



Flathead County Fairgrounds Recycle Bin Loan Program

Want to recycle and go green at your next fairgrounds event?

The Flathead County Fairgrounds provides an easy way to accomplish this goal with our Recycle Bin Loan Program. Our bins can help your organization promote recycling at any fairgrounds event, including school activities, community gatherings, holiday celebrations, business conferences, fairs, and more.

- ◆ Our recycle bins are large, lightweight 60-gallon bins that can be used inside or outside to collect plastic and metal bottles and cans.
- ◆ There is no cost to rent the bins.
- ◆ **The Fairgrounds has up to 50 bins available.**
- ◆ Bins are reserved on a first come, first served basis. Call the Fairgrounds at 758-5810 for availability.
- ◆ We recommend that you place bins near every trashcan for improved results.

Why Recycle in the Flathead?

Recycling provides numerous benefits for our community.



- **Recycling creates jobs.** 10 recycling jobs are created for every 1 landfill job. There are 50 recycling jobs in the Flathead Valley alone.
- **Recycling saves money.** The Flathead County Fairgrounds spends an estimated \$10,000 a year on waste management, including hauling costs and tipping fees. Diverting recyclables can dramatically reduce the volume of garbage headed to the landfill. Valley Recycling is partnering with this project to help collect recyclables from the Fairgrounds.
- **Recycling makes money.** Recyclable material has value when it is properly sorted. County residents spend \$30.50 to throw away a ton of garbage at the Flathead County Landfill. In contrast, the May 2014 market rate for a ton of #1 or #2 plastics was \$480.
- **Recycling saves resources.** Aluminum can be recycled an infinite number of times with no loss in quality. Recycling one pound of aluminum saves the mining of 8 pounds of bauxite ore and 4 pounds of chemicals. Recycling one ton of plastic saves the equivalent of 3.85 barrels of oil.
- **Recycling saves energy.** Twenty recycled aluminum cans are made with the same amount of energy needed to produce one can using virgin ore. Recycling just one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for almost 10 hours.



How To Use the Fairgrounds Recycling Bins

1. Notify the Fairgrounds at 758-5810 that you would like to use the recycling bins for your event, and how many you'll need. If you need help figuring out how many bins to use, complete the Recycling Planning Worksheet or call the WasteNot office at 756-8993.
2. The bins are designed and signed to accept metal cans and #1 and #2 plastics only. Only metals and plastics #1 and #2 should go into the recycling dumpster provided at the fairgrounds.
→ If you'd like to collect other materials, like glass or cardboard, you can collect these separately and bring to one of the public drop-off sites. Contact WasteNot at 756-8993 for more information and possible loan of additional recycling bins for collecting these materials.
3. We will provide you with a simple form to track how much recycling is collected at the event. To increase the recycling at your event we can provide you a food vendor guide and survey to distribute. We can provide signs and handouts to promote countywide recycling.
→ For best result, get vendor guide to vendors as early as possible in the planning process so they can plan to use materials that are recyclable.
4. Setting up: Always place recycling bins next to trashcans. Line each bin with a bag to collect recycling (bags provided by Fairgrounds). Place recycling bins so that rain does not fill them.
5. During the event check the recycling bins periodically and replace full bags with empty bags. Check bags for trash and items that are not locally recyclable and remove.
6. Empty full bags of recyclable materials to the dumpster identified for recycling at the fairgrounds. ***NO plastic bags or trash should go into the dumpster with the recyclables!***
7. You may want to bring some towels/rags for wiping down the bins when packing up.
8. You are responsible for both recycling bin set up and take down. Bins **MUST** be disassembled and returned to the designated storage area at the fairgrounds after the event.



Thank you for recycling at your event!

The WasteNot Project: Working to reduce waste and increase recycling in the Flathead since 1995

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Allison or Mayre at the WasteNot project.
Phone: 756-8993 • Email: WasteNot@flatheadcitizens.org