



# PROSPECT RECYCLES!



## THE SCIENCE & ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING

### Did you know?

- **ONE ton of recycled paper** saves **17 trees!**
- **The Average person** uses **670 pounds** of paper per year.
- **A recycled aluminum can** may find its way back to you in as little as **TWO MONTHS.**

# RUMPKE

### Seeing is believing!

Many people still believe that all “garbage” still goes to the landfill.

Come along with your fellow Prospect residents, bring an open mind and return to share what you learned.

This is a 2-part narrated tour with access to the 900+ -acre sanitary landfill including the newest 27-acre “cell”, and then the 226,000 sq. ft. *Materials Recycling Center*. **Lunch will be included. We leave at 8:45 and return by 4pm.**

**SEATING is limited to 20**  
**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

<https://forms.gle/ciJkVJqvy9EjARmK9>



### Styrofoam, A Type of Polystyrene Foam, is a Significant Environmental Pollutant

It is non-biodegradable, meaning it persists in landfills and natural environments for hundreds of years. Lightweight and easily fragmented, Styrofoam often escapes waste management systems, polluting oceans, rivers, and urban areas. Marine animals mistake it for food, leading to ingestion and death. Additionally, the production of Styrofoam releases harmful chemicals, contributing to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Its disposal by incineration emits toxic sub-stances such as styrene and benzene, which are hazardous to human health. Overall, Styrofoam poses serious threats to ecosystems and public health.

Continued.....



Visit our "*Prospect Recycles*" display table at the Sheryl Rouse Band @ LHC Park, Sept 21



## Interactive Workshop: All about recycling PLASTICS

Grab your kids and JOIN your neighbors at our FIRST OF FOUR workshops on the 4 categories of trash that we pay Rumpke to remove and recycle.

With a special guest speaker to kick it off, the entire crowd will have an opportunity to listen, see and participate in a live recycling "decision-making" process, as we **learn by doing**.

### The FREE event will be held:

- August 18, 2025
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- First Baptist Church  
8911 Hwy #42 in

Light snacks and refreshments will be included.

This is a chance for "the village" to teach our NEXT GENERATION of citizens to understand "sustainability" and learn how to make a commitment to good habits.

We will have special themed give-aways for the youngsters, and take-homes to remember the lessons we learned in the workshop.



PLEASE R.S.V.P. with this QR Code so we know how many adults and how many children will attend OR register by calling City Hall if you cannot use the QR Code.

Call City Hall 502-228-1121, or email [dfarnsley@prospectky.gov](mailto:dfarnsley@prospectky.gov)

Styrofoam, made from expanded polystyrene (EPS), is extremely resistant to decomposition. In natural conditions it can take **500 years or more** to break down, if it decomposes at all.

Unlike organic materials, Styrofoam **does not biodegrade**, meaning microorganisms cannot digest or transform it into natural substances.

Instead, it "**photodegrades**", meaning sunlight can slowly break it into smaller pieces—called microplastics—which persist in the environment. These microplastics are especially harmful, as they can be ingested by wildlife and enter the food chain.

Because of this Styrofoam is considered one of the most persistent and problematic forms of plastic pollution.

While neither option is perfect, **paper cups are generally more sustainable**, especially if sourced from responsibly managed forests and paired with industrial composting or recycling. **Reusable cups**, however, remain the most sustainable alternative overall.

### Summary:

- Styrofoam cups have lower energy and water footprints in production but are non-biodegradable and environmentally persistent.
- Paper cups have higher production emissions and water use but are more biodegradable and made from renewable resources.



So, paper cups are better long-term, particularly if improved with compostable linings or proper recycling system. Styrofoam is cheaper and less energy-intensive upfront, but its lasting environmental harm is far greater.

Here in Prospect, we are fortunate to have access to alternative products. Let's use them.

**WE GET BETTER WITH PRACTICE AND KNOWLEDGE.**



### WKU Survey Results available

This May - July, a special team at Western KY University conducted a survey of roughly 1,000 Prospect residents., regarding their habits, perceptions and attitudes towards recycling.

The survey went out via Prospect's Wednesday City Mail.

With a respectable 190+ responses in, the results and some recommendations will be available at City Hall.

This project is a collaborative involving the City of Prospect, Western Kentucky University, and Rumpke, with a grant from Prospect/Goshen Rotary Club 2024.

**PROSPECT  
CARES**