button cell) Bug killer Fire extinguishers Fireworks Fluorescent light bulbs Gasoline Home sharps (needles, syringes, lancets)\* Household cleaners Lawn and garden products Mercury thermometers Paint Pool and spa chemicals Propane and helium tanks/gas cylinders Thermostats Used oil/filters Weed killer Most products labeled dangerous, flammable, poison, combustible or corrosive Answering machines Copiers (desktop only) Computer equipment (keyboards, mouse, towers, hard drives, modems, etc.) DVD players Electronic games systems (Wii™, PlayStation™, Xbox®, Nintendo DS™, Leap Frog®, VTech®, etc.) Fax machines iPods®, MP3 and other portable media players Laptops Monitors (\$10 each) Computer terminals/hard drives Printers (desktop only) Scanners (desktop only) Stereo equipment Telephones (including cell phones and smart phones) Televisions (\$10 each) VCR players Blenders (remove glass pitcher) Bread makers Cameras Carpet sweepers Clocks Coffee makers (remove glass carafe) Electric knives Electric toothbrushes Food sealing equipment Fryers Hair dryers Irons Massagers Metal tools (drills, screwdrivers, sanders, small saws, etc.) Mixers Portable fans Radios Remotes Shaving equipment Small Heaters Toasters Toaster ovens Vacuum cleaners (remove bags)

### knoppers

Very good Alpha!

### Tracy B

wow great list

### **Ken B**

Batteries some small appliances some electronics some household chemicals some hazardous materials Google dakota county recycling zone when in doubt

### **AV Rez**

Electronics Appliances Furniture Mattresses Yard waste (but also picked up curbside) Batteries Chemicals (paint, ect.) Larger plastic items Larger metal items

### **Ken B**

Pretty complete list. Not sure about all appliances, but more complete list available on recycling zone website

### **knoppers**

electronics- computers, tv's, tablets, cell phones, batteries, car batteries, car oil, mattress and box springs, paint, large furniture items, kitchen appliances, yard waste such as leaves

### **Ahabdul**

Batteries, hazardous waste, furniture, chemicals, mattresses, paint, electronic devices, mobile devices, oil waste

### **Jillian P**

Appliances, batteries, hazardous materials, used sharps.

### **knoppers**

What are "used sharps"?

**Jillian P**

To me a used sharp would be an insulin syringe. I had a diabetic dog that got 2 injections daily. The used needles added up fast.

**knoppers**

Thank you!

**Marisa H**

Light bulbs Car batteries Rechargeable batteries Carpet Appliances  
Mattresses Paint Electronics

**Michboyle**

Paint,batteries,small appliances,some chemicals household.,tvs

**Skylar H**

Hazardous items, paints, electronics

**klauder**

Mattresses, batteries, paint, lightbulbs, toxic chemicals, cell phones, TVs

**Tracy B**

Electronics Paint and oil Hazardous waste Batteries Yard waste Compost  
materials

**JohnK**

Any electronic TVs radios vcrs , Thicker plastics, larger bits or metal (steel  
beams), furniture mattresses chairs, paints, oil

**Missb**

Items that must be taken to a drop off site include paint, chemicals, tv's, computers, electronics, large metal items such as engine parts. Leaves and grass clippings can also be dropped off.

**Ahabdul**

This is a great list

**Mike S**

Paint, hazardous materials, batteries, old TVs, can mattresses?

**Adrienne B**

Paints, household cleaners, electronics, batteries, TVs

**AWhaley1**

Tvs, batteries, cleaning products , hazardous materials.

**Retprin**

electronic items cleaning products old paint batteries small appliances

**Jdkuchel**

House hold appliances

**Rachel M**

TVs, certain batteries, appliances, hazardous materials, paint

**SHayslett**

TVs, batteries, paint

**Cliff H**

TVs, appliances, batteries, and hazardous wastes

**Maria K**

Batteries Metal Paint

**AVSAHD**

Scrap metal, batteries, paint cans, electronics

**AVSAHD**

Also plastic bags but not at the Dakota County site. Only at Target or other retailers.

**Jillian P**

I was wondering where I could bring my plastic bags. Thank you

**Adrienne B**

I wish we could recycle those at the Recycling Zone!

**Debma**

Paint Batteries Chemicals Computers Tv screens Other appliances

**Cliff H**

Good list of items here

**Maria K**

TVs is a good one

### **Initial Thoughts and Awareness Part 3**

What household items cannot be recycled either in a recycling bin picked up by your trash hauler or taken to a recycling center? Please include a full list, not just a few items.

**Lorenzo P**

That's a good question. But, one item that comes to the forefront are tires. Is there not a company that can remelt tires and bring them close to their original raw form for reuse? Perhaps use the material for recapping like they do for Commercial vehicles?

**Janet O**

Prescription drugs, Styrofoam, fireworks, hazardous items, batteries, microwaves,

**Jeff**

Prescription drugs, hypodermic needles ,yard waste

**Alpha**

Appliances Asbestos-containing materials Dehumidifiers Empty containers that held hazardous products Explosives Humidifiers Microwaves Medical equipment Medical waste Medicines Microwavable food trays Packing peanuts Plastic bags Plastic plant pots Styrofoam Radioactive materials Water heaters

**Ken B**

Large appliances Egg cartons Dirty cardboard Windows and mirrors styrofoam (packing peanuts, cups, packaging materials) Plastic bags but those are collected at Cub

**Ken B**

List available on recycle zone website

**AV Rez**

Motor vehicles Bicycles Medications Tires Construction debris (larger quantities)

**Ken B**

Didn't think of vehicles or meds. I think the recycle zone takes tires for a fee.

**knoppers**

vehicles, medications, tires

**Ahabdul**

Batteries is the only thing i can think of, or any hazardous material?

**Jillian P**

I am honestly not sure what items would make this list.

**Omar Moderator**

What makes you unsure of what items would make the list?

**Jillian P**

Growing up recycling and being green wasn't a common practice in my household. I am the first generation to take the initiative so this is all new territory to me.

**Ahabdul**

I concur

**Marisa H**

I'm not exactly sure but would like to find out.

**Omar Moderator**

Why are you unsure and what would be the best way to find out?

**knoppers**

Go to the county website for more information.

**Michboyle**

Sharps, mattresses, large appliances, hazardous chemicals, tires

**Jillian P**

I just read that sharps are accepted as long as they are safely packaged and labeled.

**Skylar H**

Medicine, some furniture, certain hazmat materials, oil

**Klauder**

Plastic bags, furniture other than mattresses, car seats, plastics that are not 1-6

**Tracy B**

Plastics Plastic bags Tires Furniture Construction materials

**Missb**

Household items that can not be picked up by trash or recycling hauler or taken to a recycling center....that's a good question.. My trash company with pick up furniture and mattresses for an extra charge. Medications should be disposed of properly your pharmacy should be able to direct you. So I guess I don't know..

**Marisa H**

I'm with you, I'm not sure either...

**JohnK**

I honestly have no idea

**Debma**

Food waste Broken plastic things Paper that has foodstuff on it (grease?) Furniture Mattresses

**Adrienne B**

Mattresses, scrap metal, tires, car batteries, motor oil, fake Christmas trees

**Mike S**

Along with what others are saying, I'd think mattresses.

**Retprin**

Appliances like stoves, refrigerators water heaters furniture mattresses o;d  
drug prescriptions

**Adrienne B**

Rx drugs is a good one.

**AWhaley1**

Furniture and tires

**Rachel M**

Furniture, plastic bags, tires

**SHayslett**

Furniture

**Cliff H**

Tires, oil, paints

**Maria K**

Tires Paint

**AVSAHD**

Electronic appliances like speakers or cell phones

**Cliff H**

Dang forgot phones that is a good one

## **Initial Thoughts and Awareness Part 4**

How important is it to you to understand what items should be recycled?

**Lorenzo P**

Very! I look into my children's eyes and wonder what the environment will be like for them when they are 50+. Will they have clean water and air. Lakes used to be pretty clean in the early 70's. They are visible. What concerns me is what we cannot see happening under our feet.

**Janet O**

It is important to me to know what can be recycled so I recycle those things...

**Jeff**

I think everything should be recycled if possible. Not just the list on top of the recycling bin, and people shouldn't be charged to recycle

**Alpha**

It is important but much of it is common sense these days. If I'm unsure of whether an item is recyclable, I look it up on my hauler's website or on the Dakota County Recycling Center's website.

**klauder**

That's awesome however I am not sold that everyone is currently doing

this. I want to believe this is very much all common sense but some need a little more education

**Ken B**

Pretty important. Crud in the recycle stream gums up the works.

**AV Rez**

Important but not to the point of being expert on every single household item.

**klauder**

If it's not on items do you think people will assume it's not recyclable?

**Ken B**

Got it in one. Just threw out a Britta pitcher because we couldn't find a recycle indicator on it

**AV Rez**

I believe that to be the case. At least for me it would apply.

**knoppers**

Somewhat important

**klauder**

Can you elaborate?

**knoppers**

My attention is to be as diligent as possible but if I don't recycle something I am not going to get upset over it.

**Ahabdul**

It's very important, especially with global warming, and hurting our environment.

**Jillian P**

I feel that it is very important in understanding what items can and should be recycled. I feel it is our responsibility to do our part.

**Marisa H**

Very important so I can teach my kids.

**Jillian P**

I agree that our children need to be taught.

**Michboyle**

I always try to make sure to dispose of properly.

**Michboyle**

To save a better place for our next generation.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Who agrees with this?

**Tracy B**

i do for sure, i agree with klaunder

**Tracy B**

i agree because the kids know that when they become adults this is going to be a bigger issue then it is now and they will have to deal with it

**klaunder**

I think our younger generation gets this more than most adults now and they now have activist kids such as Greta who are huge on Climate change and recycling is just one part in that.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Why?

**Skylar H**

Fairly important. I always do my part to recycle what I can. But I've always wondered if it really goes anywhere special.

**Adam P. Moderator**

How would you want to learn about what happens to recycled materials? What do you hope happens to it?

**Skylar H**

How are the items recycled? What's the process? Honestly, is there compliance for it? Do they really get recycled and how? I've been aware of places that mix recycling in with general refuse. Are they

separated somewhere else downstream? Or just sent to the landfill.

**Ahabdul**

I hope they are putting it to good use

**Adam P. Moderator**

What would be "good use" to you?

**klauder**

Very. And since it varies from city to city it should become a state wide program to make it easier.

**Tracy B**

Very important I go out of my way to recycle, I wish I had a better list of what can be recycled. Recycling is a priority for me

**Adam P. Moderator**

Why Tracy?

**Tracy B**

Recycling is a priority to me because eventually we will run out of landfill space and there is just too much waste in the world

**Missb**

Very important...please teach me

**JohnK**

On the list of things I'm currently worried about this is 125th in line . If the information is given to me I'll act on it but not going to lie not a priority at all.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Fair enough. Why isn't recycling in the top 100? What motivates you to recycle at all?

