

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

***Thanks to all of you for recycling items curbside through the Town of Cary!*** It shows your “adoption of a sustainable lifestyle,” which is one of the goals of Pope Francis’ ***Laudato Si’*** encyclical.

Here’s some interesting tidbits regarding curbside recycling:


- Shredded paper is no longer accepted.
- Cardboard that gets wet is no longer a viable product for recycling so be sure you close the lid on your recycling bin.
- Be sure **NOT** to include any plastic bags in your recycling cart.

The type of items that can be placed in the Town of Cary recyclable carts is limited. Thankfully, there are local stores and organizations that offer additional recycling or reuse opportunities. The subsequent RECYCLE/ REUSE REFERENCE TABLE identifies such stores and organizations. If you are aware of other opportunities, please email them to [ENVIRONMENT@STMCARY.ORG](mailto:ENVIRONMENT@STMCARY.ORG).


Another way to reduce waste is to repair items that are broken. The **Repair Café NC** offers free workshops to people throughout NC, including in Cary. They have tools and experienced volunteers to work with you to find the best way to repair your item (scheduled events: <https://www.repaircafenc.org/upcoming-events>).

As a parish, together we can make a BIG impact!



## RECYCLE / REUSE REFERENCE TABLE

Recyclable/Reuseable Item(s)	Comments	Store/Organization Accepting Item(s)	More Information
<b><u>BAD</u> string of Christmas lights</b> 	<p>If you have a string of Christmas lights that are no longer working, please save them for the next light string collection hosted by the St Michael Environmental Stewardship ministry.</p>	<p>The St Michael Environmental Stewardship Ministry will be hosting a collection of bad light strings from <b>January 3rd thru February 8th 2026</b>.</p>	<p>The light strings will be recycled through Foss Recycling in Raleigh and proceeds will be used to fund our ministry efforts.</p>
<b>Electronic items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old desktop computers</li> <li>• Laptop computers</li> <li>• LCD monitors</li> <li>• Peripherals (microphones, keyboards, hard drives, RAM, flash drives, power cords, VGA cables, etc.)</li> <li>• Servers</li> <li>• Enterprise networking equipment</li> <li>• Tablets</li> <li>• Cellphones</li> <li>• Technology of any age, make &amp; condition</li> </ul>	<p>Details can be found in the St Michael the Archangel Church bulletin and eNewsletter before the event, including what items will and will NOT be accepted.</p>	<p>The Environmental Stewardship Ministry along with the AAMEN Ministry hope to host a <b>St Michael E-Waste Recycling Collection Day</b> every other year at St Michael the Archangel Church. The last one was November 2, 2024.</p>	<p>This collection is done in partnership with Kramden Institute, who refurbishes the collected items and distributes them to people in the community who need them. Their website: <a href="https://kramden.org/">https://kramden.org/</a></p>
<b>Accessibility aids:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkers</li> <li>• Canes</li> <li>• Crutches</li> <li>• Toilet top extender</li> <li>• Shower seats</li> <li>• Portable commode</li> <li>• Bed side protectors</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<p>Also, if you know someone in need of an accessibility aid, you can see a staff member in the store or go to the donation drop-off in the back and ask for the item they need.</p>	<p><b>Dorcas Thrift Shop</b> at 187 High House Rd in Cary</p>	


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<p><b>Compost items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Food scraps &amp; leftovers (raw/cooked):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fruits/vegetables</li> <li>• Eggs/eggshells</li> <li>• Meat/bones</li> <li>• Solid dairy like cheese</li> <li>• Grains</li> <li>• Breads/baked goods</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Pizza boxes</b></li> <li>● <b>Coffee grounds, coffee filters, and teabags</b></li> <li>● <b>Napkins/paper towels</b></li> <li>● <b>Paper plates</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove plastic stickers (e.g., on banana peels)</li> <li>• Food soiled or clean cardboard pizza boxes are accepted, but remove all liners, foil, and condiment packaging</li> <li>• Tea bags should <b>NOT</b> include plastic</li> <li>• Food soiled napkins and paper towels are accepted, but do <b>NOT</b> include items used with cleaning products/chemicals</li> <li>• Only non-coated/non-glossy plates are accepted</li> </ul>	<p><b>Town of Cary's Food Waste pilot program</b></p> <p><b>Locations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Citizen's Convenience Center</b> at 313 N. Dixon Avenue</li> <li>• <b>Mills Park</b> at 425 Mills Park Drive</li> </ul>	<p>All material is composted by a local facility and some of that finished compost is used at the <b>Good Hope Farm</b>.</p> <p>BFI bags are provided on site for collecting items at home. If you sign up for a compost class with the Town of Cary, you can get a kitchen caddy (if offer is still available).</p>
<p><b>Cosmetic/Beauty packaging purchased from ANY retailer</b></p> 	<p>Must be clean, empty and on their list of acceptable packaging.</p> <p>See the FAQ on the provided website for GREAT tips on how to clean your empties including mascara tubes, lipstick tubes, pumps, etc.</p>	<p><b>Ulta Beauty</b> store 2116 Village Market Place in Morrisville (919)463-0522</p> <p>or</p> <p><b>Ulta Beauty</b> store 409 Crossroads Blvd in Cary (919)859-1970</p> <p>Beauty Dropoff bin is by order pickup station or register.</p>	<p>For more details: <a href="https://www.pactcollective.org/ultaxpact">https://www.pactcollective.org/ultaxpact</a></p>



