

# WasteWrap



A publication of the DMC Regional Waste Commission

1818 West Burlington Avenue  
Burlington, IA 52601  
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www.wastewrap.org

Members: Burlington, Danville,  
Des Moines County, Mediapolis, Middletown,  
Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Union,  
New London, Rome, Salem, W. Burlington,  
Westwood, Winfield

## Winter 2016



# Happy Holidays

## DMC Regional Waste Commission Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are holidays for the DMC Regional Waste Commission and all agency locations and offices will be closed to the public.

For the Thanksgiving holiday, Mt. Pleasant area residents living south of Washington St. and Salem area residents who normally have recycling collected on Thursday will have their recyclables collected on Friday, November 25th. Please have recyclables placed curbside in your Area Recyclers container(s) by 7:30am to ensure collection. Friday's regular route is not affected and normal hours and collection resume on Friday.

For the Christmas holiday, Burlington area residents who normally have recycling collected on Monday will have their recyclables collected on Friday, December 23rd. Please have recyclables placed curbside in your Area Recyclers container(s) by 7:30am to ensure collection. Friday's regular route is not affected and normal hours and collection resume on Tuesday.

For the New Year's Day holiday Danville, New London, Middletown, Rome, and Westwood residents who normally have their recyclables collected on Monday will have their recycling collected on Tuesday, January 3rd. Tuesday's regular route is not affected and normal hours and collection resume on Tuesday.

Curbside collection calendars for 2017 are being distributed and all residents should receive one before Dec. 12th. Calendars will be placed in residential recycling bins. Collection calendars will also be available for download after December 9th from our website at [www.wastewrap.org](http://www.wastewrap.org) and click on the Area Recyclers icon, or check our Facebook page and "like" Area Recyclers.

If you have questions about the holiday collection schedule or about the 2017 curbside collection calendars, please contact Area Recyclers at (319) 753-8126, email us at [feedback@dmcwaste.org](mailto:feedback@dmcwaste.org), or ask your question via our Facebook page keyword "Area Recyclers".



## WRAPPING PAPER, RIBBONS, TOY BOXES, AND BOWS... OH MY!

After the thrill of seeing what good ol' Santa left for everyone on Christmas morning comes the unenviable job of "cleaning up". The Elves at Area Recyclers and the DMC Regional Landfill are asking you to follow this handy chart to keep your holiday trash in check, and keep yourself off the "Scrooge" list!

TYPE OF ITEM(S)	RECYCLABLE	TRASH
Toy boxes (corrugated, layered with "squiggly lines")	X	
Corrugated boxes from electronics, etc.	X	
2 Liter bottles of soda used for holiday punch	X	
Empty metal food cans for vegetables, etc.	X	
Lump of coal Santa left you	X	
Plastic window from toy boxes		X
Styrofoam (any type)		X
Shirt boxes		X
Toy boxes (non-corrugated)		X
Wrapping paper		X
Greeting cards		X
Old/nonworking Christmas lights*		X
Plastic grocery sacks (may recycle only at Target, Fareway, & HyVee, otherwise it's		X

\*old/non-working Christmas lights may be taken to Lowes

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at (319) 753-8126, find us on Facebook keyword "Area Recyclers", or visit our website [www.wastewrap.org](http://www.wastewrap.org). **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

## Ask Professor Garbologist

**Q** Dear Professor Garbologist: Why are greeting cards and wrapping paper not accepted for recycling by Area Recyclers? It seems like a shame to not be able to recycle them. Christina- Burlington

**A:** Dear Christina: You are correct in stating that Area Recyclers cannot accept greeting cards and wrapping paper and there are a couple of main reasons as to why that is so. One issue is that the paper used for cards and wrapping paper may be inferior and not suited for recycling. Another issue is that both greeting cards and wrapping paper may have metallic print on them which makes them unable to be recycled. I would suggest keeping your greeting cards for re-use. I know of one family that cuts their cards and makes Christmas tree decorations with them. Wrapping paper can often be reused, too, by simply cutting it down to a smaller size for a future year's use.

**!** Professor's note: Please see the graphic on the left from Santa's elves about what Christmas items can and cannot be recycled.

**Q** Dear Professor: Sometimes the weather can be too bad for me to set out my recycling during the winter, and if I do set it out in the rain or snow will it be picked up? Does Area Recyclers ever cancel or delay collection due to the weather? Betty- Mt. Pleasant.

**A:** Dear Betty- If you cannot set out your recycling due to the weather, remember you can keep it until the next collection and if your buckets get full you can use an additional container such as a plastic tote or laundry basket to put items in. There are also drop off facilities located throughout Des Moines County as well as the drop off at the Area Recyclers parking lot. Recyclables can be set out in rain or snow, we will collect them. Area Recyclers rarely postpones or delays collections due to the weather.



