Fall 2024 Issue No. 50

A publication of the Board of Supervisors – Ben Rogers Kirsten Running-Marquardt Louis Zumbach

LandfillLink

The Importance of Battery Recycling!

Fires are a huge danger anywhere, but especially at landfills. When a landfill catches fire it is difficult to put out, and puts staff, customers, and fire fighters at risk for injury. By recycling your batteries, you can easily prevent one of the most common ways landfill fires start. Old batteries that are thrown in the garbage (specifically computer and other lithium batteries) can crack and get air inside which causes a reaction, sparking a fire. *FOLLOW THE BATTERY RECYCLING GUIDE BELOW!* The Solid Waste Agency accepts batteries for FREE inside the Resource Recovery building, 1954 County Home Road, Marion.





More than 500 tons of garbage is brought to the Solid Waste Agency landfill on County Home Road each day. Space for all that garbage is running out.

At current rates, the landfill will be full in February 2036. There will not be a new landfill built in Linn County Due to zoning restrictions and other factors. But even if there is not a landfill, there will still be at least 500 tons of garbage generated daily by Linn County residents and businesses.

The Solid Waste Agency board of directors is looking at options for how to handle the garbage once the landfill is closed. Residents and business customers need to know that all other options, including transfer stations (taking the garbage to a landfill that has space or to an alternative technology such as an incinerator) cost significantly more than landfilling.

How can you help? Make sure you are keeping everything out of the garbage that can be reused, donated, recycled, or composted. Keep the remaining landfill space for materials that truly are garbage.

Learn more about waste diversion opportunities at solidwasteagency.org

6 LandfillLink



living. together. green

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Executive Director Karmin McShane

Board Meetings Third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting agendas and minutes can be downloaded from the Agency's website

solidwasteagency.org



O-C-C! Only Clean Cardboard

Cardboard is banned from the landfill.

But the good news is, it can be RECYCLED FOR FREE at the Solid Waste Agency. If you are going to drop off cardboard inside the Resource Recovery building at 1954 County Home Road, Marion, remember those cardboard boxes need to be *empty, clean, and dry!*

Empty means absolutely no Styrofoam, no plastic wrap, and especially no wood. Some cardboard boxes used for delivery have wood framing glued to the inside of the box. If that is not removed, it can pose a serious injury risk to Agency staff when they put the cardboard boxes into a baler. Please help keep staff safe and recycle right. Make sure your cardboard is **OCC: Only Clean Cardboard!**

Winter Hours

During winter months, the number of customers using Solid Waste Agency services decreases greatly. Reducing the Agency's hours of operation over winter saves in fuel usage and wear on heavy equipment.

Winter Hours – Marion

Starting Monday, December 2, 2024 the Solid Waste Agency Landfill and Resource Recovery Building (located at 1954 County Home Road, Marion) will operate under winter hours:

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday* 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

*Appointment or commercial account is required to visit on a Saturday, even for recycling-only loads. Make your appointment at *solidwasteagency.org.*

Winter Hours – Cedar Rapids

The Solid Waste Agency Cedar Rapids yard waste and compost location at 2250 A Street SW will begin winter hours on Monday, December 2, 2024:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (closed Saturday and Sunday)



2024 Holiday Hours

CLOSED	Thanksgiving Thursday, November 28
Open normal winter hours	Day After Thanksgiving (Black Friday) Friday, November 29 Main office closed (phones not answered)
Open normal winter hours	Christmas Eve Day Tuesday, December 24 Main office closed (phones not answered)
CLOSED	Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25
CLOSED	New Year's Day Wednesday, January 1



Mount Trashmore is Closed for the Season; Reopens Spring 2025

The Mount Trashmore trails and overlook are closed for the season. More than 30,000 people visited in 2024! That is a new record! Trashmore Trails will be back and better than ever next spring when the weather allows!

A big congratulations to all Mount Trashmore Challenge participants. Organized by the Czech Village New Bohemia Main Street District, participants signed up to ascend Trashmore 140 times, the equivalent of scaling Mount Everest. More than 300 signed up for the challenge and around 60 of those participants completed the challenge this year. Great work!