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<b>Creative and miscellaneous materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art supplies</li> <li>• Containers (crates, tubs, stackable drawers, etc.)</li> <li>• Craft supplies</li> <li>• Fabric</li> <li>• Fasteners and fixtures (hooks, doorknobs, wire, rope, keys, locks, ...)</li> <li>• Gears and wheels</li> <li>• Picture frames</li> <li>• Sewing accessories</li> <li>• Photography equipment and projectors</li> <li>• Tins and containers</li> <li>• Trophies and awards, plaques, ribbons, etc.</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<p>Donations must be clean and sorted and on their list of acceptable items. They do not accept items that are unclean, covered in mildew or mold, stained, or unable to be immediately reused.</p>	<p><b>The Scrap Thrift Store</b> 2050 Chapel Hill Rd in Durham (919)200-0151</p> <p>Pull your car under the blue awning. Tax receipt slip provided if you'd like.</p>	<p>The mission of <b>Scrap Exchange</b> is to promote creativity, environmental awareness, and community through reuse.</p> <p>Items they accept and don't accept and <b>drop-off days and hours</b>: <a href="https://www.scrapexchange.org/donations">https://www.scrapexchange.org/donations</a></p>
<b>eBike batteries</b>		<p>This website identifies where eBike batteries can be recycled: <a href="https://www.call2recycle.org/locator/">https://www.call2recycle.org/locator/</a></p>	
<b>Eyeglasses</b>  		<p><b>Cary Senior Center</b></p> <p>Go in the main entrance and take a left. The drop-off box is under a table by the bathrooms.</p>	<p>These are being collected by <b>Cary Lions Club</b>. For more info, including other drop off locations: <a href="https://carylionsclub.org/?page_id=173">https://carylionsclub.org/?page_id=173</a></p>
<b>Foam:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foam egg cartons</li> <li>• Takeout containers</li> <li>• Styrofoam cups</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Make sure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items are clean and dry</li> <li>• <b>NOT</b> to include lids and straws with cups</li> </ul>	<b>Publix</b>	


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<p><b>EPS foam, Styrofoam, etc.</b></p>  <p><small>AKA EPS foam, Styrofoam, etc. Contact us for details of collecting and recycling of this item.</small></p>	<p><b>They accept foam/ styrofoam that is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White</li> <li>• Non-flexible (NOT spongy)</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples:</b> hard foam inside TV boxes or hard foam coolers</p> <p><b>NO PEANUTS!</b></p>	<p><b>Shimar Recycling</b> 938 Harvest Street Durham (919)680-6262</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M-Th: 8:30am-3:30pm</li> <li>• F: 8:30am-1pm</li> </ul> <p>There is a \$5 minimum charge and they take cash only. Cost is based on volume.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>DART</b> 3219 Wesleyan Road in Randleman, NC (336)495-1101</p> <p>They have an area outside of their plant that is open <b>24/7</b> for individual drop-offs of hard-packaged styrofoam as well as food packaging (cups, trays, egg cartons, etc.). <b>There is no charge</b> for drop-offs.</p>	<p>For more information:</p> <p><a href="https://www.dartcontainer.com/why-dart/sustainability/foam-recycling">https://www.dartcontainer.com/why-dart/sustainability/foam-recycling</a></p>
<b>Foam reuse</b>	Consider using foam peanuts or broken down foam pieces at the bottom of garden pots instead of rocks (to facilitate drainage)		
<p><b>FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooking oils (vegetable, corn, peanut, sunflower, canola, olive, soybean, flaxseed or any combination of edible cooking oils)</li> <li>• Margarine</li> <li>• Animal fats/greases</li> </ul>	Prepare it for <u>Curbside Collection</u>	<p><b>Town of Cary's Residential Cooking Oil Curbside Collection and Recycling Program</b></p>	These are made into bio-fuel



