Newsletter & Social Media Example Content

Topic: “Wish Cycling”

Newsletter Content:

Recycling saves resources, prevents pollution, supports our health, and creates jobs. It keeps trash off our roads, away from our waterways, and out of landfills (which will run out of space one day). Glass, aluminum, steel, plastic bottles, and paper are easily recyclable and can be turned into new glass, aluminum, steel, plastic bottles, and paper and other products, like carpet, car parts, construction materials, or clothing. These items can be recycled more than once—some indefinitely.

Nearly 90% of what we throw away could be recycled. However, not everything we put in the recycling bin can be recycled, even if we want it to. You should never put anything in the recycling bin that isn’t allowed by your recycling program. For example, glass is recyclable, but if your recycling program doesn’t take glass, it shouldn’t go in there. Putting items that don’t belong can cause more harm than good. Contamination costs time and money at the recycling center. Contaminants must be sorted from viable recyclable materials to prevent damage to recycling machines and to prevent foods or liquids from ruining other materials. Items that you might think are recyclable in your curbside bin or drop off center, but aren’t, include plastics bags, clothing, electronics, food, and yard waste, though there may be services available to help you reuse, donate, or properly discard those items. Check with [your municipality or waste hauler] to find out what recycling options are available in our community and what items are acceptable for pick up or drop off.

[insert any additional information specific to your community such as phone numbers or hours to local recycling centers, local curbside recycling schedules and a list of accepted items, or locations and events where residents can bring hard to recycle items. This information can also be added to the example social media post language below.]

Social Media Content:

* Recycling saves resources, prevents pollution, and creates jobs. However, not everything is recyclable. Plastic bags or flexible plastics sheets and packaging are not typically recyclable in curbside bins or community drop-off programs. You should take those back to participating local retailers. Visit [bagandfilmrecycling.org](https://bagandfilmrecycling.org/) to find a drop-off location near you.
* Just because you want something to be recyclable, doesn’t mean it is. Clothes and other textiles don’t belong in the recycle bin. If they are in good condition and you can’t find a use for them, consider donating them to a local charity or thrift store. Or, you may just need to throw them away. Check with [your local municipality or waste hauler] for information about disposal of used clothing or textiles.
* Garden hoses, strings of holiday lights, hangers, and extension cords may seem like they are recyclable in your bin or drop-off center, but they aren’t. These items can wrap around equipment at a recycling center and shut down an entire facility – costing time and money to repair. You may be able to find a retailer who will take the “tanglers” or maybe you can re-use them in a fun craft, but you may also need to simply throw them away with your regular trash. Check with [your municipality or waste hauler] to find out what trash disposal options are available in your community and what items are acceptable for pick up or drop off.
* Polystyrene foam, more commonly known by the name brand “Styrofoam,” is recyclable in some drop off centers in the region, but for the most part, this material does not belong in your curbside bin. To find a drop-off program near you for foam packing or peanuts or any other type of material that may not be easily recyclable in your area, visit earth911.com and search for the items in or around your zip code.

Other Helpful Links & Resources:

* Bag and Film Recycling location finding website: <https://bagandfilmrecycling.org/>
* Earth911 website: <https://earth911.com/>

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