



April 02, 2025

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# Recycling

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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# Recycling

Reference Number: CTAS-538

Each county must provide at least one site for the collection of recyclable materials within the county. T.C.A. § 68-211-863. From funds available from the solid waste management fund, the Department of Environment and Conservation is required to provide a matching funds grant program for the purchase of equipment needed to establish or upgrade recycling at a public or not-for-profit recycling collection site.

However, these grants will generally not be granted if there is adequate equipment at privately-owned facilities which serve the same area. The eleven counties which generate the greatest amount of solid waste receive a rebate from the state surcharge on waste disposed in the county in accordance with a formula described in T.C.A. § 68- 211-825. A county may only expend the rebate for recycling purposes and must expend from local funds an amount equal to the amount of the rebate towards this purpose. Counties which receive recycling rebates are not eligible for the recycling equipment grants.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/recycling>