



# Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition

P.O. Box 1284 Escanaba, MI 49829

[www.uprecycles.org](http://www.uprecycles.org)

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## Recycling Begins At Home

People that are interested in recycling but do not feel they would make a difference have asked me, "Where do I start"?

Well, a person can begin with small steps. For example, if you know of a business or recycling center that takes your daily newspaper, start placing them aside in an old box that you may have lying around and drop it off when it's full. When you go into the facility, ask what other items they may take that you use. Better yet, if you have something else that you use on a regular basis that can be recycled – say, milk jugs, for example – ask if they take them. If they don't, ask where those can be dropped off and start saving those. Soon, you'll be able to put the time aside for dropping items off once a month, or whenever is convenient for you.

The art of recycling is getting into a routine. Many people consider it "a pain" to recycle. I guess rinsing out a milk jug or non-returnable aluminum can could be taking a few extra moments of your time, but it will keep more stuff from getting buried in a landfill somewhere. In the case of aluminum cans, your recycling can get you money back!

And it's amazing how little space it takes to save items to recycle! Sure, milk jugs can take up space, but if stored efficiently, one can use an old paper grocery bag and can store 10 jugs or more. I remember, as a kid, my aunt showed me how fun it was to squash the jug with my feet. She wanted to save room in the garbage can back then and rinsed out the jug so it wouldn't smell up the kitchen. To us kids, we just had a good time stomping the milk jug!

That's a good lesson also – make it fun to recycle for the youngsters when possible. Can crushers are also an excellent way to get the kids involved. Just remember that kids need to learn the safety aspect of recycling so they don't hurt themselves before operating any equipment.

Recycling also means reducing and reusing. Another lesson I've taken from my childhood is using old greeting cards for notepaper. To this day, most backs of those cards have the company name and coding for the grocery store on them, with plenty of room for writing. Likewise, the opposite side of the front of the card is often blank. A pair of scissors can cut them to the size you want, and you can place them by the phone, computer, or anywhere else you may take a note down. This shows how we can reuse an item that most people would throw in the recycle bin or garbage after its initial use. By reusing it, we reduce the need for other sources of writing paper.

Yes, recycling can be overwhelming if one tries to do too much at a time. But if we look at simple ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle around the house, you'll be amazed at what can be accomplished by one person!

Don't know where to start in your area of the U. P.? Just stop by the UPRC website - we'll be glad to help out!

[www.uprecycles.org](http://www.uprecycles.org)

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## Community Support Still Strong for TRICO Recycling Efforts

Both resident and business recycling continues to be on an increase at TRICO Opportunities, Inc. The facility, located in Kingsford, accepts newspapers, magazines and cardboard. Items may be dropped off free of charge during regular business hours. TRICO also offers a document destruction service for businesses that have confidential documents in need of being destroyed.

Since beginning the recycling effort in 2001, general public involvement has increased, with many people citing convenience as the major factor for dropping items off at the facility. Likewise, business contributions continue to increase. Many local businesses have noted a decrease in the need for emptying their garbage dumpsters by bringing cardboard to TRICO.

TRICO does pick up recycling from local businesses on a weekly basis. If your business would like to take advantage of this service, please call to coordinate a time/day for pick up of recycled items. 906-774-5718 Ext. 220.

## One Man's Trash .... Recycling Center is really cleaning up

ERIC BRADLEY ...Escanaba Daily Press...Saturday, June 21, 2003

When Jim Vicenzi looks over piles of waste paper, cardboard and toxic substances at the Delta County Landfill and Recycling Center, he sees a beautiful thing.

It means landfills aren't harboring old batteries, sheds are clean of paint, and those bundles of newsprint may someday become a child's toy. Better yet, the new center, 5701 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, makes it easier for county residents to recycle, said Vicenzi, Recycling Coordinator for Lakestate Industries.

"We can continue to keep recyclable materials from being discarded in the landfills and we can support Upper and Lower Peninsula and Wisconsin firms by shipping out resources to be turned into products," he said.

Lakestate is contracted to provide the labor to sort and separate the recyclable material. The \$400,000 project was paid through landfill revenues so no borrowing or taxing was necessary.

The merger creates a "one-stop shop" for those seeking to dump refuse and recycling materials. It even features a station where area residents can pick up free, useful items such as stains, metal cleaners, paints, furniture polishes and chemical strippers.

If not given away, the chemicals will eventually become part of some of the 21.7 tons of hazardous wastes the center has shipped away since 1998, said Cindy Rivers, landfill technician.

"Otherwise it would be in somebody's basement or worse, it could be leading in a landfill," she said.

It's the most diverse recycling center of its kind in the Upper Peninsula, she said. In fact, 18 to 20 percent of all Delta County waste is now recycled at the center.

Pallets made of cardboard, paper and used milk cartons are sold to firms that use them as raw materials.

Baling and packaging the materials is one reason why the county doubled the capacity of the facility. It also installed a new sorting line to help workers identify

## U.P. RECYCLING COALITION PROMOTES:

- ♻ Recycling, Reusing, Reduction
- ♻ Cooperative Recycling Programs
- ♻ Networking to share recycling ideas
- ♻ Recycling education and information
- ♻ Recycling product research & development

**"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT"**

## Star Industries ... the latest

Star Industries continues to recycle paper by the ton. A portion of Star's business consists of pickup and disposal of confidential documents from customers all over the UP, collecting about ten tons a week of paper. The paper is shipped to the Georgia Pacific/Ecosource mill in Green Bay where it is repulped, deinked, and remanufactured into various tissue products – along with hundreds of tons of paper from other sources. In other words, Star offers its' customers 100% destruction of the confidential material – it simply doesn't exist after Star is done with it.

Star also picks up and disposes of Undeliverable Bulk Business Mail, a.k.a. "junk mail", from a dozen or more post offices in the UP. About five or seven years ago Star arranged to get the UBBM from the Marquette post office, collecting about a thousand pounds each week. As Star's willingness to help the Post Office avoid the cost of regular landfill disposal became known, more and more post offices asked for the service. And recently another provider of the service quit doing it, so Star was offered still more opportunities to pick up the UBBM. Star now sends about five tons a week to Manistique Papers, where it is recycled into newsprint.

A few years ago Star opened it's doors to the public for drop-off of scrap paper such as newspapers, magazines, and other home-generated paper. Open from 8-2 Monday through Friday (to allow Star staff to minimize the amount of "contaminants" that might otherwise arrive with this household paper), the containers at Star receive two or three tons each week, all of which is sent to Manistique.

recyclable materials easier.

“We have enough space that we can store the bales until the price is right,” Escanaba City Council Member Craig Gierke said. Gierke is also head of the Landfill Authority Board.

Residents can drop off household or hazardous wastes for free between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. An appointment is necessary. Businesses will be charged a fee.



And then there’s the scrap from printing shops. Since many printing shops use a high-quality paper in their processes the waste is relatively valuable to the paper mill – it can be used as a feedstock in making high quality recycled paper. Star picks up a few tons per month of this “printer’s mix” and sends it to Manistique.

Hundreds of tons of discarded paper – millions and millions of pages --- recycled instead of landfilled. Changed from a liability to an asset. It’s another way Star Industries does business year in and year out. For more information about Star Industries you can visit [www.infodestruction.com](http://www.infodestruction.com).