

Recycling 101

Texas Recycles Day just passed and Keep Brownwood Beautiful (KBB) collaborated with two groups to celebrate and educate on recycling. This first group was Mrs. Mayo's third grade class from Woodland Heights. The city of Brownwood brought the mobile recycling trailer to their school and by day's end; many of the bins were full. The second graders of Woodland Heights brought in the most recycling! The second group was the Early Cub Scouts Pack 4. With the direction of Michele Wiley and the help of KBB volunteers, the troop staffed the mobile recycling trailer on a bitterly cold morning and the response was great.

What I would like to address in this column is **HOW** to recycle. We all know that it is better for the environment *to* recycle. It saves on landfill space, decreases need for virgin materials, creates jobs, cuts pollution rates, etc. However, after three years of staffing the monthly in town recycling trailer, I find that I still have to remind people that recycling material is not garbage!

Here is a primer on **HOW TO RECYCLE**.

Before you leave home with your recycling:

1. Recycle with the right motive in mind. Decide why you are recycling.
2. Remember recycling material is not trash. These materials are actually handled by people as they are processed for the end market. Keep their well-being in mind.
3. Find out *which* materials are accepted at the recycling trailer.
4. Make sure all materials you are going to recycle are *CLEAN*.
5. *Sort* your recycling into the appropriate categories.

At the trailer:

6. Take time to put recycling into the *correct* bin at the mobile recycling trailer.
For example, cardboard means just cardboard not packing material, aluminum cans are in a different bin than metal/tin cans.
7. Understand that the *volunteers* staffing the trailers are there to *assist* people who need it due to mobility issues and to answer questions about recycling.
8. If you are unsure about which bin to use, ask a volunteer.

If we can all learn to recycle right, there will come a time that recycling options will be available in Brownwood at all times. When KBB had unstaffed recycling options available in the past, too many people used it as a dumping site for their trash and if they did recycle, often did not separate the materials. It is up to all of us to recycle correctly and to encourage others to do the same.

For an updated list of what is accepted at the in town mobile recycling trailer, visit www.KeepBrownwoodBeautiful.org or leave an address on my answering machine at 325-641-0533.