**[County/Town name] celebrates America Recycles Day; reminds residents to be cart smart**

**[TOWN]** – [county/town name] celebrates November 15 as America Recycles Day to encourage residents to commit to recycling correctly every day of the year.

“We have a long-standing recycling program in our [town/county], but there are ways that we can all do better,” said [local official name], [title]. “Knowing what can and cannot be tossed into the recycling bin is extremely important to the success of our program. In recycling, it’s the small things that make a huge difference in our community and environment.”

Recycling efforts are hindered and costs go up when non-recyclable materials, or contaminants, go into the recycling bin. Through the steps listed below, residents can prevent contamination of the recycling bin and improve the quality and value of the recycling stream.

* Place empty cans, bottles, paper and cardboard in the recycling bin. Keep everything else out.
* Do not bag your recyclable items.
* Do not put plastic bags, cords, hoses and other string-like items in the recycling bin as they can tangle around rotating equipment.
* Avoid putting other things that could be hazardous to workers who sort recycling – like batteries, needles, sharp objects and food residue – into the recycling bin.
* Do not put Styrofoam cups and containers in the recycling bin.
* When in doubt, throw it out!

“[Town/county] has been sharing tips to help residents be ‘cart smart’ as part of the statewide *Recycle Right NC* campaign. On America Recycles Day we urge residents to carry this momentum forward and continue recycling the right way. As a result, we will recover more high-quality recyclables to reinvest back into the local economy,” said [town/county official].”

For more information about recycling and [town/county name]’s America Recycles Day activities, go to: [website] or contact [name/phone/email]. For information about the Department of Environmental Quality’s state-wide *Recycle Right NC* campaign, go to: [website].

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