

FAQ's-Frequently Asked Questions-

Q: What types of items can I bring to your facility?

A: We operate as both a recycling center and a solid waste transfer station, so you can bring a wide variety of materials.

Recyclables. We accept most recyclable items at no charge. Some specialty items require a fee due to handling and processing requirements, including TV's and monitors, tires, appliances, pallets and clean wood waste, and some items from businesses. Call for more information.

Solid waste is fee-based (Garbage & Construction Debris). There is a \$20 minimum charge per load, which covers up to 600 pounds of waste. After 600 pounds, the cost pro-rates to the per-ton fee, and you pay only for the additional weight—not a full ton—unless your load actually reaches that amount.

For full details on accepted materials, fees, and special handling requirements, please visit our Services tab.

Q: Why do TV's and Computer Screens cost so much to recycle? A: We charge only a portion of the fee to legally recycle your tv/monitor. The cost to do this is expensive, if it is being done legally. We cover a portion of the fee for every unit we accept and can get you a document to certify that your e-waste has been legally recycled.

Q: Can someone help me unload my tv or appliance when I bring it? A: While we love to be helpful when you visit our facility, our insurance carrier will not allow us to do any unloading of materials due to liability concerns. Please bring help to unload.

Q: Where does our recycling go after we bring it to you? A: We bale some material on site and use mills in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin to market our recyclables to. Some commingled materials are sent to another processor to sort and bale. All recycling, as long as it is recyclable, is processed.

Q: Do you take construction and demolition debris? A: Yes, we can take C&D waste, but it must meet the 6' long or shorter length requirements. Large demolition jobs are managed on a case-by-case basis but must be managed through our facility or direct hauled to the Carroll County Landfill. Please remember, prior approval to direct haul is needed.

Q: Why does the Recycling Center charge a fee for appliances?

In Iowa, all appliances must be demanufactured by a certified appliance demanufacturer before they can be recycled. This process ensures that hazardous materials—such as refrigerants, mercury, oils, and other regulated components—are removed and managed safely and legally. Because we use a permitted, certified demanufacturer to process appliances, we pay a fee for each item. Our appliance recycling fee simply covers the cost of this required service.

Q: Can I give my appliance to someone who will take it for free?

Be cautious. If someone offers to remove appliances at no cost, they are likely not certified and

may not be handling hazardous materials legally. Improper disposal can harm the environment and may violate state and federal regulations.

Q: Why is certification important?

Certified demanufacturers follow strict environmental rules to ensure that hazardous materials are removed, captured, and disposed of properly. This protects public health, prevents illegal dumping, and ensures compliance with Iowa law.

Q: I hear that landfills are bad, why don't we just burn the garbage instead of sending it to the landfill? A: Burning garbage or other waste is not an effective or safe way to manage materials. Open burning releases harmful emissions into the air we all breathe and leaves behind ash that can settle onto soil, plants, and water sources. These impacts pose risks to both public health and the environment.

Q: What do I do when I arrive at your facility? A: If you have materials to dispose of, pull onto the scale and come inside the office for instructions.

Q: Are landfills bad for the environment?

A: Modern landfills—especially in Iowa—are highly engineered facilities designed to protect the environment and public health. While older, unregulated dumps did cause environmental problems, today's landfills operate under strict state and federal regulations to ensure waste is managed safely. Liners are installed to prevent waste from contacting soil, leachate collection systems are installed to capture and treat wastewater, groundwater wells are installed to ensure no contamination occurs, gas monitoring occurs regularly to ensure no methane gas is created, daily cover is used to control litter, odors, and pests, and regular inspections and reporting are done to maintain compliance. These systems work together to keep waste contained and prevent environmental harm.

Q: Is burning waste a good way to reduce waste going to the landfill? A: Some people consider burning waste to avoid landfilling, but open burning is dangerous and often illegal. It releases harmful emissions into the air and leaves behind toxic ash. Even waste-to-energy facilities require special permits and are extremely expensive to operate. The best approach is Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. While landfills are safe and necessary, recycling and waste reduction remain the best ways to conserve resources and extend landfill life.

Q: My garbage or Recycling was not collected, why? A: We do not do collection, so you need to contact your city or hauler directly to find out why.