

NEWSLETTER

Honoring the Planet That Sustains Us



Earth Day, celebrated each year on April 22nd, is more than a date on the calendar—it's a reminder of our responsibility to protect the world that provides our air, water, and life. Today, we celebrate the beauty around us and renew our commitment to stewardship, sustainability, and mindful living.

Proper recycling and responsible waste disposal are some of the simplest, most effective ways to make a real impact. Sorting materials correctly keeps recyclables out of landfills, reduces contamination, and ensures they can be turned into new products instead of becoming pollution. Disposing of household chemicals, electronics, and bulk waste through approved facilities prevents harmful substances from entering our soil and waterways.

Recycling also supports a broader circular economy. According to the April 2026 Keep Texas Recycling Price Sheet, materials like OCC (corrugated cardboard) are currently valued at \$65.00 per ton for direct mill loads and \$52.50 per ton baled. Even aluminum remains a high-value commodity, with UBCs (aluminum cans) listed at \$1,600.00 per ton baled in April. These values highlight how proper recycling not only protects the environment but also contributes to local and regional economic sustainability.

How to make a difference

When we take a few extra moments to recycle right and dispose of waste responsibly, we help create cleaner neighborhoods, conserve natural resources, and support a healthier planet for future generations.

Award Spotlight: City of Gruver



We're excited to celebrate the City of Gruver for its outstanding achievements in recycling and composting during the 2025 reporting year (Sept. 1, 2024–Aug. 31, 2025). Gruver's dedication to sustainability truly shines.

This past year, the community recycled impressive amounts of key materials, including 22.62 tons of cardboard, 0.25 tons of aluminum, and 17 tons of scrap metal. Additional materials—such as mixed paper, newsprint, and used oil—further boosted the city's diversion totals.

Gruver also made major strides in composting, diverting 86 tons of yard waste and processing 2,500 cubic yards of bulk wood waste, converted using the standard 250-lb-per-cubic-yard factor. With a population of 1,079 residents, these accomplishments reflect a community that shows up, participates, and cares about its environmental footprint.

Community Challenge

As we celebrate Gruver's success, we're challenging communities across the Texas Panhandle to join in and elevate regional recycling and composting efforts. Whether it's reducing contamination, recycling more consistently, or supporting local drop-off programs, every town can make a difference. Let's work together—community by community—to keep the Panhandle clean, resilient, and leading the way in environmental stewardship.

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A Milestone for Hazardous Waste Recycling: 100th Medication Cleanout

Earlier this month, Amarillo reached an important milestone in responsible waste management with the 100th Medication Cleanout event, hosted by the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the Texas Panhandle Poison Center. Held on April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1300 South Coulter Street, the event provided residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of expired or unused medications.

NOT SURE WHERE TO DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS? HERE'S WHO TO CONTACT IN ANY PANHANDLE COUNTY

If you live in one of the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle, these are the most reliable places to call for information on safe medication disposal:

Local Law Enforcement	County or City Public Health Department
Texas Panhandle Poison Control Center	Texas Tech Health Sciences Center
Local Pharmacies	DEA Takeback Program

Medication Cleanout events play a key role in hazardous waste recycling by ensuring pharmaceuticals are collected and handled properly rather than ending up in landfills, household trash, or wastewater systems. Each event helps prevent chemical contamination, protects local water sources, and supports long-term environmental health across the Panhandle.

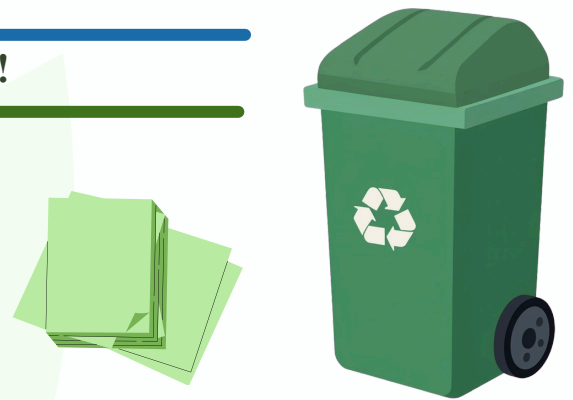
Reaching the 100-event milestone highlights the region's ongoing commitment to proper hazardous waste disposal and reinforces how small individual actions contribute to a cleaner, safer environment for everyone.

Market Update: Paper Prices Are On the Rise!

To wrap up this month's newsletter, we're sharing a timely update from Katrena Volden, Regional Services Program Specialist, current recycling market conditions.

Paper! Paper! Paper! Read all about it!

If you've been holding onto baled paper, now is the time to move it. According to the March 2026 KTR price sheet, paper prices are climbing, and several grades are performing especially well. White ledger paper continues to bring in the strongest returns, with sorted office paper (SOP) not far behind. Even OCC (cardboard) has seen steady month-to-month improvement.



If your recycling center is ready to schedule a pickup or you want to make sure you're getting the best price for your baled materials, contact:
 Katrena Volden - 806-372-3381

Let's keep those materials moving and make the most of strong market conditions!

Direct mill runs remain available for full loads of a single baled commodity, shipped at no cost to participating members.

About the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC)

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission supports communities across the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle through regional programs in solid waste, recycling, public safety, economic development, and local government assistance. PRPC works closely with cities, counties, and partner organizations to strengthen services, expand resources, and promote long-term sustainability throughout the region. From coordinating recycling initiatives to supporting community planning efforts, PRPC is committed to helping Panhandle communities thrive.