**JohnK**

There are lot of personal family things taking up my time. As well as I don't usually come across situations more complex than put plastic water bottle from vending machine into correct bin. I recycle cause I know it's a good action to make but my motivation to pursue more than basic knowledge is just to much a hassle especially since it can get complex in certain recycling matters

**Adrienne B**

It's very important to me. I want to contribute as little waste as possible, so I don't want to erroneously recycle something that would contaminate the recycling. Also, if something can't be recycled, I try to find the same product with more eco-friendly packaging.

**Adam P. Moderator**

How do you determine if packaging is eco-friendly?

**klauder**

Reusable lunch bags and items like bento boxes are great eco-friendly options. Kid lunches are in my opinion a huge issue. The baggies get thrown out and that is a lot of baggies that are not recyclable

**Debma**

I need to be better informed. I feel like I'm missing items that I could definitely be recycling

**Mike S**

I recently read an article that recycling isn't as effective as it once was thought to be. While it is good to try to reuse/recycle items, I'm wondering how truly effective we are at that end.

**Adrienne B**

I read that, too. It seems like size matters in recycling and many small items like milk lids can't be recycled if they are separated from the jug.

**Debma**

Good point here

**Retprin**

It is very important for safety of haulers and others who have to handle the items. Understand what items can be recycled and where it can be sent.

**AWhaley1**

I think it's very important.

**SHayslett**

it is very important because it benefits everyone when the community recycles

**Cliff H**

I use to pickup recycling for BFI and this made me very aware of what you can and cant just put in the trash or recycling bin. So, it is very important to know what you can and cannot just put in the trash

**Ken B**

Agreed. My hauler put a nice list on the top of the recycle bin. Quite helpful.

**Rachel M**

Very important

**Maria K**

Very- items sent to the wrong facility can cause issues

**AVSAHD**

Very important - we want to minimize trash to the extent we can, compost what we can and recycle the rest if possible

**Cliff H**

Good answer

**Initial Thoughts and Awareness Part 5**

Are you aware that some items may need preparation prior to going into the recycling bin? Please provide some examples of what recycling preparation means to you and how you do it.

### **Lorenzo P**

I've been told that paints can go into the trash as long as they have hardened. That to me is preparation. Or, for lack of a better word. 'Waiting period'.

### **Janet O**

Rinse out beverage containers, milk, pop, juice etc. and also food containers, Break down cardboard boxes and sparkling water boxes etc.

### **Jeff**

Clean food containers to me when you have to do this you wasting water and electricity so I dont do it

### **Alpha**

I break down (flatten) cardboard and related items (cereal boxes, etc.) but I guess I really don't "prepare" other recyclables. I wash out milk cartons, jars, etc.

### **Ken B**

Containers need to be cleaned, cardboard needs the be cut down if too large. That's about all I know.

### **AV Rez**

Rinsing food containers Cutting cardboard boxes to fit collection containers

### **knoppers**

Rinse out jars and bottles, fold the cardboard, rinse aluminum cans.

**Alpha**

I guess I don't rinse out pop cans. Is that something we're supposed to be doing?

**knoppers**

I generally rinse out all containers.

**Ahabdul**

Separating plastics from compost items, and glass and regular food waste.

**Jillian P**

I know to clean/rinse my recyclables, as well as removing lids from bottles.

**knoppers**

I understood that all lids should remain on?

**Jillian P**

This made me think. I don't recall reading anywhere about lids. My father had told me this about a year ago. Lol never thought to check.

**Marisa H**

Yes. I know that bottles, and cans need to be rinsed. I am not sure if the paper needs to be taken off of soup cans, however.

**knoppers**

I don't believe it does any longer but it used to be a requirement.

**Michboyle**

Taking wrapping of cans and bottles, removing plastic and tape from boxes.

**Skylar H**

Like cleaning food containers? Cutting down cardboard?

**klauder**

Yes, jars should be rinsed and cleaned, milk cartons rinsed and cleaned, pizza boxes scraped and wiped down, pop or bottle plastic rings cut in case they end up in the ocean, god forbid, the animals dont get stuck in the holes

**Ahabdul**

I agree with this, and especially with the notice of the ocean

**Jillian P**

Them plastic rings! I absolutely am sure to cut them apart.

**Tracy B**

I didn't think you needed to rinse anything out any more, I think they prefer to have caps left on bottles because they are too small to recycle. For spray bottles you should remove the sprayer and trash it because it is part metal part plastic - that's all I am aware of

**Missb**

Rinsing out containers before recycling

**JohnK**

The only items I personally know of are ones pertaining to grease and oils. Paint cans metal all has to be washed before hand. I usually just rinse it off using a garden hose

**Adrienne B**

Clean all containers, ensure no non-recyclable items were included, put plastic caps back on bottles or lids back on plastic containers.

**Debma**

Would this be washing out cans and bottles? I also know that we remove staples and metal spiral binding from notebooks etc before recycling paper at the school I work at

**Retprin**

Making sure plastic bags are not included in the recycling bin since it clogs the machine that sorts it. Breaking it apart into smaller pieces.

**Marisa H**

I did not know this.

**Retprin**

There was an article in the newspaper that told how the plastic bags got caught in the sorting machine which means they had to stop them and try to remove manually.

**Missb**

I was not aware of this

**Klauder**

You can take them to Target, they have a bin

**Ken B**

Also Cub Foods

**Mike S**

Yes like cleaning out tin cans and removing the labels.

**AWhaley1**

You can break down or clean certain items to make things easier.

**SHayslett**

I was not aware because I do not know much recycling.

**Cliff H**

Washing out plastic containers and glass jars and metal cans before you put them in the recycle bin

**Rachel M**

Rinse out containers, remove labels, remove any food debris

**Adrienne B**

Do we still need to remove labels? I know we had to a while back, but I thought it switched?

**Rachel M**

My husband says you're supposed to, I thought they switched too. I'm not sure!

**AVSAHD**

Break down boxes, take out Styrofoam if it's there, rinse out plastics that had food in them.

**Debma**

Styrofoam removal. Yep

**Cliff H**

Forgot about the cardboard boxes

**Maria K**

Lids removed from jars Rinse containers

**Recycling**

How do you determine what items can be recycled?

**Lorenzo P**

Like I said. If they don't compost. Recycle. That would be my best opinion.

**Janet O**

Look at the list my Condo Association gave to all of us if I don't already know...

**Jeff**

Look on top of bins

**Alpha**

My trash hauler has a list or I go to the Dakota County Recycling Center's website.

**Ken B**

Look at the hauler list and the county website (for the Recycle Zone)

**AV Rez**

Checking plastic recycle numbers if not sure Referencing lists from recycle vendor

**knoppers**

Received literature from the city.

**Ahabdul**

Try to do some research regarding which items need to be recycled and be conscious about it.

**Jillian P**

I refer to the list that is provided on the bin.

**Marisa H**

I guess if I'm not certain I'll look for a symbol.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Can you take some pictures of these symbols and upload them for everyone to see?

**Adam P. Moderator**

What kind of symbol do you look for?

**Michboyle**

List received in mail or looking it up online.

**Skylar H**

Either look for the symbols or when in doubt, I err to the side of recycling.

**Ahabdul**

It's always great to do research online as well

**klauder**

Most items have the recycle symbol, if not I look it up

**Tracy B**

I have done some research, a lot I just know, I have looked up on the county website for a list. I have used past mailings that I received from trash company that had a list. Most recently I watched the recycling videos from Dakota county

**Missb**

I believe most items have a triangle with a number inside. I personally do not check this symbol because my garbage company collects all

recyclables.

**Adrienne B**

I have a list I consult from a Dakota County mailing for items where I am not sure. Otherwise, the vast majority of my recycling is very typical recyclables with recycling symbols on them.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Adrienne, can you please upload a picture of the mailing you are referring to?

**Adrienne B**

Oh gosh. I would but it's in my scanning pile, and who knows where in there. Sorry!

**JohnK**

I google it if it isn't obvious like random scrap paper for example

**Retprin**

Referring to material that lists items that can be recycled. Made aware of what is recycle by information sent by city and waste companies.

**Debma**

I mostly recycle cans and paper. Some plastics... and with the plastics look for the recycling symbol on the packaging

**Mike S**

I read the instructions on the trash collection list and follow those for sorting and for recyclable items.

**AWhaley1**

Based on if there recyclable items.

**SHayslett**

The only things I recycle are standard items like cans and paper.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Do you think you are missing out on recycling other items? Does this concern you at all?

**Cliff H**

Most items can be recycled but there are lists out there if you do a search on the county website. Like no plastic bags they need to go back to a store that takes them for recycling.

**Rachel M**

Generally by calling our trash hauler or going to the Dakota Co website.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Rachel, is your trash hauler helpful on this kind of question?

**AVSAHD**

We look at our garbage company website, the Dakota county website and then search other places if nothing goes to those two. There's an appliance recycle place near the Dakota county site and also some companies like Best Buy, Target, Valley Natural Foods coop and Staples take things for recycling.

**Cliff H**

Good examples

**Jillian P**

Agreed, thank you for the great examples.

**Maria K**

Check online

## **Recycling Part 2**

If you are unsure if an item was recyclable, where would you look for information? Please be specific.

**Lorenzo P**

Google! This is the information age. Sometimes I think I get better answers from Google than when I call the city. When I get placed on hold I often times hang up. Perhaps I'm impatient. I want answers now. Don't count me out though. I do refer to the county website.

**Adrienne B**

I would look on the Dakota county website, Recycling Zone website, or my trash hauler's website.

**Janet O**

Look at the container for the recycling symbol, look at the Recycling list given to all of us from our Condo Association, look at the Dakota County Recycling list...

**Jeff**

If I were unsure I would throw it in the regular trash

**Alpha**

I would first look for a recycling # on the bottom or back of the item in question. If it's there, then I would know. Otherwise, I would refer to my hauler's website or the Dakota County Recycling Center's website.

**Adrienne B**

Sounds like a plan!

**Ken B**

Hauler list and Recycle Zone website

**AV Rez**

The waste vendor has customer service and web site The city has a web site

**knoppers**

I would contact our local waste management company or review the city/ county website for recyclable eligibility.

**Ahabdul**

I would first look for information online, and figure out recyclable items. Plus we've been trained on a regular basis at our professional environments with signage posted everywhere

**Jillian P**

I would look for the symbol, verify on the bin, research online. Perhaps call the manufacturer.

**Marisa H**

I would google it

**Michboyle**

On my cities website.

**Skylar H**

The packaging, or the google tool!

**Alpha**

Do you mean just Googling or is there a special tool?

**Skylar H**

Haha, just google

**Marisa H**

Agree!