CD, DVD, VHS, & Cassette Tape Recycling Available Now!

When is the last time you popped a VHS tape into your VCR or had to flip a cassette over in your boombox? You probably don't have a VCR or boombox anymore, or maybe not a DVD or CD player either.

If you have unwanted or unused **VHS tapes, CDs, cassettes, or DVDs**, you can now recycle them and their cases! They are all accepted for no charge in the Resource Recovery building at 1954 County Home Road, Marion. The materials collected at the Solid Waste Agency are taken by Goodwill of the Heartland and processed through their partnership with Dell Reconnect. This keeps them out of the landfill, helping preserve space for non-recyclable materials.



Holiday Recycling Notes!

The holiday season is getting closer. Whether you are making room for new stuff or getting rid of unwanted items, here is what you need to know about recycling and disposal.

What To Do With Unwanted TVs and Monitors

Recycle at the Solid Waste Agency, 1954 County Home Road, Marion, inside the Resource Recovery building. Fees are \$15 each (regardless of size and weight) or \$0.25 per pound for loads with 5 or more units.

What To Do With Electronics

Electronics such as DVD players, VCRs, stereos, and more (see above for TVs and monitors) can be recycled in the Resource Recovery building at the Solid Waste Agency Marion facility. There is no charge for residential-size loads; \$0.25 per pound for bulk/commercial-size loads.

What To Do With Christmas Lights

Recycle for free in the Resource Recovery building at the Solid Waste Agency Marion facility as part of the electronics recycling program. *They CANNOT be recycled curbside in any community.*

What To Do With Wrapping Paper

Throw away. It cannot be recycled because of the lack of good quality fiber and variety of shiny or foil coatings. Even paper that claims to be "recyclable" should be thrown away so it doesn't contaminate the rest of the recyclables! Consider using reusable gift bags instead!

What To Do With Plastic, Cardboard and Paper

Can be recycled for free in the Resource Recovery building at the Solid Waste Agency Marion facility.

What To Do With Batteries

Depends on the type of battery. Alkaline batteries (common AA, AAA, D, C and 9-volt) do not contain hazardous materials and can be thrown away in the garbage. Recycle rechargeable, lead acid, lithium, and automotive batteries. These types of batteries include hearing aid, watch, power tool, and car batteries. Linn County residents can drop them off for no charge in the Resource Recovery building at the Solid Waste Agency Marion facility.

What To Do With Christmas Trees

Accepted at the Solid Waste Agency, 2250 A Street SW location only for a \$10 flat fee. Check with your hauler as they may have rules for collecting the trees curbside. *Flocked trees* are considered a

garbage item. Check with your hauler/community for their disposal requirements.



Do you know how to dispose of your Christmas trees?

Clip and

Solid Waste Agency

Marion: 319-377-5290 **1954 County Home Rd**

Marion, Iowa 52302

i logala i loalo	Monday-Friday Saturday*	7 a.m4 p.m. 8 a.m12 p.m.
Winter Hours	Monday-Friday	7 a.m4 p.m.
(December-March)	Saturday*	8 a.m12 p.m.

*Saturdays by appointment or account only

Garbage (Landfill)

- \$48 per ton \$22 minimum
- Flat Rates for Personal Vehicles
- Cars \$12/vehicle
- SUVs, Crossovers, Wagons, Minivans \$15/vehicle Pickup Trucks, Full-Size Vans - \$22/vehicle
- Box Trucks, Cargo Vans \$48 minimum; will be weighed, includes U-Haul, Ryder, Penske trucks.
- Bulky Loads \$78 per ton, see list on website
- Mattresses \$20 ea. (separate charge from garbage tonnage/flat rates)
- Loads may be weighed at scale house discretion.
- Tipping fee doubles for loads containing recyclable cardboard: fines issued for other banned materials.
- All loads must be covered and secured. Fine for noncompliance: \$25 residential/\$100 commercial.
- Payment due at time of service cash. credit/debit card. or business check.
- Yard waste, brush & tree debris NOT accepted at this location.