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<b>Home furnishings and household items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Couches</li> <li>• Loveseats</li> <li>• Chairs</li> <li>• Kitchen table &amp; chairs</li> <li>• Dressers</li> <li>• End and coffee tables</li> <li>• Lamps</li> <li>• Bed linens</li> <li>• Bath towels</li> <li>• Dishware, kitchen utensils, toasters, coffee makers, pots &amp; pans, microwaves, decor items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towel, sheets, comforters, etc. should be washed before donation.</li> <li>• They request items stored in attics or garages be cleaned.</li> <li>• Furnishings in good condition are preferred. They reserve the right to decline items with stains, tears, holes, pet damage, smoke odors, in disrepair or that are outdated.</li> <li>• Items with mold and mildew will not be accepted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Green Chair Project</b></p>  <p>They allow you to schedule a pickup if you meet their standards and guidelines.</p> <p>Curbside drop-off: 1853 Capital Blvd in Raleigh (919)322-0474</p>	<p>This organization supports individuals overcoming homelessness, crisis, or disaster by working with 100+ Wake County nonprofit and partner agencies.</p> <p>Items they accept and don't accept and <b>drop-off days and hours</b>: <a href="https://thegreenchair.org/donate-your-furniture/">https://thegreenchair.org/donate-your-furniture/</a></p>
<b>Home improvement items such as</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furniture</li> <li>• Appliances</li> <li>• Light fixtures</li> <li>• Ceiling fans</li> <li>• Housewares</li> <li>• Building materials</li> <li>• Tools</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<p>New or gently used</p>	<p><b>Habitat for Humanity ReStore</b></p>  <p>181 High House Road in Cary (located near the Dorcas Thrift Shop)</p> <p>Their website: <a href="https://www.trianglerestores.org/cary">https://www.trianglerestores.org/cary</a></p>	<p>Proceeds from the sale of donated items helps your local Habitat provide assistance in your community.</p> <p>Their general website (<a href="https://www.habitat.org/restores/donate-goods">https://www.habitat.org/restores/donate-goods</a>) indicates many Habitat ReStores offer free pickup of large items</p>

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<b>Jigsaw puzzle swap</b> 	Bring any puzzles you want to pass on to someone else and see if there's any you care to take.	<b>Drop-in puzzle swap at the Downtown Cary Park</b>	To find the date and location of the next event, filter on "Downtown Cary" in the Town of Cary calendar: <a href="https://www.carync.gov/connect-engage/calendar">https://www.carync.gov/connect-engage/calendar</a>
<b>Miscellaneous items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rechargeable batteries (e.g., those found in a cordless power tool)</li> <li>• CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs</li> <li>• Plastic gardening pots and carrying cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The toxic material in rechargeable batteries can harm the environment if thrown away, so it's good to recycle them.</li> <li>• Gardening pots/carrying cases can dropped off or are free for the taking. Look for a standalone rack with several shelves near an end cap in the garden area or ask an associate where it is.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowe's</li> <li>• Home Depot</li> </ul>	
<b>Office:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ink cartridges and toner cartridges &amp; drum units</li> <li>● Crayons, pens, markers, wooden/mechanical pencils</li> <li>● Cases for a phone, iphone, tablet, ipad, or eReader</li> <li>● Batteries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lithium ion (Li-Ion)</li> <li>• Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)</li> <li>• Nickel zinc (Ni-ZN)</li> <li>• Non-rechargeable lithium</li> <li>• Rechargeable nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd)</li> <li>• Single-use alkaline</li> <li>• Small sealed lead acid (SSLA/Pb)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The toxic material in rechargeable batteries can harm the environment if thrown away, so it's good to recycle them.	<b>Staples</b>	<p>You can receive Rewards points if you have an account with Staples. Take items to an associate at Checkout.</p> <p>Details and limitations: <a href="https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling">https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling</a></p>