**klauder**

Dakota county recycle site. If i cant find it I'll google recycle centers for xyz like I just recently did for a mattress

**Tracy B**

Dakota county or trash website. If I still couldn't find the answer I might ask the question on one of the Burnsville or Dakota country Facebook recycling posts

**Missb**

On dakota county website

**JohnK**

Google, Bing, Yahoo the first page usually provides 90% of the answers if not then I'll google the specific item like the brand itself and use the official website to find out

**Adam P. Moderator**

John, How reliable do you think Google/Bing (what's that? j/k)/Yahoo are for providing information that is accurate for Dakota County?

**JohnK**

Pretty accurate obviously there's a lot of specifics that google can't really do but when it comes to what you could call your basic recycling needs they're fine

**Retprin**

Go online to city, county and waste companies to check what can be recycled.

**Mike S**

Online at the garbage collection site.

**AWhaley1**

Online (google)

**SHayslett**

Probably on the city website and the trash company website.

**Cliff H**

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/RecyclingZone/Materials/Pages/default.aspx> This is the site to check for everything about recycling

**Adam P. Moderator**

How did you learn about that website?

**Tracy B**

i see it the website on facebook, and in mailings, they do a good job of letting residents know about the site

**Cliff H**

I have used it many times while I have lived in Dakota country for 15 years now

**Jillian P**

Great resource!

**Rachel M**

Dakota Co website.

**AVSAHD**

Dakota county and Google in that order.

**Maria K**

I would check my waste company's website

**Cliff H**

Correct

**Recycling Part 3**

Do you look for information on the cart provided by your hauler?

**Lorenzo P**

Absolutely! I also look to verify on other trash containers when out and about. As a confirmation that I'm doing my due diligence to stay informed.

**Adrienne B**

No, there is no recycling information on my trash carts.

**Janet O**

Not so much... I look at the lists I have at my disposal...

**Jeff**

I do.

**Alpha**

Yes.

**Ken B**

Absolutely. Previous trash vendor did not have it and eventually we printed out a list from their website

**AV Rez**

There is only vendor name and contact information on the carts.

**Adrienne B**

Mine as well.

**knoppers**

I do not.

**Ahabdul**

Yes, i also double check online

**Jillian P**

Usually my 1st resource.

**Marisa H**

No

**Michboyle**

No i do not I use the website.

**Skylar H**

Sometimes

**klauder**

Yes there isnt anything

**Tracy B**

I have but it is not bevel specific

**Missb**

Yes I do. My hauler has a very nice picture list on the top of the recycling container which I use frequently.

**Jillian P**

Mine too, usually the 1st place I reference to.

**JohnK**

No but now I will

**Retprin**

I am not aware that the cart provides information of specific items that can be recycled.

**Mike S**

Initially yes. Then it got pushed into a corner so the side can't be easily seen.

**AWhaley1**

No.

**Cliff H**

No, there is no information listed on my cart

**SHayslett**

Yes

**Rachel M**

No.

**AVSAHD**

Sometimes yes, and certainly when we first got the hauler.

**Cliff H**

That would be a good idea to have it on the carts

**Maria K**

Yes

#### **Recycling Part 4**

Thinking specifically about plastic items, which ones are recyclable?

**Lorenzo P**

Milk containers, laundry containers, oil containers, water bottles.

**Adrienne B**

Clean milk jugs, yogurt containers, pop bottles, and other containers marked 1-7 that are clean.

**Janet O**

Rinsed out Milk, Pop & Juice bottles.

**Jeff**

Jugs jars containers I know bags are not

**Alpha**

#s 1, 2, &5 on plastics.

**Ken B**

Containers marked 1-7. Need to be clean.

**AV Rez**

Milk, juice, water, food and household solid and liquid containers

**knoppers**

milk cartons, water bottles, any beverage container, home care bottles-  
shampoo, rinse, body wash, food storage containers

**Ahabdul**

Water bottles, food containers, plastic bags

**Adrienne B**

I don't think plastic bags are typically recyclable through normal trash pick up. I have to take mine to Walmart or Target to put in their special recycling.

**Ken B**

My haler won't take bags. Need to bring those to Cub

**Jillian P**

Milk jugs, pop bottles, laundry detergent jugs.

**Ahabdul**

I concur

**Marisa H**

Milk jugs Plastic bottles

**Michboyle**

Water bottles,juice containers,milk containers,lotion,shampoo,conditioner.

**Skylar H**

1-7?

**klauder**

I think its 1-6 and its milk cartons, shampoo, body wash, water bottles, medicine bottles

**Jillian P**

I have wondered about medicine bottles be accepted. I end up bringing them to my pharmacy.

**klauder**

Yes or the police and fire departments. Those are for more of left overs but like advil bottles etc those I recycle

**Jillian P**

I have been inside the IGH police department only once. Is there a container available or would I seek personnel for help?

**klauder**

I have never been into that one but WSP does so I would imagine IGH does too

**Jillian P**

Out of curiosity, where is it located at the WSP location?

**Tracy B**

Anything with a cap or neck but not the sprayer part since it is made of different materials. I also recycle cottage cheese type plastic containers I also recycle clam shells

**Missb**

Beverage bottle, shampoo and conditioner bottles, liquid soap containers, plast spray bottles.

**JohnK**

I know there's a grading system for plastic items I forget the exact range but I'll just google it then check the product to see where on the grading system it is off the top of my head: Plastic bottles, milk jugs, and 2 liters

**Retprin**

Plastic containers without lids and cleaned of its content.

**Mike S**

Soda bottles and water bottles, milk jugs.

**AWhaley1**

Milk jugs water bottles water jugs juice containers

**Cliff H**

pop bottles, milk jugs, plastic cups

**SHayslett**

plastic soda bottles

**Rachel M**

I believe it's plastics 1-7 but it might be 1-5.

**AVSAHD**

Anything with certain recycle numbers per our haulers stickers and website.

**Cliff H**

The county websites has a list

**SHayslett**

How do we find out that information?

**Maria K**

Plastic water bottles Plastic containers and milk jugs

**Marisa H**

Yes to this list

**Recycling Part 5**

If you were speaking to a friend, how would you explain what kinds of items can and cannot be recycled?

**Lorenzo P**

Most of my friends know how to recycle as best they can. We have a lot in common. That's why we're friends. From what I see in my neighborhood or the street I live in. Every household has both a trash bin and a recycling bin.

**Adrienne B**

I would explain that it is generally limited to clean items and containers with

a recycling symbol plus newspaper, magazines, and copy paper.

**Janet O**

Glass and plastic bottles - rinsed out, paper, newspapers, mail, cardboard, check recycling list from their County or place of residence for further information.

**Jeff**

If not sure look on the recycling bin

**Alpha**

I would tell them to check with their hauler, but otherwise, typically paper, cardboard, glass bottles and plastic containers can usually be recycled.

**Skylar H**

I'd probably just explain based on my general knowledge and go from there.

**Ken B**

paper, cardboard, tin cans, glass bottles, and most plastic containers can be recycled. Bigger stuff and some small appliances and electronics can be recycled at the recycle zone or sometimes at the vendor (like Best Buy). When in doubt, check with the haler or the county.

**Tracy B**

i agree

**AV Rez**

Most household items can be recycled. Some plastic bags and heavy

containers should be checked against lists provided by the waste hauler and the city.

**knoppers**

Research with your local waste management company or the city/county that you reside in.

**Ahabdul**

By educating each other on doing what is right and also just looking up ways to be proactive.

**Jillian P**

I would compare my list of do' s and do not' s with my friend. If our lists differed we would research and educate ourselves on those items.

**Adrienne B**

Good idea!

**Marisa H**

I would tell them the basics.

**Ahabdul**

This is a great start

**klauder**

I would explain anything that is not organically compostable needs to be recycled. Food can be thrown out if you are unable to create a yard compost. Unfortunately we are still not at a place for Styrofoam and that one is the big kick to the gut.

**Jillian P**

Pretty simple and understandable explanation on composting.

**Michboyle**

Show them container and web site.

**Missb**

You can recycle most empty, rinsed plastic containers. Most cardboard boxes, food boxes, pizza boxes. Any empty, clean cans. No chemicals, paint or Styrofoam.

**Tracy B**

I would tell them the basics glass jars and bottles, beverage and food cans, plastic bottles newspaper junk mail paper . I would also say to make sure you don't throw plastic bags in recycling , take those to the grocery store. If your not sure if it can be recycled throw it away versus recycling it - but always check trash website

**JohnK**

I'd just tell them about what I know and refer them to the waste management company website

**Ken B**

Don't forget the county recycling web page.

**Retprin**

I would refer them to their waste company and the Dakota Cty website on what can be recycled.

**Marisa H**

Yes

**SHayslett**

I refer them to the county website

**Mike S**

I'd refer them to the flier from the trash company.

**AWhaley1**

I'd explain it to them by showing them pictures of recyclable items.

**Cliff H**

I would just give them a list like the ones we have discussed here already and if they want more details go to the website

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/RecyclingZone/Materials/Pages/default.aspx>

**Rachel M**

If it has a wax coating or is soiled by food, it goes in the trash. Anything made of paper or aluminum is recyclable; you have to check with your county for plastics.

**AVSAHD**

Some plastic, all paper and cardboard and if you have electronics/batteries look it up. If anything is too big or you have metal, go to Dakota Country.

**Missb**

Good answer

**Cliff H**

Just check the county website to be sure

**Maria K**

I would speak specifically to the items and the numbers on the items

## **Visuals**

Here are some products you might encounter on a daily basis. What would you call the container or product.

For instance, if you see this picture, would say “pop can”, “soda can” or something else?

**Lorenzo P**

Aluminum can. If it's full. Coke!

**Adrienne B**

Pop can

**Janet O**

Pop can

**Jeff**

Pop can

**Alpha**

pop can

**Skylar H**

Pop can

**Ken B**

pop can or aluminum can

**Tracy B**

me too

**AV Rez**

pop can

**knoppers**

Pop can

**Ahabdul**

Pop can

**Jillian P**

**klauder**

Pop Can

**Marisa H**

Pop can

**Michboyle**

Pop can

**Missb**

Metal beverage can

**Tracy B**

Pop can

**JohnK**

Soda can, or just can

**Retprin**

soda can

**SHayslett**

soda can

**Mike S**

Coke can

**AWhaley1**

Soda can

**Cliff H**

aluminum can

**Rachel M**

Pop can

**AVSAHD**

Can

**Cliff H**

True enough

**Marisa H**

Haha

**Maria K**

Pop can

## **Visuals Part 2**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Cardboard.

**Adrienne B**

Cardboard food box

**Janet O**

empty box

**Jeff**

Empty box

**Alpha**

cardboard food box

**Skylar H**

Cardboard outer food packaging

**Ken B**

pasteboard, light cardboard, like a cereal box

**AV Rez**

cardboard box

**knoppers**

Cardboard

**Ahabdul**

Box

**Jillian P**

A box.

