

ALPAR LITTER PREVENTION & RECYCLING RESOURCES

Live out America Recycles Day on Nov. 15th and every day of the year

Our mission: Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) is a privately funded, nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating litter and increasing economically-viable recycling in Alaska.

What we do: Founded in 1982 by a group of dedicated business leaders in Alaska, ALPAR's programs help clean up litter across the state, assist railbelt recycling centers through shipping agreements, and help rural areas recycle aluminum cans.



ALPAR programs:

Adopt-a-bike path (Anchorage area)

ALPAR volunteers adopt bike paths in Anchorage and keep them free of litter throughout snow-free months. Adopters agree to three-year commitments caring for 1-2 miles of trail; minimum of three cleanups per year during the summer. (*Volunteers and signage for Anchorage's Adopt-a-garden, Adopt-a-trail, Adopt-a-park, Adopt-a-road, are coordinated by the MOA; Alaska's Adopt-a-highway is coordinated by Alaska DOT; creek cleanup is coordinated through the Anchorage Waterways Council*).

Can-Do Kids (Anchorage area)

Kids can do a great job of recycling while earning pocket money and prizes when they turn in aluminum cans at the WestRock Anchorage Recycling Center. Pick up a Can-Do Kids kit at the recycling center.

Christmas tree recycling (Anchorage, Eagle River and Palmer)

Christmas trees dropped off in designated areas at select CARRS/Safeway stores are recycled into wood chips for local trails. Trees must be free of all lights, decorations and not in a bag; live trees only; no wreaths. Program dates vary – generally the end of December through mid-January. Major sponsors: **CARRS/Safeway and the Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services.**

Youth Litter Patrol (statewide)

ALPAR funds organizations which provide summer employment for youth 14-17 years old. Youth help rid communities of litter and remind everyone to dispose of litter properly. Annual application deadline is April 1st. Sponsoring organizations are responsible for hiring, supervision, scheduling, record keeping, insurance and filing the final report; the latter is due Oct. 1st. (*ALPAR does not accept applications from individuals – i.e. youth must go through sponsoring organization.*) Major sponsor: **ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.**

Volunteer community cleanup (statewide)

Volunteers all over the state pitch in to help clean up their communities every spring. ALPAR supplies more than 200,000 bright yellow cleanup bags to 160 communities across Alaska every year. Since 1990, we've given away over 2 million bags to help clean up Alaska. Major sponsor: **Alaska Oil and Gas Association.**

Recycling shipping agreements (statewide)

ALPAR supports recycling in railbelt communities (Anchorage, Kenai, Mat-Su Valley, Copper Valley, and Fairbanks) through agreements with various businesses and municipalities to backhaul recyclables to markets Outside. Major sponsors: **Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Horizon Lines of Alaska, Lynden/Alaska Marine Lines, Alaska Railroad and Weaver Brothers.**

Flying Cans (rural Alaska only)

Rural communities (off the road system and without solid waste aluminum can recycling options) throughout Alaska collect aluminum cans bound for recycling. Major sponsors: **Northern Air Cargo and the member airlines of the Alaska Air Carriers Association.**

Information, applications and resources at www.alparalaska.com

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ALPAR litter prevention & recycling resources

In an effort to reduce, reuse and recycle, our resources have gone online. For information including interactive and downloadable guides specific to where you live, go to the [Recycling Resources](http://www.alparalaska.com) page on www.alparalaska.com

Recycling: Getting started at home... While recycling may feel universal, the truth is only slightly more than half of Americans can recycle at home as easily as they can throw something away, but together we're working to change this and transform recycling for good.

Learn what can be recycled in your area

- Visit ALPAR's website to find resources like interactive or downloadable recycling guides specific to where you live.
- If you have multiple people in the household wanting to help, make sure they know what items cause contamination or sorting troubles.

Examine what's in your trash

- Start with recycling the items you use the most. Novices often start with cardboard and aluminum cans, then add more once they see their success.
- Empty containers of liquids or food waste.
- Most items come from the kitchen so try to "twin the bin" by placing trash and recycling containers side by side. Once you have that down, put bins in the bathroom and laundry area.

Parse out dedicated space for collecting and sorting

- Accomplished recyclers have an area set aside that matches the volume they collect.
- The space can be as small as the lower section of a closet or as large as the wall in your garage – you decide based on your ambition and ability to roust support from those in your household.
- Sorting bins can be old laundry baskets for starters. Stacking bins provide the best use of small spaces. Use what is most convenient, cost effective and easy to handle.

Assess how much time it will take

- Once you have a system set up, collecting and preparing recyclables should only take a few minutes each day.
- Whether your local refuse company provides a bin or you take recyclables to a drop off center, take a full load to save time and gas.

RECYCLING MYTHS

Myth #1: Recycling is hard

No, it isn't – recycling is as easy as throwing something in the trash. Arm yourself with a list of what is accepted in your community, and "twin the bin" by pairing your trash cans with recycling containers side by side for success.

Myth #2: If something has the recycling arrows on it, it's recyclable, right?

Not always – those little arrows refer to the type of plastic the items were made from, not how recyclable they are. Check with your local waste/recycle facility before you put it in the bin.

Myth #3: Compostable items can be put in recycle bins

Nope – composting and recycling happen in different ways. Food waste and compostable items should not be put in recycling bins. Check with your waste hauler to see if community compost or curbside organics collection service is available.

Myth #4: bag your recyclables

Depends on where you live:

- in Anchorage**, leave your recyclables loose and free! Bags cause tangles in the sorting machines and contaminate the load, making the recyclables less valuable, or worse, bound for the landfill.
- In the Mat-Su**, check with your recycle center or waste hauler as standards vary.

Myth #5: I think the garbage truck mistakenly picked up my recycling and mixed it in with the trash

Not quite – some communities use the same trucks for both recycling and trash. Don't worry, if you put it in the right bin, your recycling is taken to a sorting facility to be baled/sold to markets Outside.

ALPAR sponsors Thank you to those who make recycling and litter prevention possible in Alaska