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<b>PLASTIC bags:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic shopping bags</li> <li>• Plastic overwrap from toilet paper, napkins, and paper towels</li> <li>• Overwrap from shipping cases</li> <li>• Zip-top and other resealable bags</li> <li>• Pharmacy, bread, and produce bags</li> <li>• Cereal bags</li> <li>• Dry cleaning bags/ protective plastic</li> <li>• Newspaper sleeves</li> <li>• Ice bags, salt bags, and wood pellet bags</li> <li>• Air pillows</li> <li>• Cling wrap that is clean and dry</li> </ul>	<p><b>Make sure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To cut and discard zippers from zip-top and other resealable bags</li> <li>• <b>NOT</b> to include frozen food bags, which are made up of many layers and are not recyclable</li> <li>• <b>NOT</b> to include bubbled envelopes</li> <li>• <b>NOT</b> to include bags with food contamination</li> </ul> <p><b>CONSIDER USING REUSABLE BAGS</b> instead of single-use bags</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harris Teeter</li> <li>• Food Lion</li> <li>• Publix</li> </ul>	<p>Bags are shipped to locations where they are baled and picked up by recyclers who then process them into plastic pellets. The pellets are sold to manufacturers who use them to make things like composite decking, fencing, more plastic bags, ...</p>
<p><b>Plastic pet food, treat, and litter bag packaging, from ALL brands, across ALL species, purchased from ANY retailer</b></p> 	<p>Flexible bags should be empty but do not need to be cleaned.</p>	<p><b>Pet Supplies Plus</b> 651 Mills Park Dr In Cary NW (919)323-4400</p> <p>Look for a dedicated recycling box inside the front of the store.</p> 	<p>Bags are cleaned, processed, and mixed with other plastics to make recycled plastic blends. Plastic blends are transformed into new products.</p> <p>For more details: <a href="https://www.petsuppliesplus.com/recycling-program">https://www.petsuppliesplus.com/recycling-program</a></p>



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<b>Plastics (ALL HARD plastics; no bags or soft, flexible plastics)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clam shell containers</li> <li>• Plastic cups</li> <li>• Lids</li> <li>• Medical pill bottles</li> <li>• Kids toys</li> <li>• Hard plastic product packaging</li> <li>• Patio furniture (metal too)</li> <li>• Office furniture (metal too)</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<p>As their name implies, they also take items with a plug. They also take cardboard. See their website in the far right column for a complete list of items that they accept and do not accept.</p>	 <p><b>Anything With A Plug Recycling</b> 10131 Division Dr in Raleigh (919)610-3465</p>	<p>For a list of <b>FREE mobile drop-off events</b> or <b>FREE on-site drop-off days</b> and hours: <a href="https://www.anythingwithaplugrecycling.com/">https://www.anythingwithaplugrecycling.com/</a></p>
<b>Shoes</b> 		<p><b>DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse</b></p> <p>The store at Crossroads accepts shoe donations.</p>	<p>For more info: <a href="https://www.dsw.com/content/soles4souls">https://www.dsw.com/content/soles4souls</a></p>
<b>Thrift Shop donations such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing</li> <li>• Shoes</li> <li>• Jewelry</li> <li>• Toys</li> <li>• Puzzles</li> <li>• CDs/DVDs</li> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Household items</li> <li>• Bikes</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<p>Separate clothes from linens, shoes, household items, etc. Keeping these items with other similar items will allow for a quicker drop-off experience.</p>	<p><b>Dorcas Thrift Shop</b> at 187 High House Rd in Cary.</p>	<p>Details including a list of items they do <b>NOT</b> accept: <a href="https://dorcascnc.org/">https://dorcascnc.org/</a></p>

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<b>Clothing and shoes of all sizes (infant-adult)</b>	Place all new and gently used donations in closed bags.	<p><b>Note in the Pocket</b></p>  <p><b>Collection sites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RALEIGH:</b> 4730 Hargrove Rd, (919)714-9403 (Volunteer &amp; Donation Center)</li> <li>• <b>See this web page for other drop off locations:</b> <a href="https://noteinthepocket.org/locations/">https://noteinthepocket.org/locations/</a></li> </ul>	<p>This organization's mission is "to provide quality clothing to homeless and impoverished children and families with dignity and love."</p>
<b>Clothing/textiles</b>	They accept unwanted clothes/textiles, <b>by any brand and in any condition</b> . Bring your bag of old clothes to a register.	<p><b>H&amp;M's</b></p> <p>Locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RALEIGH:</b> 4325 Glenwood Ave</li> <li>• <b>DURHAM:</b> 6910 Fayetteville Rd, Unit 2240</li> </ul>	<p>They give you a thank-you coupon to use toward your next purchase.</p> <p>More details: <a href="#">Garment Collecting Program</a></p>
<b>Used motor oil/filters</b>	These are banned from NC landfills.	<b>Town of Cary</b> (by appointment).	<p>These are collected and recycled free of charge.</p> <p>For more details: <a href="https://www.carync.gov/services-publications/garbage-recycling-yard-waste/recycling/curbside-recycling">https://www.carync.gov/services-publications/garbage-recycling-yard-waste/recycling/curbside-recycling</a></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Yarn</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acrylic</li> <li>• Cotton</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cotton</li> <li>• Flannel</li> <li>• Fleece</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  <p><b>NO WOOL</b></p>	Drop-off box is located in the main entrance area (right side) of the Cary Senior Center	<b>Stitcher's Club</b>	The club meets weekly at the Cary Senior Center.