

Generic Municipal Ordinance

WHEREAS, Arkansas, the Natural State made a commitment to recycle with ACT 749 of 1991 requiring every state agency, college or university, county, city and public school have in-house recycling programs; and

WHEREAS Arkansas citizens and businesses are also vital in protecting our natural resources and in the success of promoting reduction and reuse as well as reducing litter, and ensuring proper disposal of garbage, tires, household hazardous waste, electronic waste, and the recycling of various materials such as batteries, paper, plastic, cardboard, metals, glass, food and yard waste, clothes, etc.; and

WHEREAS, municipal recycling programs designate various types of materials to be separated from the waste stream with the intent that these materials will be recycled, meaning made into new products and returned to the market place; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arkansas recognize that materials are not recycled unless they are made into new product and returned to the market place; and

WHEREAS, a public trust exists when Arkansas citizens participate in municipal or county recycling programs and these citizens rightfully expect that materials collected will in fact be recycled; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the materials collected for recycling by government and/or private companies are **not** being recycled, either because collected materials are contaminated or there are not economically viable markets for the materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the Natural State deserve transparency and accountability regarding the ultimate destination of their collected material, whether collected by a government entity or a private company and citizens deserve transparency and accountability regarding the percentage of collected recyclable materials that end up buried in a landfill, used as daily landfill cover, or incinerated or used as fuel in a waste-to energy (WTE) facility.

WHEREAS, recycling is **not** free. There are costs involved with recycling just as there are costs in collecting garbage: trucks, fuel, salaries, insurance, equipment, utilities, maintenance, workers compensation, etc.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF _____, Arkansas that the following will be required, whether private company or public entity, collects, processes, and/or sells recyclables for our community:

1. A recycling accountability and transparency clause stating that any (unannounced) person may watch the recycle trucks dump their recycle loads in real time so said person can see what is actually in the trucks.
2. That all trucks carrying recyclable materials be equipped with global positioning systems (GPS) so citizens can see where the trucks are actually going, to a recycling facility, a landfill, incinerator or WTE.
3. Recycling facilities shall be equipped with cameras allowing citizens access to a real-time feed of the dumping area, the sort lines, baling area, and garbage bins. This shall be available to the public via internet.
4. Billing for waste and recycle services, whether public or private, shall clearly denote the cost of recycling, separate from the cost of waste collection. To this end, recycling and waste collection shall be listed as separate line items.
5. Quarterly reports will be posted on a local government website accounting for the volumes collected, the volumes contaminated, the recycled volumes, as well as the buyer for each recycled material.