**Klauder**

Cardboard box

**Marisa H**

Cracker box

**Michboyle**

Box

**Missb**

Foodbox

**Tracy B**

Cardboard box

**JohnK**

Cardboard container

**Retprin**

cardboard box

**SHayslett**

Cracker box

**Mike S**

Cracker box

**AWhaley1**

A box

**Cliff H**

Cardboard container

**Rachel M**

Box

**AVSAHD**

Box

**Maria K**

Snack cardboard box

**Cliff H**

That is what I would call it also

**Jillian P**

Agreed, it is a snack box

### **Visuals Part 3**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Container.

**Adrienne B**

Juice carton

**Janet O**

Orange Juice Carton

**Jeff**

Juice carton

**Alpha**

orange juice carton

**Skylar H**

Juice carton

**Ken B**

liquid carton like a milk carton. I've seen them referred to as gable boxes

**Adrienne B**

Interesting! I haven't heard that one!

**AV Rez**

cardboard milk container

**knoppers**

cardboard/plastic coded beverage container

**Ahabdul**

Juice box

**Jillian P**

1/2 gallon of juice

**klauder**

Juice container

**Marisa H**

Juice carton

**Michboyle**

Juice box

**Missb**

Cardboard beverage container

**Jillian P**

I didn't even think of this being cardboard.

**Tracy B**

Juice carton

**JohnK**

Carton

**Retprin**

juice cardboard container

**SHayslett**

Carton of juice

**Mike S**

Juice or milk carton container

**AWhaley1**

A juice carton

**Tracy B**

Yup

**Cliff H**

Liquid cardboard container

**Rachel M**

Carton

**AVSAHD**

Carton

**SHayslett**

Agreed

**Maria K**

OJ carton

**Cliff H**

Very true

### **Visuals Part 4**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Recyclable!

**Adrienne B**

Plastic bottle

**Janet O**

Plastic container for laundry detergent...

**Jeff**

Plastic jug

**Alpha**

detergent container

**Skylar H**

Plastic jug for laundry detergent

**Ken B**

Plastic bottle

**AV Rez**

plastic container

**knoppers**

plastic container

**Ahabdul**

Detergent bottle

**Jillian P**

Tide laundry soap

**klauder**

Laundry bottle

**Marisa H**

Laundry detergent bottle

**Michboyle**

Tide bottle

**Missb**

Liquid soap container

**Tracy B**

Laundry container or jug

**JohnK**

Detergent jug

**Retprin**

Plastic detergent container

**Tracy B**

Yup

**Jillian P**

Sure is a plastic detergent container.

**SHayslett**

Bottle of Laundry Detergent

**Mike S**

Liquid detergent container

**AWhaley1**

A laundry jug

**Tracy B**

Agree

**Cliff H**

Plastic liquid laundry container

**Rachel M**

Jug

**AVSAHD**

Plastic bottle

**Maria K**

Detergent jug

**Cliff H**

True

## **Visuals Part 5**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Plastic.

**Adrienne B**

Plastic food container

**Janet O**

Plastic food container...

**Jeff**

Plastic container, but I keep these and repurpose them

**Ken B**

So do we... but eventually they wear out

**Jeff**

That they do ,then it's time to recycle them.

**Alpha**

cottage cheese plastic container

**Skylar H**

Dairy container

**Ken B**

Plastic food container

**AV Rez**

plastic container

**knoppers**

plastic food container

**Ahabdul**

Plastic container

**Jillian P**

My Tupperware set from my 20s?

**Adrienne B**

Me too!

**Ken B**

Ha, how true,

**klauder**

Plastic container

**Marisa H**

Plastic container

**Michboyle**

Plastic container

**Missb**

Recyclable.lol Plastic food container

**Tracy B**

Plastic yogurt tub

**Jillian P**

I think it may possibly be a cottage cheese container.

**JohnK**

Plastic tub

**Retprin**

plastic food container

**SHayslett**

Plastic Container

**Mike S**

Plastic food container (great for storing left overs).

**Marisa H**

Yes

**Tracy B**

Very true great way to reuse

**SHayslett**

Yep reusing is always a great idea

**AWhaley1**

A tub of cottage cheese

**Cliff H**

Plastic container

**Rachel M**

Plastic container.

**AVSAHD**

Plastic container

**Maria K**

Cottage cheese carton

**Cliff H**

True

## **Visuals Part 6**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Plastic.

**Adrienne B**

Plastic food container

**Janet O**

Plastic food container...

**Jeff**

Yogurt container

**Alpha**

yogurt container

**Skylar H**

Yogurt container

**Ken B**

Yogurt tub

**AV Rez**

plastic container

**knoppers**

plastic food container

**Ahabdul**

Plastic container

**Jillian P**

Plastic yogurt container

**klauder**

Yogurt container

**Marisa H**

Yogurt container

**Michboyle**

Cheap plastic container

**Jillian P**

Agree on the cheap part

**Missb**

Recyclable. Plastic food container

**Tracy B**

Yogurt cup

**JohnK**

Yogurt cup

**Retprin**

plastic yogurt container

**SHayslett**

yogurt container

**Mike S**

Small yogurt container (individual serving)

**AWhaley1**

A yogurt cup

**Tracy B**

Yup

**Cliff H**

Plastic container

**Rachel M**

Yogurt container.

**AVSAHD**

Yogurt cup

**Cliff H**

True

**Maria K**

Yogurt container

## **Visuals Part 7**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Plastic.

**Adrienne B**

Plastic fruit container

**Janet O**

Plastic food container for fruit...

**Jeff**

Plastic container

**Alpha**

plastic fruit container

**Skylar H**

Clamshell

**Ken B**

Clamshell food container

**AV Rez**

plastic container

**knoppers**

plastic fruit container, hard to make out what this is?

**Ahabdul**

Fruit plastic container

**Jillian P**

Clam shell

**Klauder**

Raspberry container

**Marisa H**

Plastic fruit container

**Michboyle**

Plastic container

**Missb**

Recyclable Plastic food container

**Tracy B**

Clam shell

**Jillian P**

I just learned these were called clam shells!

**Marisa H**

Ah very true

**JohnK**

Fruit carton

**Retprin**

plastic fruit container

**SHayslett**

Plastic Fruit Container

**Mike S**

Fruit container

**AWhaley1**

Plastic

**Cliff H**

Plastic fruit container

**SHayslett**

same

**Rachel M**

Carton.

**AVSAHD**

Plastic container

**Maria K**

Fruit carton

**Cliff H**

True

## Visuals Part 8

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Metal.

**Adrienne B**

Aluminum can

**Janet O**

can for food

**Jeff**

Can

**Alpha**

food can

**Skylar H**

Steel can, soup can, bean can

**Ken B**

tin can

**AV Rez**

aluminum can

**knoppers**

aluminum can

**Ahabdul**

Can of beans

**Jillian P**

My guess is a can of refried beans

**klaunder**

Aluminum Can

**Marisa H**

Aluminum can

**Michboyle**

Can

**Missb**

Can food container

**Tracy B**

Can

**JohnK**

Tin can(Even though it's probably aluminum)

**Retprin**

tin or aluminum food can

**SHayslett**

can

**Mike S**

Can. Tin can to be specific

**Jillian P**

Is there a big difference between tin and aluminum?

**Mike S**

Upon research, there is a difference. We use aluminum now not tin.

**Jillian P**

Would I be able to tell an aluminum can from a tin can? Is there a weight or texture difference?

**Mike S**

Sorry not an expert. You could consult Goggle.

**Jillian P**

Lol, ok. Good old Google to the rescue again.

**AWhaley1**

A can

**Cliff H**

Tin can

**Tracy B**

Yupv

**Rachel M**

Can

**AVSAHD**

Can

**Maria K**

Soup Can

**Marisa H**

Yes

**Cliff H**

Yes

### **Visuals Part 9**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Paper towels.

**Adrienne B**

Plastic wrapping

**Janet O**

plastic holding paper towels...

**Jeff**

Plastic wrap

**Alpha**

plastic bag of paper towels

**Skylar H**

Plastic packaging

**Ken B**

plastic wrapper

**AV Rez**

plastic bag that should go in regular garbage

**knoppers**

plastic wrapping for a paper product

**Ahabdul**

Paper towels

**Jillian P**

Paper towel package

**klauder**

Honestly I call it nothing but if I had to give it a name it would just be plastic wrap

**Marisa H**

Plastic wrapping

**Michboyle**

Plastic wrap

**Missb**

Garbage. Disposable paper products and plastic wrap

**Jillian P**

Agree, both the plastic package and towels end up being trashed

**Tracy B**

Paper towel plastic wrap

**JohnK**

Plastic wrapping

**Retprin**

plastic wrapping containing paper towels

**SHayslett**

Plastic wrap

**Mike S**

Plastic wrapping

**AWhaley1**

Plastic wrap

**Cliff H**

Non recyclable plastic wrap and paper towels once used

**Tracy B**

I recycle this type of plastic wrap with my plastic bags at grocery stores

**Marisa H**

Interesting

**Rachel M**

Plastic wrap

**AVSAHD**

Plastic wrap

**Maria K**

Paper towel plastic covering

**Cliff H**

yes

## **Visuals Part 10**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Cardboard.

**Adrienne B**

Cardboard roll

**Janet O**

cardboard tube - toilet paper or paper towel

**Jeff**

Dog toy (cardboard tube)

**Alpha**

toilet paper tube

**Skylar H**

Paper core

**Ken B**

paper tube

**AV Rez**

cardboard

**knoppers**

Cardboard

**Ahabdul**

Toilet paper roll

**Jillian P**

Soggy toilet paper tube

**klauder**

Toilet paper roll

**Marisa H**

Cardboard tube

**Michboyle**

Cardboard

**Missb**

Recyclable toilet paper or paper towel roll

**Tracy B**

Toilet paper roll - I have been told to recycle it but also been told to toss it that the fibers that are used to make These can't be recycled again but will

most likely wash away in the recycle process

**Jillian P**

I've heard the same.

**Jillian P**

I have heard the same, so we repurpose them for crafts.

**Marisa H**

Interesting

**JohnK**

Cardboard roll

**Retprin**

toilet paper roll

**SHayslett**

toilet paper roll

**Tracy B**

Yup

**Mike S**

Cardboard tube

**AWhaley1**

Cardboard

**Cliff H**

Cardboard roll

**Rachel M**

Toilet paper roll

**Maria K**

Toilet Paper roll

**AVSAHD**

Toilet paper roll

**Cliff H**

Yes

## **Visuals Part 11**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Plastic.

**Adrienne B**

Plastic bag

**Janet O**

sealed plastic bag containing trail mix...

**Jeff**

Food bag

**Alpha**

food plastic bag

**Skylar H**

Plastic food envelope or bag

**Ken B**

resealable plastic bag

**AV Rez**

plastic container

**knoppers**

Plastic food container

**Ahabdul**

Plastic pouch

**Jillian P**

Target trail mix in a disposable package

**Klauder**

Plastic bag

**Marisa H**

Snack pouch

**Michboyle**

Plastic

**Missb**

Garbage. Foil food pouch

**Tracy B**

Plastic bag. - I always thought that these can be recycled at grocery stores if you remove the zip lock but recently was told that the zip lock can also be recycled with your plastic bags

**Jillian P**

I did not know this, thank you!

