

# Hunting Valley Summer of 2025 Recycling Update

Please join us for another **recycling event**, scheduled for **July 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## Hunting Valley Recycling 2025 Event Schedule (key events)

Day	Time	Event
<b>Friday 7/18</b>	8am - 3pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special collection drop-off (see below list)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Saturday 7/19</b>	9am - 2pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special collection drop-off</b></li> </ul>
	10am – 1pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shredding at Service Center</b></li> </ul>
	10am – 11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Master Planning review to gather resident input (including refreshments)</b></li> </ul>
	11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CVG fiber optics Representative answers questions</b></li> </ul>

### Special Collection Drop-off Items

<b>Shredding</b>	<b>Household hazardous waste*</b>	<b>Latex and oil-based Paint</b>
<b>Electronics</b>	<b>Scrap metal (appliances)</b>	<b>Fire extinguishers</b>
<b>Medications</b>	<b>Tires</b>	<b>Campaign signs</b>
<b>Holiday lights</b>	<b>Propane tanks</b>	<b>Batteries</b>

*Household hazardous waste must be in original containers and clearly labeled*

This event is a great opportunity for residents to conveniently and safely dispose of various, possibly dangerous, items cluttering our home, and give items a “second life” as a valuable commodity. **Last year, 50 households participated (~20%) in our second Special Collection. We successfully gathered 11,000 pounds (~10% of total recycling).** We also enjoyed ice cream while learning more about recycling.

- 2,000 pounds of latex paint
- 1,397 pounds of hazardous waste
- 3,400 pounds of shredding
- 1.5 pallets of electronics
- 3,160 pounds of scrap metal worth \$170
- Many TVs, bulbs and fire extinguishers

**This year, we will also take advantage of our recycling event to gather your input for an updated Hunting Valley’s Master Plan. The Strategic Plan written in 2023 provides the foundation for the Master Plan.**

As a result of these efforts and your ongoing involvement, our recycling rate improved again to 20.6% from 19.8% (excluding organics), keeping us in the top 10% of all Cuyahoga County communities! All that said, our neighbors still outperform us by 4%, so we know we can do even better!

***Special thanks to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District for their expertise and funding many elements of this event and our program! We also wish to thank NOPEC for refreshments for the events.***

Please contact Vic at 440-247-6106 if you can’t attend but have items to drop off or need help with big items.

## Please keep this newsletter for reference. It's a lot to digest!



Overall, we have one simple goal for recycling ... that each household make improvements this year so we can realize another 1% improvement. **Reducing landfill waste and increasing recycling both improve our results! You don't need to be a zealot; you only need to be better than last year! Just take one step forward!**

**If you don't recycle, begin today.** Even if you only focus on the basics (e.g., paper, glass and plastic bottles) your impact will be significant.

We all have two totes, please try to use them appropriately.

**Actively refresh your knowledge.** Revisiting our recycling best practices guide and the following lessons learned from 2022 is a great start (see attached table)

**Ensure all members of the house understand the basics.** Typically, 1-2 members of the home are very knowledgeable and motivated recyclers. Unfortunately, other family members may lack the enthusiasm to learn and properly follow-through. Review these materials with all. Make it a game and quiz each other

**Recycle beyond the kitchen.** Bedrooms (e.g., dry-cleaning cardboard, office junk mail), bathrooms (boxes) and less used parts of the house (e.g., garages, basements and attics) can produce recycling items but may require more effort and remember to respect recycling 101 rules

**Aggressively adopt reuse and donation opportunities.** Our totes are big and sometimes too easy to use for items that may have a better home. Simple examples include hangers to dry cleaners, scrap metal to HV service department, coffee pods to manufacturer and clothes to donation centers

**Try composting!** Composting can dramatically reduce landfill waste as compostable items represent up to 28% of what Americans put into landfills. In addition to the cost of processing, due to the anaerobic (i.e., lack of oxygen) nature of large landfills, the waste both takes an extremely long time to break down (e.g., many years), and when it does decay, it produces harmful methane and carbon dioxide. The arguments for composting are well documented and compelling! Basic steps to follow:

1. **Find a spot to compost.** You don't need a special container, but that is an option, just a hidden spot with room for the kitchen and yard waste (not sticks). A mix of items is best for results
2. **Allow room for multiple piles,** especially if you don't want to take time for turning each year. You will be surprised how quickly the pile size will decrease. On average piles decompose by 50%
3. **Putting piles at the edge of the property or using a trellis to hide it are options**
4. **Actively manage piles for best results:** Turn the piles with a pitchfork, rototill the piles in the spring, add worms, or best yet, use the older piles in the fall on the garden and landscaping ...
5. **... Or just let the compost piles decompose for Mother Nature**
6. See [https://cuyahogarecycles.org/how\\_to\\_compost/](https://cuyahogarecycles.org/how_to_compost/) for more information

**Become a recycling zealot!** When you have mastered the above points, please try to advance your knowledge through additional reading and research. Every day new products and ideas are developed. Please share what you learn with neighbors, friends and this committee. Thank you!

