

First Star Recycling's mission is turning waste into resources. Making recycling easier and more effective for residents and businesses is central to our work serving the City of Omaha.

As we look ahead, increasing participation in recycling programs and keeping trash out of the green cart are critical priorities. Recycling works best when residents, businesses, community partners, and service providers work together to reduce waste, recycle more, and recycle right.

WASTE TO WORTH

Plastics collected from
Hefty® ReNew™ program

Garden boxes made from
ReClaim™ plastic lumber



First Star's Solutions Plastic™ Lumber division recycles plastics collected through the Hefty® ReNew™ orange bag program into durable plastic lumber —supporting a sustainable, circular materials system that diverts hard-to-recycle plastics from landfills and extends their useful life.



Omaha

City of Omaha Annual Recycling Report 2025

Presented by Firststar Fiber, Inc.
(First Star Recycling)



Overview

The City of Omaha, with the assistance of SCS Engineering, conducted its annual audit of recycled materials at the First Star Recycling facility in November 2025.

The table shows the tons of materials received from the City of Omaha's curbside and drop-site programs in 2025, based on the audited samples.

Beyond sorting and processing materials, First Star Recycling plays an active role in developing, maintaining, and strengthening end markets for recyclable materials. Those end market types that City of Omaha recyclables are shipped to are also listed.

In 2025, recyclable materials received from Omaha's programs were supported by established end markets, ensuring materials continued to flow into productive use rather than being stockpiled or landfilled.

Material Received	%	Tons	End Markets
Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC)	31.95	6,675	OCC mills in Midwest & Southwest U.S.
Residential Mixed Paper	28.69	5,992	Folding box board manufacturers in the Midwest.
PET	7.1	1,483	Bottle processors in the Midwest.
HDPE	3.44	718	Pipe & bucket processors and plastic lumber manufacturers in the Midwest and Southeast U.S.
Other Plastics (#3-7)	2.97	620	Polypropylene (#5) reclaimers in the Southeast U.S.
Aluminum Cans	2.59	541	Smelters in Southeast U.S.
Steel Cans	2.54	531	Steel mills in Midwest.
Hefty ReNew® Bags	.55	115	Internal manufacture of ReClaim™ plastic lumber by Solutions Plastic™ Lumber
Trash	20.16	4,211	Douglas County Pheasant Point Landfill.
Total received from City of Omaha 2025	100%	20,886	

** full audit results can be provided by SCS Engineering.

Totals may vary slightly due to rounding.

Education and Waste Reduction

When people are unsure about what items can—and cannot—be recycled, there is a common misconception that it is better to place an item in the recycling bin rather than the trash. This practice is commonly referred to as “wish-cycling.” A key component of successful recycling is educating residents that sending unknown items can slow processing, increase recycling costs, and reduce the amount of material that can ultimately be recycled.

To help reduce confusion, residents are encouraged to use OmahaRecyclingGuide.org, Keep Omaha Beautiful’s searchable resource developed in partnership with the City of Omaha and First Star Recycling, which details how to best dispose of common household items once they are no longer needed. Remember, when an item cannot be confirmed as recyclable, it should not be placed in the recycling bin.

Another way to better understand what happens to recyclable materials is to see the process firsthand. First Star Recycling welcomes schools, community groups, and organizations to request tours of its Omaha recycling facility. Tour groups may also request an optional tour of First Star’s lumber manufacturing division, Solutions Plastic™ Lumber, where recovered plastics from the orange bag program are manufactured into durable ReClaim™ plastic lumber. Email recycle@firststarfiber.com to schedule.



Community group tour of First Star Recycling