**Marisa H**

Never thought about that

**JohnK**

Plastic bag

**Retprin**

plastic snack bag

**Mike S**

Target trail mix bag

**AWhaley1**

Bag

**Cliff H**

Plastic snack bag

**Rachel M**

Bag

**Maria K**

Plastic ziplock snack bag

**Cliff H**

True

**AVSAHD**

Plastic container

## **Visuals Part 12**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Aluminum.

**Adrienne B**

Chip bag

**Janet O**

Snack bag

**Jeff**

Chip bag

**Alpha**

empty potato chip bag

**Skylar H**

Chip bag

**Ken B**

Chip or snack bag Alternatively, not recyclable

**AV Rez**

chip bag to go in regular garbage

**knoppers**

aluminum wrapper

**Ahabdul**

Chips bag

**Jillian P**

Empty lays

**klauder**

Chip bag

**Marisa H**

Chip bag

**Michboyle**

Wrapper

**Missb**

Garbage. Potato chip bag

**Jillian P**

Agreed, right to the garbage

**Tracy B**

Chip bag

**Tracy B**

my company allows us to recycle tin foil lined wrappers for recycling, I am not sure what they do with them, but they are collected by

Terracycle, wish there were more options to recycle these.

**JohnK**

Chip bag

**Retprin**

chip bag

**Mike S**

Chip bag

**AWhaley1**

Chip bag

**Marisa H**

Yes

**Cliff H**

Plastic chip bag non-recyclable

**Rachel M**

Chip bag

**Maria K**

Chip bag

**Tracy B**

Yup

**AVSAHD**

Chip bag

**Cliff H**

Yes

### **Visuals Part 13**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Plastic.

**Adrienne B**

Blister packaging

**Janet O**

mix of plastic and paper holding scissors

**Jeff**

A pain, plastic container

**Alpha**

difficult to open hard plastic packaging

**Skylar H**

Ironic. The tool you need to open the package is sealed in the packaging death grip. Blister packaging.

**Adrienne B**

Yes, almost impossible to get open!

**Ken B**

Blister pack Also, finger bier or impossible to open

**Ken B**

fiber biter

**Ken B**

Argh! Biter... finger biter

**AV Rez**

plastic that may not be recycled and cardboard

**knoppers**

plastic wrap

**Ahabdul**

Plastic scissor package

**Jillian P**

Scissors package that you need scissors to open

**Klauder**

Scissor packaging

**Marisa H**

Packaging

**Michboyle**

Pladtic

**Missb**

Recyclable. Plastic packaging

**Tracy B**

Plastic packaging - not sure if this can be recycled

**Jillian P**

Agree, I'm never sure if these type of packages should be recycled

**JohnK**

Hard plastic wrap

**Retprin**

Hard plastic containing scissors with cardboard backing included.

**Mike S**

Hard plastic packaging

**Tracy B**

Yup

**AWhaley1**

Hard to open

**Marisa H**

Haha so true

**Cliff H**

Plastic container

**Rachel M**

Plastic

**Maria K**

Scissors plastic and cardboard

**Cliff H**

True

**AVSAHD**

Plastic case

## **Visuals Part 14**

What would you call the container?

**Lorenzo P**

Plastic.

**Adrienne B**

Cardboard ice cream container

**Janet O**

cardboard ice cream container

**Jeff**

Cardboard container

**Alpha**

ice cream container

**Skylar H**

Ice cream tub

**Ken B**

plastic lined paperboard container

**AV Rez**

cardboard container

**knoppers**

cardboard

**Ahabdul**

Ice cream container

**Jillian P**

Ice cream carton

**klaunder**

Ice cream tub

**Marisa H**

Ice cream tub

**Michboyle**

Card board

**Missb**

Recyclable. Cardboard ice cream container

**Jillian P**

I always end up tossing these as they are either soggy, sticky, or both

**Tracy B**

Ice cream container

**JohnK**

Ice cream tub

**Retprin**

ice cream cardboard container

**Mike S**

Ice cream tub

**AWhaley1**

Ice cream tub

**Cliff H**

Cardboard container

**Rachel M**

Ice cream carton

**Tracy B**

Agree

**Maria K**

Ice cream carton

**Marisa H**

Yes

**AVSAHD**

Food container

**Cliff H**

Yes

## **Wayfaring**

Now let's talk about recycling bin labels in public places, like parks and events.

How do you know what to recycle when you are in a park or at an event?

**Lorenzo P**

Separate plastics from paper products.

**Adrienne B**

I look at the labels on containers.

**Janet O**

The containers are labeled as to what to put in them...

**Jeff**

It usually says plus most have different holes in them

**Alpha**

I usually look for the blue recycling containers (or ones with a recycling symbol) and either they will say what can be recycled or I use my own judgement and recycle the plastic, glass, cardboard etc.

**Skylar H**

I just look for indicators on the packaging, labeled on the receptacle or go with general knowledge.

**Ken B**

Rely on instructions on the container. Or the implied instructions from the sizes and shapes of the openings and minimal labling

**AV Rez**

The containers will usually have descriptions and/or signage

**knoppers**

Look at the pictures and wording on the containers

**Ahabdul**

It clearly states in the signage which one is for which item

**Jillian P**

I recycle if there is a clearly labeled container.

**klauder**

Sometimes you dont. But other times they are a different color bin, blue for the most part.

**Jillian P**

Yep, I seek out the blue bin.

**Ahabdul**

That's smart

**Jillian P**

I would be lost if the color changed

**Marisa H**

By the pictures

**Michboyle**

Pictures on containers.

**Marisa H**

This

**Missb**

I look at the picture on the container

**Tracy B**

Most bins are clearly marked now a days

**JohnK**

The usually have a label which says everything I need to know but if they don't I only do the most obvious things plastic bottles tin cans etc

**Retprin**

The bins are different colors with identification for recycling or trash

**Ken B**

Another factor that helps

**Mike S**

The trash cans are usually colored differently and have signs on them (kid and or side)

**AWhaley1**

It's labeled on the trash cans/recycling bins. Also color coded usually

**Cliff H**

Most of these bins have some pictures of items that you can put in them

**Rachel M**

I recycle what is labeled on the receptacle, or generally accepted items such as paper.

**Cliff H**

True

**Maria K**

Look on the receptacle

**AVSAHD**

I look for bins

**Tracy B**

I do as well

**Wayfaring Part 2**

When you are at a public place, do you look at a sign or a label on the recycling collection container to see what you can put in?

**Lorenzo P**

Sure.

**Adrienne B**

Yes, always.

**Janet O**

yes

**Jeff**

Usually the sign

**Alpha**

Yes. Most accept the same types of products like plastic, glass, etc.

**Skylar H**

Yes. Think of places like Target Field with the pictographs

**Ken B**

Yes. Also contextual clues (colors, opening size/shape of openings, etc.)

**AV Rez**

Yes

**knoppers**

Yes

**Ahabdul**

Yes, i try to signify which is which

**Jillian P**

I do if there is more than one recycling container(ex 1 for paper, another for glass), or I am unsure if my object is recyclable.

**klauder**

Yes whichever they have

**Marisa H**

Yes

**Michboyle**

Yes

**Missb**

Yes

**Tracy B**

Yes usually they are labeled

**JohnK**

Yes

**Retprin**

Yes, usually there are ones that indicate soda cans, cardboard items, or trash.

**Jillian P**

I usually encounter these at hospitals, and some big businesses.

**Mike S**

Yes

**AWhaley1**

Yes

**Cliff H**

Always so you don't put things in there that cannot go in the bin

**Rachel M**

Yes

**Maria K**

Yes

**AVSAHD**

Yes

**Cliff H**

True

### **Wayfaring Part 3**

How do you find the recycling bin at an event or a park? Please think about the process you would go through and describe it.

**Lorenzo P**

Most events have their trash bins marked. As do parks.

**Adrienne B**

I usually look for a green or blue bin near a trash bin.

**Janet O**

They are usually by the garbage cans...

**Jeff**

I think they are mainly by the concession stands

### **Alpha**

I look for trash cans and usually there is a recycling can next to it. Otherwise, I look for a blue recycling container since that is the color most are using.

### **Skylar H**

Generally by food vendors as well as entrances/exits/facilities

### **Ken B**

Look near serving areas, restrooms, and entrances/exits

### **AV Rez**

Look for them wherever there are public spaces or specific locations for groups of people to gather

### **knoppers**

Look at the entry to the park and the exits. Look around the restroom facilities.

### **Ahabdul**

Usually around toilets and walking trails as well as well picnic areas.

### **Jillian P**

I stop any think of where people would gather, such as restroom areas or cafeteria/dinning areas.

### **klaunder**

Look near pavilions or along walking paths. Also near parking lots.

Sometimes they can be near a tree but that's rare.

**Jillian P**

I agrees, some walking trails have a bin next to a tree.

**Marisa H**

Look around

**Michboyle**

Usually by rest rooms

**Missb**

Recycling containers are usually next to the regular trash by the bathrooms or food areas.

**JohnK**

Look right next to or close to the trash cans which tend to be put in corners or next to anything relating to food

**Tracy B**

I look around for them normally they have plenty and are In sight . If I don't see one many times I bring my recycling home to recycle

**Retprin**

They are usually right by the curb of the parking lot or in the event building.

**Mike S**

I would look for the trash bins and they are usually located next to one

another.

**Tracy B**

Yup

**AWhaley1**

I browse the area

**Marisa H**

Same

**Cliff H**

You look for normal places that trash and recycling bins are almost always located. Then put your items in the correct bin

**Rachel M**

I look for the trash cans, especially near exits or bathroom areas.

**Maria K**

I look around the gazebo or covered area

**AVSAHD**

Look near trash cans, buildings with bathrooms or concessions. Or look for signs.

**Cliff H**

Yes

## Recycling Visuals

Please review these three different types of signs for a recycling container. Tell us what you like about each and what can be improved. Your answers will help design the next generation of recycling signs for Dakota County.

Looking at these three image groupings, choose what grouping you like the most and why. A, B, or C.

### Lorenzo P

I'm a visual learner. If I can see it, I can hold it. Image 'C'.

### Adrienne B

I like that A is not product specific. C however gives me the best idea of a range of items I can recycle. B is less visually distracting.

### Janet O

A - it is "unisex"!! :) The others are, "distracting" - I would wonder if they only wanted items that looked like the pictures to be placed in the container!

### Jeff

I like c it looks to the point

### Alpha

I like C first and then B. Grouping A is too vague in my opinion and does not provide enough details to determine what can be recycled. Grouping C is the most visual and provides the most detail.