Have a question for Professor Garbologist?  
Send it to us at Area Recyclers,  
1818 W. Burlington Ave., Burlington, IA 52601  
or via email at [feedback@dmcwaste.org](mailto:feedback@dmcwaste.org)

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## 2017 DMC Regional Waste Commission Meetings

The DMC Regional Waste Commission conducts full commission meetings on the third Tuesday of alternating months beginning in January. Meetings begin at 4pm unless otherwise stated and are held in the conference room at Area Recyclers, 1818 W. Burlington Ave., Burlington. The public is welcome.

### 2017 Meeting Schedule:

January 17  
March 21  
May 23  
July 18  
September 19  
November 21

## It's not just a courtesy, it's a policy

The fall season means the leaves are coming down and the trees, if not already, will soon be bare. This is a friendly reminder that all loads coming to the landfill, including leaves, grass, tree limbs/branches/twigs and sticks, must be secured and covered.

A sign posted at the entry to the DMC Regional Landfill reminds visitors of the landfills the cover-your-load policy. All vehicles must have loads tarped and secured when driving down any roadway or risk a citation from local law enforcement and risk being cited a \$10 surcharge for unsecured loads at the landfill. Driving with loose loads can create dangerous road hazards and shows little respect to others on the road.

For questions about the signage or the tarping/cover your load policy, please contact the DMC Regional Waste Commission at 753-8126 or 1-800-216-8126.

## Large Business Waste Reduction & Recycling Awards

Do you like numbers? How about this number- 14,129 TONS...or 28,256,916 pounds. What does this number represent? It is the sum total of tons (or pounds) of the amount of material recycled in the last year by the three sustainability award winners for the 2016 large business waste reduction and recycling awards. For perspective, that would be the approximate loaded weight of two U.S. Navy nuclear submarines, or the approximate weight for all the printed advertising in this year's U.S. presidential election. In terms of real dollars and cents, that 14,129 tons equals just over \$720,000 in avoided disposal fees at the DMC Regional Landfill. If your business would like to know more about reducing waste and increasing recycling, please contact Darven Kendell at the DMC Regional Waste Commission.

Great River Health Systems, Shearer's Foods, and American Ordnance received recognition for their continued efforts in waste reduction and recycling at the 2016 Manufacturer's Luncheon sponsored by the Greater Burlington Partnership. These large businesses have long established waste reduction and recycling programs that continually evolve and adapt to changing waste streams and recycling or reuse opportunities. For fiscal year 2015 Great River Health Systems achieved a 30% recycling rate. American Ordnance achieved a 62% increase in amount of materials recycled from 2015-2016. Shearer's Foods has increased the amount of food waste recycled in their facility by 250% since 2014.



## Batteries no more!

One sure sign of the Holiday season is the surge in battery purchases before Christmas followed by the piles of dead batteries accumulating from all those toys. What to do with batteries? Use this handy guide to battery disposal. If you have any questions about battery disposal, please contact the HazChem Center at (319)-753-8758.

### BUTTON TYPE BATTERIES

- Mercuric oxide- used for hearing aids, pacemakers, photography
- Zinc air- an alternative to mercuric oxide button cells
- Silver oxide- used for electronic watches and calculators
- Lithium- used for watches and photographic equipment

### DRY-CELL RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

Many people find these to be affordable and newer technologies with lithium rechargeable batteries make them a more convenient alternative to traditional batteries.

- Nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd)- used in cordless power tools, personal stereos, portable telephones, laptop computers, shavers, motorized toys
- Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)- an alternative to Ni-Cd and have longer life
- Lithium ion (Li-Ion)- have a greater battery storage capacity than Ni-Cd and Ni-MH batteries.

In the Burlington area, please take rechargeable batteries them to the Burlington Public Library, The Des Moines County Sherriff's office, the Area Recyclers office, and the West Burlington City Hall. Target, Lowes, and Staples also have rechargeable battery collection boxes as a company provided public service. Non rechargeable batteries are not recyclable & belong in your trash. Please call 319-753-8758 for more information.



"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics."

**Aldo Leopold**

**We Recycle  
because we love our  
community.**

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of Beaverdale  
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Beaverdale Rd.  
off new Hwy. 34 exit 258  
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OPEN Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-5 p.m.;  
Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Closed Sundays for Family Day





# Gift Ideas from Recycled 2 You

Recycled 2 You is a small gift shop located inside the Area Recyclers building. The shop features a changing variety of unique items made from recycled materials. Open M-F 8am-4pm and the second/fourth Saturdays 8-11:30am.