Hazardous Materials Drop-Off

FREE to Linn County Residents (Businesses call for pricing) Drop off items in the

Resource Recovery Building to safely dispose of hazardous materials such as paint and lawn chemicals. See website for list of accepted items.

FREE Paint, Cleaners, Etc.

Pick Up for FREE

Hazardous materials received that can still be used are available "as is." Inventory changes daily.

Agency services provided to **Linn County residents** at these two locations

Cedar Rapids: 319-398-5163 2250 A Street, SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Regular Hours	Monday-Friday	8 a.m4 p.m.
(April-November)	Saturday	8 a.m12 p.m.
Winter Hours	Monday-Friday	8 a.m4 p.m.
(December-March)	Saturday	closed

Mt. Trashmore Trails & Overlook

solidwasteagency.org/mount-trashmore

- Check website for hours
- · All trail users must check in and bicyclists must sign liability waiver.

No Landfill/Garbage or Recycling **Drop-Off at this Location**

Yard Waste & Brush Disposal

\$30 per ton; \$10 minimum

- No longer accepts loads of tree debris brought in by semi-trailers, side-dump trailers, dump trucks, or other large equipment used in land-clearing.
- · Accepts commercial loads, all trailer loads, and
- any size residential loads. Brush, tree limbs, stumps less than 12" diameter,
- plant/grass clippings, leaves, Christmas trees.

Bulk Compost Pick-Up

FREE to Linn County Residents

\$30 per ton Commercial/business customers

Wood Chip Pick-Up

Sign-up for text alerts about weather-related closures. Text "Agency1" to 319-343-3861. Customers are responsible for unloading their vehicles or trailers! Agency staff are not authorized to help with unloading. Fees and hours subject to change without notice.

For the most up-to-date information visit **SolidWasteagency.org**

No Charge - while supplies last Call first for availability 319-398-5163

Residential Recycling (Businesses call for pricing)

Drop off recycling at the **Resource Recovery Building 1954 County Home Rd** Marion, Iowa 52302 319-377-5290

Items must be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

RECYCLING	NOT ACCEPTED	FEE
Antifreeze - Motor Oil - Oil Filters Must be in 5-gallon or smaller container(s)	20-gallon limit	FREE
Appliances - Includes PCB ballasts, microwaves, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, water heaters, etc.		\$10 ea.
Batteries - Lithium, lead-acid, rechargeable or vehicle batteries	No alkaline batteries – which can be discarded in garbage	FREE
Bicycles	No bike helmets	FREE
Books - Hardcover and softcover		FREE
Cardboard	No wax-coated, stained or greasy items	FREE
CDs - DVDs - VHS Tapes - Includes cases		FREE
Electronics - Copiers, printers, vacuum cleaners, stereos, computers, etc. <i>See TVs/monitors below.</i>	No Bulk loads – take bulk items directly to an electronics processor	FREE
Fluorescent Bulbs - (businesses \$1.32 per bulb)		FREE
Glass - Jars, bottles	No windows or sheet glass, mirrors, dishes, fish tanks, ceramics, light bulbs	FREE
Paper Products	No shredded paper, spiral notebooks, 3-ring binders, wrapping paper, photographs	FREE
Plastics - Containers #1 and #2 ONLY There are currently no recycling markets for #3, #4, #5, #6 or #7 plastics.	No Styrofoam, plastic bags/ film/wrap, pet food/feed bags, rigid plastic buckets, garbage cans, laundry baskets, flower pots, toys, hoses	FREE
Scrap Metal	No aluminum foil/pans, wire hangers, silverware	FREE
Syringes/Sharps	No sharps from home health businesses	FREE
Textiles - Shoes - Clothing, shoes, towels, curtains, tablecloths, fabric, etc. (regardless of condition)	Must be clean	FREE
Tires - Off Rim On Rim Bulk loads of more than 8 tires and large tires (semi, tractor) will be weighed and charged \$0.15/lb.	No tires from sales/repair businesses	\$4 ea. \$5 ea.
TVs & Monitors - All sizes; loads with 5 or more units will be weighed and charged \$0.25/lb.	No Bulk loads – take directly to an electronics processor	\$15 ea.