



August 19, 2021

Dear Recycling Community –

You likely already know this, but the City of Mobile's Recycling Drop-Off sites are currently closed.

Here's why:

The City of Mobile takes your recyclables to the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) in Escambia County, Florida where they are separated, processed, and then sold. That facility had a terrible fire on July 15 and is closed to outside contracts (like the City of Mobile and [Jackson County, MS](#); but even [local materials aren't being recycled](#)). We are encouraging you to use the [Mobile County Recycling Center](#) located at 7450 Hitt Road until ours reopen.

Here's how recycling works in the City of Mobile:

We decided in 2017 to transition to a "single stream collection method" to encourage more citizens to recycle. Citizens are not required to sort their recyclables within the City limits and have access to two drop off locations: Midtown's 308 Pinehill Drive (between Government and Airport) and West Mobile's 4851 Museum Drive in Langan Park.

The theory behind the decision to go single stream is that when recycling is more convenient and less confusing, more people recycle. Additionally, people who recycle are less tolerant of litter making recycling an excellent litter prevention tool.

Under normal circumstances, the two Recycling Drop Off Locations are staffed by City of Mobile Public Services team members between 7-5pm, Monday through Friday and 7am-4pm Saturday and Sunday. Team members help you get the right items into the roll away containers, the containers compact the recyclables until the container is full. When it is full, it is taken to ECUA for processing. ECUA, the nearest MRF – Materials Recovery Facility, machine sorts recyclables first and then hand sorts the materials. After sorting, they sell the recyclables to the highest bidder for each item.

Mobile County Recycling Center is separate from the City's program. Since the County does not use "single stream", their materials require separation. That also enables them to process and then individually sell the materials.

Why Recycle?

Recycling is a very important component of reducing and/or eliminating litter in our local community because it eliminates trash at the source. Recycling is good for the global environment because it saves: water, energy, original/natural materials, and space at landfills. reduces emissions, and ultimately saves money. The best way for recycling to be effective and sustainable long-term, is for us to purchase recycled materials – that closes the loop. The good news is the market for materials is picking up after crashing several years ago and recycling is starting to be less costly.

We are asking for your patience, and we are asking you to continue to recycle once we are able to reopen. Recycling is a lifestyle and requires a thoughtful change in behavior. We appreciate your commitment to a Litter-Free Mobile.

Thank you,

Casi (kc) Callaway
Chief Resilience Officer

PS - In the next few weeks, the city will enlist the University of South Alabama to conduct a recycling survey. We hope you will take a few minutes to honestly answer the questions posed if you get the call.