### **Skylar H**

I'd go with B or C. It gives specific options using branding people may be familiar with.

### **Ken B**

Probably A. Seems most explicit and inclusive. B seems incomplete C seems too busy

### **AV Rez**

I like C the best in using everyday items as examples. Color is also important to gain attention.

### **knoppers**

I like A. Pictures are descriptive and generic to all forms of recyclables.

### **Ahabdul**

I prefer A for the aesthetics, but I would like to see a realistic one like C

### **Jillian P**

I prefer C the best as it provides real/colored visuals. My child would recognize the items in C before A and B.

### **Adrienne B**

Yes, good point!

### **klaunder**

As a designer and art director, especially for packaging, I aesthetically prefer A because it's clean, simple and to the point. However in this

instance because I feel you need to be very elementary for all ages and abilities, C would be the best route to easily showcase what exactly recycled products are and what they look like. Its not pretty but it is to the point.

**Adam P. Moderator**

Feel free to upload a picture or sketch of something better. If you have ideas, please share!

**klauder**

There was one that was further down the question list that was all blue and done nicely. I gave my comments on that one. If I think of another version I'll add it here.

**Jillian P**

I agree, I liked A because it was simple and to the point. However anyone would be able to recognize C

**klauder**

The outline in B is too thick.

**Marisa H**

C. Very recognizable.

**Michboyle**

C colored pictures

**Missb**

I like "A". I would change the bottle in the left corner of picture to a

straighter silhouette like the water bottles in "B" or gatorade bottle in "C". I like the silhouettes verses the actual photos it just seems cleaner and clearer.

#### **JohnK**

Definitely A is the best. It looks better to the eye which makes it more likely to be looked at. It also looks professional as well as doing its job of telling you what can be recycled

#### **Tracy B**

Most people can recognize what all these mean. They all make sense to me. C is the most obvious, I like that it includes the sport bottle in the picture . I don't like the Evian bottle in B it's not a common brand . I like the pop can image in b better c it's more clear

#### **Retprin**

C-- It specifically shows what items can be recycled and would be more appealing for others to recycle,

#### **Mike S**

A. Brands and bottle shapes are ever changing so the non-descript clip art is most long lasting.

#### **AWhaley1**

A and B are complex enough , but c is detailed and easier to describe what is recyclable.

#### **Cliff H**

A is very generic B is way to easy and doesn't list enough different items C is pretty good as it gives a good list of items to add to the bin

**Rachel M**

I like A and C, but C the most. It is clearest what is accepted.

**Tracy B**

Agree

**AVSAHD**

C - it seems more specific and easier to relate to what I might be recycling rather than trying to guess a little with the other two. Although B isn't bad.

**Cliff H**

True

**Maria K**

C- most specific

**Recycling Visuals Part 2**

Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?

**Lorenzo P**

Pretty easy to understand. If children can understand it . That's a big plus.

**Adrienne B**

I like this sign's simplicity. I think it would help me easily recycle a wide range of items.

**Janet O**

Yes, it self explanatory - easily understood, appealing...

**Jeff**

It looks nice makes it easy to figure out what can go in the bin

**Alpha**

Yes, I believe it would help me determine if my item fits into any of those categories.

**Skylar H**

I like this sign. It catches my attention and gives me those specifics

**Ken B**

Pretty much complete. The pictures are explicit so we know what to recycle, but could this lead some to recycle too narrowly because the items were not on the chart? Missing clamshells.

**AV Rez**

Yes, the items listed are good examples of recycle products. I believe most items are covered by the sign and the international recycle symbol is included. I don't have anything to offer that would be considered "missing".

**knoppers**

Very colorful. I don't see anything specifically that is missing.

**Ahabdul**

I like the fact that it's very straight forward with what items go in there. I

don't like that it's not pleasing to the eye. It's also clustered

**Jillian P**

I like this sign as it has clear basic everyday household items my family uses. Perhaps it could include a reference website or phone number for questions.

**Adrienne B**

A reference website would be great.

**klauder**

Yes. It's easy to follow. It's not clean from a design aspect but it is to the point. Maybe add something about which plastic numbers are recyclable.

**Marisa H**

Yes, that's a very understandable sign.

**Michboyle**

Yes

**Missb**

Milk cartons and jugs are missing.

**Missb**

Also if we want kids to know then maybe juice boxes or some kid friendly items

**Jillian P**

I agree if there were more kid items pictured it would be a helpful tool/guide for children

**JohnK**

It tells me exactly what I need to know. But it looks cheap looks And amateur. Nothing seems to be missing

**Tracy B**

I think this is great it's very clear I think you should also have a milk bottle on it and maybe even a sign with x's showing what common items to not put in the bin

**Retprin**

I like the clear display of items. I wouldn't change anything.

**Mike S**

It is clear and universal enough, but can be brand dependent- what happens when the OJ company redesigns it's label?

**AWhaley1**

I like it. Recyclable items are listed at the top and examples below.

**Tracy B**

Agree

**Cliff H**

Yes this is a very good list but it is missing standard cardboard boxes and glass jars

**Rachel M**

I like the color scheme and the examples.

**AVSAHD**

Yes, for the most part. I like this sign a lot.

**Cliff H**

True

**Maria K**

Yes- specific examples

### **Recycling Visuals Part 3**

Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?

**Lorenzo P**

Yes. Easily defined. I like that. Especially the word "recycle" in big letters.

**Adrienne B**

This sign seems to be missing corrugated cardboard, milk jugs, aluminum cans. Also, I liked another poster's idea to include a reference website.

**Janet O**

Is it for bottles, cartons, cans & paper?

**Jeff**

To vague

**Alpha**

Possibly but it is limited. For example, what if I have some type of cardboard box; I wouldn't necessarily know if it could go into this container or not. The wording states cardboard, but based on the pictures, I wouldn't know.

**Skylar H**

Again, this is nice. It's clean, conveys the message and gives me specific examples of items I could recycle there.

**Ken B**

Light duty recycling in a public venue. Missing many of the household recyclables like cardboard and food containers

**AV Rez**

The layout seems to be better but the product list is shorter. So missing is more definition on cardboard products.

**knoppers**

This is hard to see as the items are white with a white background. I would still understand what items can be recycled.

**Ahabdul**

It's quiet clear and to the point, but it needs some redesign aesthetically. I feel like it's also missing a few other items

**Jillian P**

If this bin were only for these items specifically I wouldn't mind it.

**klauder**

Yes and it's more simplified than the last one. This may be a better route than specifying plastic but knowing all types will be added

**Marisa H**

It's all right. Not very eye catching.

**Missb**

Glass bottle is missing. I see the Snapple bottle but those are not always glass.

**Michboyle**

Yes the pictures might need something for blind people.

**JohnK**

Not eye catching looks amateurish and not as specific as the last one so it losses that quality

**Tracy B**

Yes it's obvious what to recycle but it's not eye catching it's kinda of Boring looking. It needs to be brighter and more eye catching

**Retprin**

Where are cardboard boxes? Do you intend to allow cans included with the other items or separate them?

**Jillian P**

I was thinking about that as well

**Tracy B**

Good point

**Mike S**

is that a permission sign to mix newspapers with bottles and cans? Maybe you would need to include an x'ed out item (laundry detergent is not on this picture, so I assume it could t go here but not clear...)

**AWhaley1**

I'd know what to recycle but it looks messy it's missing the word plastic as well.

**Cliff H**

This sign is pretty good but doesn't address cardboard boxes

**Rachel M**

I would not know to recycle some of the items that were on the other sign, such as yogurt containers.

**AVSAHD**

It seems less specific than the previous one. It also lacks colorful items so it

seems like you can recycle less.

**Cliff H**

Good point

**Maria K**

Yes- specific examples

#### **Recycling Visuals Part 4**

Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?

**Lorenzo P**

I'm not so sure this would work for people of all ages. I prefer clear pictures over shadows.

**Adrienne B**

I like the simplicity and the addition of the words adds greater clarity.

**Janet O**

The words help... the sign doesn't have, "curb appeal"!

**Jeff**

No I didn't even know blue was for recycling

### **Alpha**

Based on the words, yes, I would probably figure it out. Based on the pictures, I would be able to determine most items that can be recycled. It's not as visually appealing but still does provide some useful information.

### **Skylar H**

It's informative and clean. It gives me the direction on what can be recycled there. I like the clean written directions, but I also like to see the specific examples. I can see both sides.

### **Ken B**

Plain, but very complete. Bland, but not busy ( like some photo groupings can get)

### **AV Rez**

It does define the items for recycle however, the lack of color and specific examples of products would be my sense of what's missing.

### **knoppers**

This is very specific and eye catching. I like the color. Aluminum is not part of this.

### **Adam P. Moderator**

Can you please take another look and tell me is you see aluminum?

### **Tracy B**

i see that aluminium is included

**Ahabdul**

This one is a lot more clearer and pleasing to the eyes, plus it has the wordage of what goes in there.

**Jillian P**

I would know what to put into the container.

**klauder**

Yes. This is my favorite and at first when it was alone it wasn't enough but now there is context with a phone number and website if there is confusion this is a very nice option. Recycle could be a bit bigger, use the white space and make the outline around the top of the recycle symbol a bit thinner

**Marisa H**

Too plain for me but gets the point across.

**Missb**

I like this one with the bigger words supported by the picture. This one is very clear to me

**Michboyle**

Yes if not blind or color blind?

**JohnK**

Clear as day and there's nothing I see is missing or wrong. If you didn't notice by my last 6 responses this is my favorite design

**Marisa H**

Ha

**Tracy B**

Yes it's clear to me but needs to be more colorful to catch someone's eye mainly someone who is not a regular recycler. But the more I look at it the more I think it will work

**Jillian P**

I agree, I know a few who would still verify that they have a correct recyclable.

**Retprin**

I like that it shows the graphics along with the written labels.

**Mike S**

Clear, uniform, timeless if you will, just not listing any items not permitted.

**Tracy B**

Good point

**AWhaley1**

I'd know what to recycle and I like it

**Cliff H**

This sign leaves way to much to guess and is not a very good example

**Rachel M**

I like the design of this sign. I wish it had the types of plastic labeled.

**AVSAHD**

Yes, for the most part. But not as specific as the others.

**Cliff H**

True

**Maria K**

Yes- specific but leaves room for question

**Cliff H**

Yes

## **Recycling Visuals Part 5**

Looking at this sign, would you know what could go into the recycling bin? What do you like about this sign? What don't you like? What's missing?

**Lorenzo P**

I thought this picture minimized the items a bit in the beginning when I first saw it a few clicks back. I suppose it would work. What's missing is the color green.

**Adrienne B**

This is good, too. I like the words and the reference information. It's missing

aluminum food cans and plastic fruit containers.

#### **Janet O**

An improvement over the last one! :) Yes, it is self-explanatory - quite easy to understand.

#### **Jeff**

Looking at it I could figure it out and it's to the point

#### **Alpha**

I like the larger font for the wording and I like that there is some other colors included for the pictures.

