



## **(March 19, 2022) Recycling Collected in Barry County Stays in Great Lakes Region**

As you wave goodbye to your recycling, you may find yourself wondering what becomes of it. Read on to learn where Barry County haulers take your recycling, where it goes to be processed, and what it may become.

The majority (67%) of recycling haulers and drop-off centers bring recycling materials to the Kent County Recycling and Education Center. The remaining haulers and collection sites send collected recycling to other processors in Michigan and Indiana, including Republic and Padnos.

The Kent County Recycling and Education Center first sorts and bales the materials that are brought in. Once sorted and baled, the materials are shipped for processing at paper mills, smelters, and polymer factories throughout the Great Lakes Region.

- Aluminum goes to Neville Island, Pennsylvania to become new aluminum cans, foil, pie tins, and other aluminum products.
- Paper and cardboard are sent to Valparaiso, Indiana and Wapakoneta, Ohio to be made into new paper and cardboard products.
- #1 Plastics (PET) go to Bowling Green, Ohio to become rPET resins which will be made into both food grade and non-food grade packaging as well as non-packaging applications such as strapping, carpeting and more.
- #2 Plastics (HDPE) go to Dundee, Michigan to become both food grade and non-food grade plastic bottles.
- #3-#7 Plastics are sent to Sarnia, Ontario, Canada to be processed into pellets to make new plastic products.
- Sorted glass goes to Delavan, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois to be processed into new glass bottles, fiberglass, reflective beads for highway striping, glass abrasives, fillers, and specialty glass.
- Remaining aluminum, steel, and cartons stay in Grand Rapids, Michigan for processing to become products such as tissues, ceiling tiles, wallboard, aluminum cans and even bicycles.

Learn more at [www.reimaginetrash.org](http://www.reimaginetrash.org).