Ripple Glass, LLC

OUR STORY

Ripple Glass is the brainchild of the people behind Boulevard Brewing Company. Of course, they're best known for making fresh, flavorful beer, much of which is packaged in glass bottles. But when those bottles are drained, most of them end up in the trash. In fact, every year, more than 10 million empty Boulevard bottles are deposited in Kansas City-area landfills.

And that's just a tiny piece of the 160 million pounds of metro area glass that — each and every year — ends up in the garbage.

It doesn't have to be this way. And it shouldn't be this way. But drop-off centers that collect glass are few and far between. And because no nearby facility exists to process recycled glass, the fuel consumed in transporting the glass to a distant processing center can outweigh the benefits.

Fortunately, we found the perfect solution right in our own backyard. Recycled glass is used to make fiberglass insulation, and the nation's largest fiberglass insulation manufacturer, Owens Corning, has a plant here in Kansas City. Currently, as there is no local resource, they're bringing in processed recycled glass from hundreds, sometimes thousands of miles away.

They'd prefer to get it locally. We'd prefer to keep our used glass – and all of the material and energy embodied in it – from going to waste. It's a classic case of two birds, one stone.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Glass recycling has never taken hold in Kansas City because, despite strong local demand for processed recycled glass, no processing facility existed. And in a real life chicken and egg dilemma, no one could justify the substantial investment required to establish such a facility because there was no systematic or widespread collection of recycled glass.

After studying the problem for several years, we came to the conclusion that we'd have to do both things at once: construct a state-of-the-art processing facility, while creating from scratch a full-blown metro-wide recycled glass collection network.

Ripple Glass intends to make glass recycling much easier by providing more locations for people to drop off empty glass containers. We'll process the glass locally. Then, local companies, like Owens Corning, will use it to make PINK Fiberglas™ insulation. It's a great way to close the loop, keep perfectly good glass out of the landfill, support local businesses, and even help make homes more energy efficient. So we can all be a little more sustainable.

WHY RECYCLE GLASS?

There are lots of myths out there about glass recycling. You've probably heard them – it's expensive, it's inefficient, blah, blah, blah. But we call them "myths" for good reason. Here are some important facts you should know about glass recycling.

- Kansas Citians consume approximately 80,000 tons of container glass each year. In the past, because of the difficulty and inconvenience, only about 6% was recycled. (Nationally, the average recycling rate is 25% and climbing; in many places in the world, it's north of 90%!)

- Container glass is 100% recyclable, can be recycled endlessly, and is a primary ingredient in fiberglass insulation and in new glass containers.

- Using recycled glass produces 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than creating new glass (or fiberglass) from raw materials.

- Every ton of glass that's recycled results in one ton of raw materials saved. That's 1,300 lbs. of sand, 410 lbs. of soda ash, and 380 lbs. of limestone.

- A six-pack of recycled glass bottles produce enough fiberglass insulation to fill a standard wall cavity.

- Recycling just one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. (Imagine how long it would light a CFL!)

GLASS RECYCLING COLLECTION BINS

We wanted our collection units to be convenient, clean, easy-to-spot, and easy-to-use. So we've designed dedicated, custom-built 30-yard roll-offs with attention-getting graphics. These containers have a large capacity to avoid the cost and inconvenience of frequent pick-ups. And they look pretty cool, to boot.

All we need from you is a convenient, visible location to spot the container, someone to keep an eye on it from time to time, and a pair of hands to tidy up around it when necessary. When the bin is close to full, just give us a call and we'll send a truck to pick it up.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We consider ourselves fortunate to live in such a strong community. Kansas Citians are a proud, active and tight-knit group. Our community partners are proof of that. With

Boulevard Brewing Company, UMB and DST Systems, Inc. have dedicated themselves to reducing waste and to making this a beautiful, vibrant community. Together, we can make a world of difference.

OVERLAND PARK SOLID WASTE TASK FORCE
In March 2009, the City of Overland Park created a Solid Waste Task Force to examine the City's residential waste. To reduce the amount of trash going to the Johnson County landfill, the Task Force may recommend a *Pay As You Throw* waste management program. *Pay As You Throw* limits the amount of trash a resident can set out on the curb but offers unlimited recycling opportunities.

Glass is not collected in local curbside recycling programs because it breaks. And when broken glass is mixed with other recyclables, it degrades and contaminates those materials, reducing their utility and causing them to be "downcycled" into lower-quality products.

Ripple Glass recycling bins are available to help Overland Park citizens reduce the amount of landfilled trash they create and, therefore, reduces the amount of money the community spends on trash removal. Ripple will place and service a bin for glass recycling at no cost to the host or community.

Bing Maps

My Notes

FREE! Use **Live Search 411** to find
movies, businesses & more: **800-CALL-411.**

proposed location of bin

proposed location of bin