#### **Skylar H**

Perfect! It's gives written verbal and visual directions! Another thought I had as I was answering these, this helps folks who English May not be their first language or can't read.

#### **Ken B**

More eyecatching than the previous (product outlines), but it feels not quite as complete. Could be taken to not include newspapers and magazines, or tin cans (like soup cans)

#### **AV Rez**

I think that it does convey the overview of what should be recycled but lacks the visual stimulation of more color and specific items listed.

#### **knoppers**

Again no mention of aluminum. This doesn't give information on who is

sponsoring the recycling.

**Ahabdul**

Yeah his is better but it's also not well organized. Its nice that it has common items that we use on a regular basis.

**Jillian P**

I love that this sign has colorful pictures of everyday products. I feel it clarifies to the consumer that yes this coke can in my hand for sure goes into this container.

**klaunder**

Yes but I dont like it. Remove the drop shadow and the outlines around all imagery.

**Marisa H**

Simple enough

**Missb**

This one is also very clear. I like the big print supported by the images. Could someone interrupte this as only the branded items could be recycled.

**Jillian P**

I didn't even think about only branded items being recycled. I could see someone thinking that

**Missb**

Also cardboard beverage containers are missing

**Michboyle**

Yes

**JohnK**

I would know what to put in but that's mainly do to it actually spelling it out for me via the text as for the image to basic for that. I dislike pictures just cropped onto a background looks to weird

**Tracy B**

I would know, it's stated so should be obvious , but should say plastic bottles. I like the other Gatorade type bottle pictures from previous questions Versus the one in this pic

**Retprin**

Yes, I like that tells me what I can recycle.

**Mike S**

Clear, again nothing is prohibited I assume.

**AWhaley1**

It's missing the recyclable item plastic. It's okay

**Cliff H**

This sign gives good examples of all standard items to recycle

**Rachel M**

It's not specific enough, and it doesn't say plastics but includes plastic bottles as examples.

### **AVSAHD**

The examples seem odd - like they should be generic or more specific brands that stand out. It seems to be trying to go right down the middle between specific and generic.

#### **Tracy B**

Agree

#### **Maria K**

Yes- very specific and no room for question

#### **Cliff H**

True

## **Organics**

What does the term “organics recycling” mean to you?

#### **Adrienne B**

It means recycling organic material such as fruits and vegetables that are not able to be consumed and turning it into compost,

#### **Janet O**

Not sure...

#### **Jeff**

Never heard of it I thought it was just for food

**Alpha**

Those items that can be composted such as food items, easily biodegradable items, etc.

**Skylar H**

Packaging that is biodegradable and/or made from naturally composting material?

**Ken B**

Compostable items.

**AV Rez**

Compost which is food, yard waste and animal remains that can be decomposed into their original elements into the ground

**knoppers**

Any food that has been grown organically? Not positive on this meaning.

**Ahabdul**

Organics to me basically means food waste

**Jillian P**

Something compostable?

**klauder**

Anything that is compostable such as food, napkins that are compostable

**Ken B**

Yes, items other than food waste should be called out

**Marisa H**

Food scraps?

**Missb**

Ahhh...hmmmm egg shells?

**Michboyle**

No idea

**JohnK**

I have no clue what that means. Composting? I have no clue sorry

**Jillian P**

I agree, my first thought was composting too.

**Tracy B**

Compost able items

**Retprin**

This would be food items and anything that can be composed.

**Mike S**

Food goods?

**AWhaley1**

Compost items

**Cliff H**

This is like yard waste and food waste

**Rachel M**

Compost

**AVSAHD**

Compost

**Maria K**

Things that can compost

**Cliff H**

True

## **Organics Part 2**

If you saw a bin labeled, "Organics Recycling," what do you think should go in that bin?

**Adrienne B**

Paper napkins, fruit waste, egg shells, vegetable waste

**Janet O**

Remnants of organic food or materials...

**Jeff**

Food

**Alpha**

Food items or items that can more easily biodegrade.

**Skylar H**

Food scraps, packaging made biodegradable material

**Ken B**

Food waste. But does that include Napkins? Paper plates? I think that the term "Organics Recycling" needs additional definition and possible education.

**AV Rez**

Food sources, yard waste (if not picked up separately) and animal remains.

**knoppers**

I would be confused as what would go into it.

**Ahabdul**

Food waste

**Jillian P**

Food items such as banana peels

**klauder**

Food, compostable napkins or paper towels

**Marisa H**

Scraps of food

**Missb**

Egg shells.

**Michboyle**

I have no idea.

**JohnK**

Food items? Just based off the word organic I'm going to guess that

**Jillian P**

I'm guessing food items as well.

**Tracy B**

Food, Egg Cartons, pizza boxes ,napkins

**Retprin**

Food leftovers and some yard waste.

**Mike S**

If it is a small bin I would assume you can't put twigs and sticks in it. And if there is no top on the bin, then food compost would be too smelly to put in it for a weekly collection. Leaves also require a large amount of space. Not sure, specify the size of the container maybe?

**AWhaley1**

Food and yard trash

**Cliff H**

Food trash with no containers and yard type wastes

**Rachel M**

Food, eggshells

**Cliff H**

True

**AVSAHD**

Any food, napkins, kleenex, some cardboard that had food like pizza boxes or containers that say they are compostable.

**Tracy B**

Agree

**Maria K**

Food, napkins

### Organics Part 3

Where do you currently place most of your household food scraps?

**Adrienne B**

I have a small bin where it goes before it reaches my compost bin.

**Janet O**

Ziploc bag and then in my garbage... no odor then.

**Jeff**

In the regular trash or to the dogs

**Alpha**

We currently put a lot of them down our garbage disposal which grinds them into smaller pieces. For other food items, they just go into our trash.

**Skylar H**

Garage disposal

**Ken B**

Trash. No place to compost nor garden to dispose of resulting compost.

**Ken B**

Also soft stuff down the disposal

**AV Rez**

In the regular garbage container or in the sink disposal depending upon the size and nature of the scraps.

**Ken B**

Yes... forgot about the stuff that goes down the disposal

**knoppers**

In a garbage disposal.

**Ahabdul**

In the garbage.

**Jillian P**

Unfortunately in the trash. I hate wasting food

**klauder**

Back garden

**Jillian P**

What about during the winter months that we have snow?

**klauder**

You can still create an area. Animals love to have some veggie scraps in the winter

**Marisa H**

Garbage

**Missb**

Garbage disposal, dogs dish or garbage.

**Michboyle**

Garbage bags

**JohnK**

Trash

**Tracy B**

Trash

**Retprin**

In the trash or the garbage disposal.

**Mike S**

In the trash or for the dog.

**Tracy B**

Yup me too

**AWhaley1**

In a bin

**Cliff H**

Down the garbage disposal

**Rachel M**

We have a compost pile.

**AVSAHD**

We have a compost container

**Maria K**

Garbage disposal or garbage

**Marisa H**

Same

**Cliff H**

Yes

### **Neighbor to neighbor**

Please read the following statements made by two Dakota County residents and tell me which resident you agree with more and why.

Smith says, "It is important to properly dispose of all waste correctly and recycle everything we can. It is worth the extra time and effort to get educated on how to properly dispose of all the things we get rid of."

Jones says, “I understand the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling and I do it when I can, but I am not going to spend any time trying to figure out how to properly dispose of all the things we get rid of.”

Who do you agree with more, Smith or Jones? Why?

**Adrienne B**

I agree with Smith far more. We are leaving a world for our children and our children’s children. It is our duty to not leave it in worse shape than we got it from our parents. The marginal time it takes to recycle is well spent instead of putting something in the trash that will take hundreds of years to break down.

**Janet O**

Smith is correct, however to be honest, I am more like Jones at this point.

**Jeff**

Smith but I think there is more Jones's out there

**Alpha**

I lean toward the Smith quote because it doesn't take a lot of time to figure out what can and cannot be recycled. However, I probably fall more in the middle of the two statements as I am really not going to spend a lot of additional time educating myself (more than I already know) about what can be recycled.

**Skylar H**

I agree with Smith. I truly believe that the efforts we put in today create a better tomorrow. We’ve done a mighty fine job post industrial revolution of damaging the earth. Recycling and being mindful of ways to slow the

damage and in some cases restore is everyone's responsibility.

**Ken B**

Smith. The opinion expressed reflects our viewpoint. Less stuff in the landfill is a good thing.

**AV Rez**

Smith for the most part. If I have questions on occasion and not the time, I will rely upon my judgement as opposed to running to the lists provided by the waste hauler and the city.

**knoppers**

Smith. I believe it is important to our environment to be knowledgeable about waste and recycling of materials.

**Jillian P**

I agree with Smith. I feel it is our responsibility to take the time, educate ourselves and those around us. Why let something end up in a landfill when it doesn't need to be. Our landfills are not just going to dissapper. We are simply handing the problem off to our children.

**Ahabdul**

I agreed with smith because we need to be consciously aware of our environment and to help educate ourselves in doing the right thing that could possible save our children's lives in the future

**klauder**

Smith however I believe many are in the same boat as Jones. To make this easier and save on time educating how to properly dispose of items we need to make it easier for them. They should not have to hunt and search

for the answer. Maybe add a document or area on the fb county page or community page or both. The easier it is, the more people will follow along

#### **Marisa H**

Smith. Why wouldn't you want to do what you can to make sure we keep Mother Earth safe and clean for our kids and their kids and so on.

#### **Adam P. Moderator**

I think a lot of people agree with you Marisa, but what about the people who don't. \*\*\*What arguments\*\*\* do you think might work with the more apathetic or even those who don't believe protecting Mother Earth is necessary?

#### **Missb**

Smith..within reason. The learning shouldn't be a weeks worth of classroom time it should be a lifetime, situational educational program

#### **Jillian P**

I agree it should be lifetime and not just some classroom time. Our world is constant change, what we may think to be environmentally safe now may not always be the case.

#### **JohnK**

Jones based on practicality. I have a family obligations and responsibilities . We have an obligation to take care of the environment but yes there is a certain level of inconvenience that is not worth it. That bar is high but it's still there

#### **Michboyle**

Smith we need to do everything we can with our garbage.

### **Tracy B**

I agree with Smith I think we need to make recycling more of a priority and figure out how to properly recycle

### **Retprin**

Smith-- It is important to take the time to properly dispose of all waste correctly and recycle everything we can. Being educated on how to properly disposing items is being a good neighbor,

### **Mike S**

Jones. Life is so fast and so demanding it is hard to be overly picky. What is initially stated and understood from the flier is what has stuck in my mind when I sort out goods.

### **AWhaley1**

I agree with Smith , he's consistent and aware.

### **Cliff H**

I agree with Smith because we need to try and help out the Earth when and where we can

### **Adam P. Moderator**

\*\*\*What arguments\*\*\* do you think might work with the more apathetic or even those who don't believe we need to help out the Earth ?