## Lessons Learned from Recycling Deep Dive for Weekly Recycling

1. *No plastic bags, flimsy plastic and tin foil*
2. *No hoses, Xmas lights, ropes etc. that tangle equipment*
3. *Keep recycling clean and dry*
4. *Eliminate broken glass*
5. *Keep small items out*
6. *Scrap metal goes to HV service center*
7. *Best to not recycle items with multiple types of materials*
8. *Some items have reached the end of their useful life*
9. *Focus on items out of the kitchen, not garage or garden*
10. *Continue to educate yourself and family*
11. *Reuse is better than recycling*

Lesson Learned	Details
1. <i>No plastic bags, flimsy plastic and tin foil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags, 6 pack holders, bubble wrap, berry containers, saran wrap are the #1 problem and source of contamination as they stop conveyor belts</li> <li>• Other flimsy items (e.g., tin foil and take out containers) will not make it through the process. Clean tin foil and aluminum trays go with scrap metal and can be given to the service department</li> <li>• Check with your local grocery store, Target or Kohl's for collection or go to <a href="http://plasticfilmrecycling.org">plasticfilmrecycling.org</a> for other options</li> </ul>
2. <i>No hoses, Xmas lights, ropes to tangle machines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long items that wrap around conveyors will stop equipment and require frequent cleaning at the recycling center</li> <li>• They also typically contain multiple materials requiring special handling</li> <li>• There are special collections for some items (e.g., Xmas lights)</li> </ul>
3. <i>Keep recycling clean and dry</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wet paper begins degrading immediately and is more difficult to handle, so it should be dry going into tote or paper dumpster</li> <li>• Please ensure the recycling tote lid is closed to keep recycling dry</li> <li>• All paper, including shiny cardboard and magazines is ok</li> <li>• Use the paper dumpster if you have too much paper / cardboard</li> <li>• Dirty items (e.g., pizza boxes) introduce contamination that hurts recycling quality for products made from recycled materials</li> <li>• Bottles, cans, etc. should have no liquid, but <b>don't need to be "bone dry"</b></li> </ul>
4. <i>Eliminate broken glass</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broken glass hurts workers. <b>It is dangerous, keep it out!</b></li> <li>• Amazingly, very little glass is broken during collection and sorting if it is the right type (e.g., bottles and jars with thicker walls)</li> <li>• Mason jars, drinking glass, window glass, tempered glass, etc., should not be included as their properties are different than food and beverage containers</li> </ul>
5. <i>Keep small items out</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smaller items are too small to be sorted and jam equipment</li> <li>• <b>Smaller than a credit card? NOT recyclable:</b> Straws, coffee pods, plastic cutlery, paperclips, loose caps or lids</li> <li>• Ok to recycle small caps if left on bottle and tops to cans if still attached</li> <li>• Loose metal tops, even in the can, can dislodge and harm the workers</li> </ul>

Lesson Learned	Details
<b>6. Scrap metal goes to HV service center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scrap metal can be valuable but requires additional sorting</b> by material type, not done through curbside recycling</li> <li>• Only cans and aluminum cups should be put into totes</li> <li>• Small metal boxes with metal tops (e.g., tea, cookie) go into curbside recycling tote, and if much larger (e.g., popcorn), it goes with scrap metal</li> </ul>
<b>7. Best to not recycle items with multiple types of materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling is broken into discrete streams by types of material: E.g., paper, plastic, cans, glass, cardboard</li> <li>• <b>Items made up of more than one type of material add extra steps</b></li> <li>• Examples: Detergent spouts (metal, plastic), fabric handles on paper bags, plastic handles on cardboard boxes, ice cream containers with wax liners, nut containers (metal, paper, plastic)</li> <li>• It is “nice” to remove handles and spouts but not critical</li> </ul>
<b>8. Some items have reached the end of useful life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Some items are already a product of recycled materials multiple times over and they cannot be recycled again</b></li> <li>• Examples: “Pulpy” items such as napkins, tissue and paper towels plus clamshells and black plastic take out containers</li> </ul>
<b>9. Focus on items out of the kitchen, not garage or garden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items from the kitchen are typically safer for later human use</li> <li>• <b>Items from the garage and garden may contain pesticides, oils and other harmful chemicals</b></li> <li>• Similarly, medicine bottles should not be recycled given residue and if full, can be brought to the Hunting Valley Police department</li> <li>• Empty bottles from above list can be thrown away with garbage</li> </ul>
<b>10. Continue to educate yourself and family</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New items were added to the recycling list and updates are expected</li> <li>• Go to <a href="https://cuyahogarecycles.org/">https://cuyahogarecycles.org/</a> for updated information, education opportunities and for specific questions regarding unique items, use the “What do I do with ... ” portion of the website at the top of the page</li> <li>• The site now has geo-location and is tailored for Hunting Valley. Confirm location says Hunting Valley in navigation bar</li> </ul>
<b>11. Reuse is better than recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reusing an item saves additional processing and energy</b> usage</li> <li>• There are many options for reuse for items such as freezer bags, furniture, clothing, paint samples, cell phones, printer ink cartridges and plastic landscaping pots, vehicle batteries, 20# propane tanks</li> <li>• The HV recycling website will be updated to share valuable information. You can also go to <a href="http://www.cuyahogarecycles.org/pass_it_on_book/">www.cuyahogarecycles.org/pass it on book/</a> for more ideas</li> <li>• Please send in ideas to Sherri at Village Hall</li> </ul>

As always, if you have any questions or recommendations, please contact one of the committee members.

Thank you again for your continued support and finding ways to recycle even smarter!!

**Chris DeMilta, Nicky Foster, Jim Hickey, Teri Koslen, Madelaine  
Mavec, Bobbi Pincus, Ellen Resnik, Sherri Gambrill, Michael Clements,  
Joyce Cieslak, Victor Strauss and Harry Hawkes Jr.**