

GEORGETOWN CITY Reporter

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Earth Day focus Recycling: How Does It Work?

1. First sort

When collection trucks arrive at the facility, all of the bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, and other items are loaded into a hopper that feeds them to a conveyor belt. Trash and corrugated cardboard are pulled out by hand and dropped into separate chutes that go to large bins below. Trash is trucked to the landfill and cardboard goes to the fiber baler.



2. Glass sorting rollers

Slotted rollers pull out and crush glass bottles. The glass bits are tumbled and smoothed so they can be used as aggregate for development projects at the landfill.

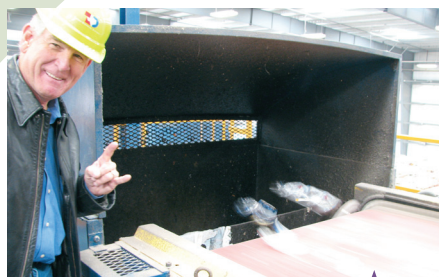


One way you can honor Earth Day every day is by recycling. What happens to the items after they are picked up from your bin? From Georgetown they are trucked to Creedmoor to a materials recovery facility, owned and operated by Texas Disposal Systems. On a recent tour, City of Georgetown Environmental and Conservation employees Gabriel Dominguez, Ken Arnold, and Rachel Osgood got to see how items are processed.



3. Container/paper sorting machine

The conveyor feeds the remaining stream of recyclables to a rake-like separator that allows plastic and metal containers to drop off to a side conveyor. Paper and cardboard roll over the top.



5. Magnetic can sorters

After plastics are removed from the container line, a rotating magnet below the line grabs steel metal cans and pulls them into a bin. After steel cans are removed, an eddy current separator (above) is used to remove aluminum cans from the line. This separator uses a magnetized rotor under the conveyor that repels non-ferrous aluminum cans, causing them to jump off the belt and drop into a bin. That's Jimmy Gregory, a TDS owner, who led the facility tour.



6. Fiber baler

Paper and cardboard are fed to a fiber baler, which runs continuously. Bales of paper and cardboard are stacked and stored. TDS sells the bales and they are loaded on trucks and shipped to paper mills. Recycled paper and cardboard are used in thousands of consumer products. Pictured are Gabriel Dominguez, Ken Arnold, and Rachel Osgood.



4. Manual sorting lines

On three conveyor lines, fiber items including paper, cardboard, and boxboard are pulled out by hand and dropped into chutes over separate bins. Then they are ready to be fed to a conveyor that goes to the fiber baler. On a similar container line, various types of plastic bottles are pulled off by hand and dropped into bins for the container baler.

7. Metal and plastic bales

Plastic containers and metal cans are fed to a separate compactor and baler for containers. Bales of compacted bi-metal cans (made of steel and tin) and aluminum cans are sold to metal processors. The metals are used to make a wide variety of metal products. Bales of PET (no. 1 plastics), HDPE (no. 2 plastics), and mixed plastics are sold to manufacturers that make thousands of products including lumber, bottles, and carpeting.

To see a more detailed online tour of the recycling facility, go to

recycle.georgetown.org

April Events

The Palace Theater

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,
April 1 – May 1
Details at GeorgetownPalace.com,
or call (512) 869-7469.

Georgetown Quilt and Stitchery Show, April 1 & 2

Under the Big Top, presented by
Handcrafts Unlimited is 10 a.m.
to 5 p.m. both days at the
Community Center, 445 E.
Morrow Street in San Gabriel
Park. Admission is \$6.
For more information or
to register your entries go to
Georgetownquiltshow.org.

First Friday, April 2

Downtown live music, shops and
restaurants are open late. See the
Downtown Georgetown
Association website at
TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

Market Days, April 9

Handmade arts and crafts, food,
and more on the Square from 9
a.m. to 4 p.m. Details at
TheGeorgetownSquare.com.