### **Tracy B**

do you want your childrens childrens children living in or on trash?  
Lets do what we can now to avoid that from happening

**Cliff H**

People need to be better educated on what is going on in the world around them. People get so wrapped up and get tunnel vision and don't really see what is right next to them.

**Rachel M**

Smith. I think it is important to do all we can to protect our environment, minimize waste, and recycle what we can.

**Marisa H**

Well put

**Tracy B**

I agree

**Cliff H**

Good answer

**AVSAHD**

Smith. Because the more effort I put into it, the better off I and others, including my kids, will be.

**Maria K**

Smith - we should do what we can and be educated so it doesn't seem like a chore to figure out

## Other

What do you think are the barriers to doing more recycling or understanding how to do it?

### Adrienne B

A barrier to recycling is not enough recycling bins at public places, items not being accepted by trash haulers, and not enough education about what is and isn't recyclable.

### Janet O

Recycling needs to be easily and understandable... if people think it is confusing, they'll just say, I'll recycle that next time!

### Jeff

It needs to be easy not time consuming because its easiest to throw everything in the regular trash

### Alpha

Recycling needs to be easy, which it is for the most part. However, our trash hauler (like most I assume) only picks up our large recycling container every two weeks. With a larger family, we can fill that large recycling container each week. There are times where we throw recyclable items in our trash because our recycling container is too full.

### Skylar H

I'm not sure. Laziness perhaps. Then again, I've been recycling most of my life. I don't know if a time when I wasn't. I've watched as we've moved from the small bins where I had to separate the three bags out to single sort. There really isn't a reason not to recycle. Perhaps I'm myopic based on personal biases though?

**Ken B**

Confusion over what items on the margins are recyclable. Sometimes we don't take the time to find out, especially when under time pressure. Single sort does help a lot, as well.

**AV Rez**

The more that recycle materials can be combined into one container, the lesser the barriers will be for people to not want to participate.

**Adrienne B**

Absolutely!

**knoppers**

Too many variables some of which have been removed by various counties/cities. Remove labels, separate glass from plastic and etc.

**Ken B**

The more one needs to do, the less likely to do it

**Jillian P**

I think education, clarity, and understanding are most certainly barriers. Another barrier is laziness or people too consumed with their own instead of doing what is best for the greater good.

**Ahabdul**

Not a lot of resources in educating our communities about recycling and making it a priority in our daily lives.

**Jillian P**

I agree, I wish there was more of an education program in the community. More than just a list on my recycling container of acceptable/not. Perhaps a why/why not, teach where waste goes within our county.

**klauder**

Its difficult to find what to recycle sometimes. There are one offs and things that are not common and the more difficult it is, the less of a chance of response you will have. Make it easy and in one spot.

**Marisa H**

Time

**Missb**

It would be nice if households were supplied with some stickers so we could place them on are own collection containers IN the home. Also fast food containers need to be addressed what can be recycled

**JohnK**

Convenience. If you need to check which one of 20 bins is the right one and some you have to pay to use it's going to de-incentivize people to even try. You're not going to make people care more so making it more convenient will change a lot

**Michboyle**

Price and the want to take the time for it.

### **Tracy B**

I think a lot of people are lazy or don't know what to recycle and won't take the time to figure it out. In this day and age if your not already a recycler it needs to be very clear to those that don't often recycle to hopefully change their habits

### **Retprin**

Taking the time to know what can be recycled and having the proper containers to use for disposal.

### **Mike S**

Sufficient containers and to truly tell us how effective recycling is. We go through the motions, but are we truly seeing the results?

### **AWhaley1**

Maybe tools available to do so.

### **Cliff H**

Being lazy and not taking the time to clean everything or recycle more than most people do

### **Rachel M**

People not taking the time to look it up.

### **AVSAHD**

Knowing what plastics are recyclable and which aren't. And more information on electronics.

**Cliff H**

True

**Maria K**

People aren't sure what types of plastic are ok or not to recycle and don't under the numbers on the items

**Tracy B**

Agree

## **Other Part 2**

What else should we know about how people handle recycling and proper organics disposal?

**Adrienne B**

Trash haulers should pick up recycling weekly or provide a larger recycling bin than trash bin. Our recycling far exceeds our trash.

**Ken B**

Some haulers allow one to get a larger recycling tub than trash tub. That helps, but weekly would be easier to remember

**Janet O**

Recycling has to be clarified - easy to understand how, what, when and where.

**Ahabdul**

Well put

**Jeff**

Make it easy and convenient , advertise it make it affordable

**Alpha**

Cities need to provide more alternatives for organics recycling (even if residents need to pay for a compost barrel, etc.). It would be nice if the trash haulers could provide an option to pick up recycling each week. I realize this may not be possible logistically but it would be better for our family at least.

**Adrienne B**

We would be willing to pay for weekly pickup.

**Tracy B**

i agree

**Skylar H**

At work we talk about writing communications for people affected by some sort of implemented change and we have to craft language we call the “WliFM” statement...the “What’s In it For Me” language. I think it’d be great if we sent out information and/or had meetings about our recycling efforts here in DC. Discuss the wins we’ve had (ie we’ve recycled 80 billion tons of x I’ve true past y years, etc), where we want to go with it and how residents can participate and get us to our goals. Also, get into the schools. Teach kids about recycling and they’ll bring that home, I know this because that exactly what I did 30 years ago. And, have education for all of us to understand what happens to our recycling, where does it go (specifically)

and how is it recycled, what happens to it afterward. Complete the life cycle to show us how it works.

**Ken B**

Make it simple and easy Educate by whatever means possible/ necessary  
Involve all family members insofar as possible

**AV Rez**

Have more visible communication surrounding what is and is not recyclable and offer a day in which the larger items can be picked up curbside as opposed to having to find a vehicle/truck large enough to carry them to the centers.

**knoppers**

Assist once a year offer to have a free large items for pickup. Lawn furniture, tv's and etc.

**Jillian P**

I wish people fully understood the impact they make with their recycling choices or lack there of. What happens to items improperly recycled? Do they cause problems at the center? Where do my recyclable items thrown in the garbage end up? How much is that contributing to the landfill?

**Ahabdul**

Convenience and educating properly

**Ken B**

succinctly put

**klauder**

Some haulers pick up every other week. This is difficult because those of us who do recycle have more than what trash we actually have. Making it all a weekly occurrence will make it easier. For organics, compost piles are a great option. It makes soil rich for gardens but do not add meat as it will attract more animals than not.

**Ken B**

Also, it's my understanding that too much meat adds too much salt, which is bad for the process. (Is this a valid assumption?)

**Skylar H**

I agree. Sometimes I wish my recycling would just be every week as well!

**Marisa H**

I would like to be more informed on proper organics disposal.

**Jillian P**

I was just thinking that. Are there any available composting locations?

**Missb**

Currently I am being charged for recycling. I know there is a cost involved but some family's can't afford to pay for the bin provided by the haulers and or the added service charge of the pick up.

**Skylar H**

Yikes! I'll have to check mine. But that should be included.

### **JohnK**

Most people do bare minimum but when asked about it they act like they care more than they actually do, not accusing anyone here ,but I've seen it happen in real life.

### **Michboyle**

Some just don't care.

### **Tracy B**

Notes on containers , Fliers from trash company, each time the Dakota county mailers go out it should always state dos and don'ts and any updates on recycling

### **Retprin**

Have regular flyers to remind households on recycling, Have information on ways to compose our food waste.

### **Mike S**

We live in small spaces. To compost demands immediate disposal of food goods in an enclosed container. How many of us have this space, containers and to keep the smell away?

### **AWhaley1**

Media awareness

### **Cliff H**

Taking the time to either put a quick TV/radio commercial on so more people understand that this is important

**Adam P. Moderator**

Cliff, this sounds like a great idea, but TV and radio commercials cost money. Would you be OK with the County spending money on them?

**Cliff H**

No, you are right I don't want my tax dollars going to waste there is enough of that already

**Rachel M**

Regular fliers might help. Easy info on what to do with specific items. And more info/services related to composting.

**AVSAHD**

There seems to be a lot of work to do on compost and currently we have to haul our compost to Lebanon Hills. If there was a way it was picked up, more people would do it and a lot of waste would be saved.

**Tracy B**

I would compost if I didn't have to go so far to bring it in

**Cliff H**

Good answer

**Maria K**

Aware of what people don't know would help and the barriers to doing it correctly

### Final Question

Image A has grouped items and less spacing between each object.

Image B has fewer items with more spacing between each object.

Which of the images do you prefer? And why?

#### Skylar H

I'd prefer image A. It gives more options for the user to identify and relate to. More info is good in this scenario.

#### Retprin

I prefer A since it is clearer with specific examples and is more colorful.

#### Missb

I like "A". The picture shows more examples of items that can be recycled.

#### Jeff

A because its seems to offer better examples plus it's more eye catching than B I think because of all the different colors and shapes

#### Cliff H

I personal like A because of the spacing and it also shows more items to help people know what they can and cannot put in the recycle bins, but if A wasn't used B does still have a good but much smaller list of items to put in the recycle bin.

**Ken B**

Depends on the context. At home I would want the more complete presentation (A) because I have a far wider set of potential recyclables. B would be a good reminder in a public location where the potential recyclables are more limited.

**klauder**

I suppose they could have printables online for at home too.

**Jillian P**

I prefer A because it's has more examples of acceptable items. I like that there are colored pictures of actual items. I feel image A is more eye catching because of the colored items.

**Cliff H**

I agree with you that A would be the better choice as it does list more and the images are much better.

**JohnK**

Got to go with A on this one well it would be crowded it would be more useful than B. Being able to see which items you can recycle is more important than it looking less cluttered. Choice A final answer

**Adrienne B**

I like A better. It provides more complete information on what I can and cannot recycle.

**Ahabdul**

I prefer more spacing to be easy with the eyes

**Tracy B**

I like A it shows more options for people who can't think outside the box

**knoppers**

Yes. I see aluminum.

**knoppers**

Group A

**Janet O**

"A" caught my eye right away - appealing & easy to understand.

**Jillian P**

Image A caught my attention for the same reasons.

**klauder**

It doesnt matter about the spacing, its the content that is more relevent.

**Ahabdul**

True it needs to be informative

**klauder**

But A is a better option as its more pleasing to look at and has more content

**Michboyle**

A shows more things that you can recycle also like how it's set up.

#### **AV Rez**

Group A is my preference. It contains more items and color with examples that would, in my opinion, help everyone to associate their trash from recycleables if they are not sure.

#### **Alpha**

I prefer A. It has more examples of the types of items that can be recycled while still containing the wording.

#### **Maria K**

A- more specific examples means less confusion and more success for those trying to follow guidelines

#### **Mike S**

A. I see it as more comprehensive and might relate to people more (the small milk carton in image B might not jump out to people...). A has many examples.