

## Top 10 Questions about Recycling and Disposal Services

### Question 1: How is recycling paid for? I thought it was free. I didn't get a bill in the mail.

*Recycling is not free. Recyclers in Lyon County, whether your recycling is picked up at the curb or if you are a rural recycler who brings your recycling to a drop site, pay a fee through a special assessment on property taxes.*

*Businesses are not charged this fee and this is why businesses are not supposed to use the drop sites or use curbside pickup. Businesses need to call your waste (trash) hauler to have services provided for your business.*

*If you rent a house or live in an apartment, the property owner is paying for the service.*

### Question 2: I thought recycling was trash. What is the difference between trash and recycling?

*Recycling that is picked up, whether it is at curbside or the drop sites is collected and sent on to other markets. It is not placed into the landfill. Once recycling has been collected as recycling, it is against the law to place it into the landfill. Recycling is often made into other items or sometimes, like in the case of pop cans, it is made back into a pop can again!*

*Trash is hauled to the landfill. Once trash goes into a landfill, it is there forever. Most Lyon County trash goes to the Lyon County Landfill near Lynd, Minnesota.*

### Question 3: I don't have trash services. Can I use the recycling drop sites for trash or other things I no longer want or need?

*No, these drop sites are for recycling only. No trash should ever be placed at this site. There are other options to dispose of items you no longer need or want. If residents are not sure where to dispose of these items, please call our office or your local waste (trash) hauler for assistance.*

### Question 4: I have a lot of cardboard. What should I do with it?

*Cardboard is always recyclable as long as it is clean! Residents can use the cardboard drop sites located within your city. Residents must flatten cardboard, please! It helps to save room for the next resident to use the containers. Please remove all Styrofoam and packing material from boxes!*

### Question 5: It seems like the rules for recycling change all of the time. How can I get the most up to date information?

*Lyon County provides up to date information via the Lyon County website. The website also includes the recycling calendars for curbside recyclers for each city.*

*Recycling has remained the same for the past 10 years plus! Confusion can occur if you hear recycling information on the radio, in print or on television about how recycling is done in other communities. Recycling can be different from community to community.*

*Be careful to know the rules for your community!*

*Currently, Lyon County curbside recycling is serviced by West Central Sanitation. Lyon County hauls the community recycling drop site containers. All Lyon County recycling is hauled to Redwood Falls to a transfer station. It goes, from there, to a company in Shakopee called Dem-Con.*

**Question 6: I don't live within city limits. How can I recycle?**

*Rural residents have the option to bring their recycling to a drop site location. These drop site locations are not for trash and are only for recyclables. If you live in an apartment and do not have curbside recycling, you can use these drop sites for your recycling as well. Just as curbside recyclers recycle only paper, cardboard and empty, clean food containers, these sites are also for paper, cardboard and empty, clean food containers. These drop sites are located in or near all cities in Lyon County. A map of where these drop sites are situated is located on the Lyon County Website.*

**Question 7: I have items like televisions or microwave ovens that I no longer want. How can I dispose of them?**

*Lyon County Environmental Department accepts electronics at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Marshall. This facility does not accept appliances. These must go to the Lyon County Landfill where a secondary recycler picks them up from the landfill. The Lyon County Landfill will also accept electronic waste including televisions. If you are not able to haul your appliances or larger electronics yourself, please call your waste hauler for assistance. Fees will apply.*

**Question 8: I see the recycling logo on so many things but you tell me that it is not recyclable, why?**

*The only items that are recyclable are cardboard, newspaper, other paper items such as envelopes, magazines etc., and clean, empty food containers such as glass food containers, tin cans, steel cans, plastic pop bottles, plastic sauce containers, and aluminum cans (pop or beer cans).*



*This logo IS NOT a recycling logo but rather it tells us what kind of plastic a container or item is made from. You will find it on ALL plastic items. **It does not mean that an item is recyclable!** Styrofoam, plastic toys, plastic kiddie pools, chemical containers and the like are not recyclable. Do not use this logo to guide you on what is and what is not recyclable. Remember, recycling is cardboard, paper and empty clean food containers only.*

**Question 9: We live so far away from the landfill. How can I get rid of things I no longer want without having to drive to Lynd to the landfill?**

*Disposing of items you no longer want or need is each person's responsibility. There are some costs to different items. If you do not have the ability to self-haul items to the landfill or other places, please call your waste (trash) hauler for assistance. They often can provide services for a fee.*

**Question 10: I live out in the country and I don't have trash services. Can I get trash services?**

*We encourage ALL rural residents to obtain trash services for their property. Many, many years ago, burning was permitted for farmers only. However, it was only for certain items. Today's trash is full of plastic or other items that when burned in a burn barrel will cause air pollution. According to state law, it is illegal to burn trash!*

*We have also noticed a rise in insurance companies considering not covering trash burning in their policies and consider it an intentional fire. Sometimes, trash fires get away from residents and can start buildings on fire. If you are burning trash on your property, we encourage you to research what your insurance company will cover.*

*If you are a rural resident, we also would like to encourage you to have your local waste (trash) hauler to bring in a trash container if you are cleaning up your property instead of burying your trash. You may be obligated to disclose dumpsites on a property if you sell it at a later date. Waste haulers can also provide weekly services for trash as well.*

**Bonus question!: What other things do I need to know about recycling?**

*The Lyon County website, [www.lyonco.org](http://www.lyonco.org), has more information on recycling and disposal.*

*Please call our office at (507) 532-1307 for more information on disposal. We are glad to help!*

*Not sure when your recycling cart is supposed to go out to the curb? When in doubt, put it out. Please give the haulers ALL DAY to get around on their routes. Things happen! Trucks break down, people call in sick, winter weather can slow things down too.*

*We also take rigid Styrofoam, shredded paper, books, and car seats for free at **the Household Hazardous Waste Facility!** Mattresses and box springs that are clean, dry and free of bedbugs **should come to the Marshall office.** Box springs are free and mattresses cost \$16.00 to recycle/dispose of. These items never go into any recycling containers. Mattresses and box springs should never be thrown into trash. Residents can contact your local waste hauler for assistance with hauling larger items. Dirty or infested mattresses can go to the landfill for a higher disposal fee.*

*Thank you for participating in the program!*