



Adopt-A-Road

An average mile of highway contains about 16,000 pieces of litter. Knox County has about 2,000 miles of roadway.



The Adopt-A-Road program is a citizen-based litter prevention initiative intended to protect the health and serenity of our local roadsides and encourage upkeep of a beautiful Knoxville. Here's how you get started helping:

- 1) Gather a team and select a coordinator.
- 2) Pick a section of road to adopt.
- 3) Commit to **annually** conducting four roadside litter pick-ups.
- 4) Contact Adopt-A-Road.

Adopting a road is a great way to protect your local environment, give back to the community, and preserve the beauty of our city.

The application for the program is available for download at the Knox County Solid Waste Department website: http://www.knoxcounty.org/solid_waste/litter.php . Once you have scheduled a clean-up, the program will provide you with gloves, bags, vests, and signs. For any further questions, contact litter@knoxcounty.org .

* Source: Knoxville Recycling Coalition (KRC)

Small Steps...

- ◆ **Put recycling bins next to your trash cans.** This provides a reminder not to throw recyclables in the trash.
- ◆ **Buy in bulk.** Bulk purchasing reduces the amount of packaging on items.
- ◆ **Take reusable shopping bags to stores instead of using disposable plastic bags.**
- ◆ **Use a reusable water bottle instead of purchasing bottled water.**
- ◆ **Crush your aluminum cans before recycling.** Crushing cans will reduce the amount of space they require so more can fit in a recycling bin. Can crushers can be purchased for \$10.

Did you know?

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours or a 100 W light bulb for 4 hours.

Only 51.5 percent of the paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling in 2005. We are halfway there. Let's aim for 100%!

Metal theft is becoming common. Stealing metal from municipal bins or curbside bins is illegal. The recycling companies are funded largely by the reselling of this metal they collect.*



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

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Citizen's Guide to Sustainability

Recycling & Waste Reduction



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Office of Energy and Sustainability
City County Building, Room 655

Phone: 865-215-2029

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E-mail: Sustainability@cityofknoxville.org

Big Steps... Build a Home Compost System

TOOLS

1x Shovel

Wire mesh, chicken wire, or an equivalent (enough to be the perimeter of the compost pile)

Branches or brush to serve as bottom layer

Kitchen and/or yard waste

1x garden hose

1. Pick a location for your pile that is out of the way, yet convenient for you to be able to easily dispose of kitchen food scraps.
2. Using a digging fork, "turn over" the soil that will be beneath the pile. This will help expose a healthy supply of decomposing microorganisms to your pile.
3. Construct an enclosure with your wire mesh or chicken wire. This will be the container for compost.
4. Layer the bottom of the enclosure with branches and/or brush. This layer will help aerate the bottom of the compost pile to speed up the decomposition process.



Step-by-step information provided by the City of Knoxville Solid Waste department. Picture (above) by: Cultivatorscorner.com



The Beardsley Community Farm, a part of Knox County CAC, maintains a three-compartment compost system. When turning the compost, they shift it to the next compartment so that each section is in a different stage of decomposition.

5. Add your kitchen waste and yard waste to the pile. Occasionally spray it to ensure the pile is uniformly moist. Compost should stay damp enough that a few drops can be squeezed out of a handful.
6. You may turn the pile occasionally to speed up the composting process. Turning the pile involves shifting layers of compost from the top to the bottom. Rates of compost vary, but you can expect finished compost within 3-12 months.

WHERE TO BUY A COMPOST BIN

Knoxville Recycling Coalition—\$60 for a plastic compost bin

Sam's Club—\$60 for a plastic compost bin

Walmart—\$40 for a flexible plastic container

Home Depot—\$30 for a flexible plastic container

Finished compost used as a mulch conserves moisture, reduces erosion, buffers plants from temperature extremes, adds nutrients, and suppresses weeds. Adding compost as a soil enricher improves soil structure and makes nutrients more available.

HOW TO GET CURBSIDE PICK-UP

Contact for more information:

WASTE CONNECTIONS

(865) 522-0078

[HTTP://WWW.WASTECONNECTIONSTN.COM](http://www.wasteconnectionstn.com)

(cut off this section and post near recycling bin)

The following items are accepted at Knox County Solid Waste Convenience Centers. To find a center near you, visit their website: http://www.knoxcounty.org/solid_waste/recycling.php

- ◆ Plastics #1-7
- ◆ Mixed Paper (except at Carter, Dutchtown, and Karns convenience centers)
- ◆ Cardboard (only at Dutchtown, Forks of the River, Halls, and John Sevier convenience centers)
- ◆ Newspaper
- ◆ Aluminum Cans
- ◆ Steel Cans
- ◆ Glass (clear, green, and brown)
- ◆ Scrap Metal (appliances, grills, other scrap)
- ◆ Car Batteries
- ◆ Propane Cylinders
- ◆ Auto Waste (used oil, oil filters, used anti-freeze)
- ◆ Tires
- ◆ CFL Lightbulbs
- ◆ Mercury Thermometers and Thermostats



A clearly labeled mixed-paper dumpster at the Powell Convenience Center.