Animal Shelter Garage Sale, April 15 & 16

The 12th annual sale will be at the
Community Center in San Gabriel
Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. each
day. All proceeds benefit animals
at the Georgetown Animal
Shelter.

Eggstravaganza!, April 16

Bring your basket for the annual
free Easter Egg Hunt at the
McMaster Athletic Complex soft-
ball fields sponsored by
Georgetown Parks and
Recreation. The egg hunt starts
promptly at 8:30 a.m. See
parks.georgetown.org for details.

Red Poppy Festival, April 16 – 17



**Classic country performer Mark
Chesnutt will headline the
Saturday night concert** at the Red
Poppy Festival, held on the down-
town Square April 16 – 17.

Chesnutt performs at 9:30 p.m.
Also on Saturday night, “red dirt”
country singer Dean Seltzer plays at
6 p.m. and classic country singer
Ricky Calmbach plays at 7:30 p.m.
A special Friday night concert on
April 15 features energetic 80s cover
band Radiostar from 7:00 to 9:30
p.m. The Biscuit Brothers will play
Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Other music
groups on Saturday and Sunday
include Off the Record,
Georgetown High School Jazz
bands, and local talent showcases.

**For a full schedule of events,
go to RedPoppyFestival.com.**

There is no admission charge for any
of the festival concerts.

Other festival events
include the **Red Poppy
Bike Ride** on Saturday
at 8 a.m., the **Red
Poppy Parade** on
Saturday at 10 a.m.,
the **Car Show** that
starts on Saturday at
11 a.m., and the **Red
Poppy 5K Run** that
starts on Sunday at
8:00 a.m. The official
2011 Red Poppy
Festival poster will be
on sale April 1 at the
Visitor Information
Center at 101 W.
Seventh Street. T-shirts

will be available at the Festival. Cost
is \$5 for the poster and \$10 for the
t-shirt. For all the details, go to
RedPoppyFestival.com.

Earth Day at the Poppy Festival

To celebrate Earth Day,
Georgetown350, Georgetown
Utility Systems, and Southwestern
University will sponsor interactive,
hands-on exhibits at the Red Poppy
Festival in the Safe Place Kids
Village. Also appearing on the Red
Poppy Stage will be the Earth Day
Players, a troupe of accomplished
local student actors who will present
an entertaining and thought-pro-
voking show about Earth Day. For
more information, contact
Georgetown350 at (512) 930-0542
or www.georgetown350.org.

Georgetown Reads! 2011

The Georgetown Public Library’s
one-book, one-community program,
Georgetown Reads! will kick off in
late March. *Already Home*, by Susan
Mallery is set in Georgetown and
our downtown Square is featured!
Copies of the book will be available
for checkout beginning in April.
Visit the library’s website at

library.georgetown.org for full
details about Georgetown Reads!
events, including a scavenger hunt,
canned goods drive, cookbook give-
away, wine-tasting, cooking demon-
stration, author visit, and an evening
with Susan Mallery. Let’s read
together!

April Events

Fishing Derby, Saturday, April 30

In San Gabriel Park near the
low-water crossing from 7 to
11:30 a.m., sponsored by
Georgetown Parks and
Recreation. Cost is \$2 for 12 and
under and \$3 for 13 and over.
Fishing permit required for those
17 and older. See
parks.georgetown.org for details.



Picture Circus, April 30

An event for children celebrating
illustrators of children’s books.
From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the
Georgetown Public Library, 402
W. Eighth Street.

Warrant Round-up

**Warrant Round-up is under-
way. Those with outstanding
warrants should act immedi-
ately to avoid going to jail.
To make a payment on an out-
standing class C offense, go
to the Municipal Court loca-
tion at 101 E. Seventh Street.
Money orders and cashier’s
checks are accepted. Personal
checks are not accepted.
Payments can be made online
at any time using a credit
card through the City’s web
site at www.georgetown.org.**

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