Glass Recycling in Gwinnett

Mendie White, Sustainability Officer
October 15, 2026

Gwinnett

Gwinnett County background

- Current population: 1,043,327
- 437 square miles
- Approximately 30 miles northeast of Atlanta
- Demographics
  - Gwinnett is home to 20% of Georgia's Hispanic/Latino population, 27% of Georgia's Asian population, and 21% of Georgia's population who identify as another race not listed.
  - More than 100 different languages spoken across the county
- 17 municipalities in the County, majority of residents live in unincorporated areas
- Services provided by the County in unincorporated areas include curbside solid waste and recycling collection, bulky and white goods collection, and opt-in yard waste collection

Glass program overview

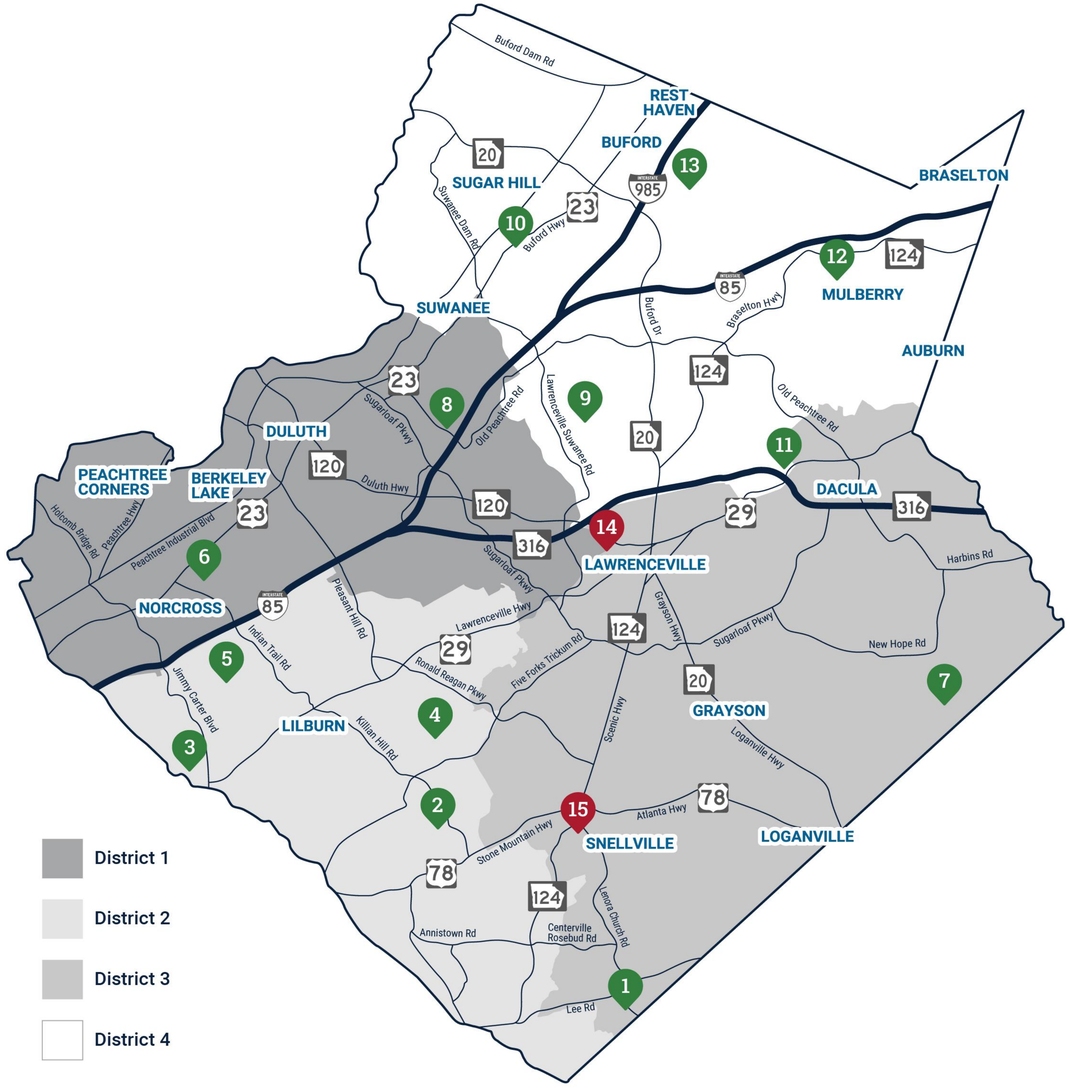
- July 2018- glass taken out of collection stream with new hauler agreements
- Original pilot program through internal Support Services department
  - Two haulers at three locations, initially using dome boxes
  - Collection started in early January 2022
- Expansion to 13—grant from EPD in January 2023
  - Recycling and Waste Reduction Grant- $175,110
  - County match of $135,000
  - Support from Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful- partnership provided $90,000 educational campaign achieved via mailers, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Google Ads and YouTube.


BE A PEACH
RECYCLE YOUR GLASS
Gwinnett
HEY GEORGIA!
RECYCLE YOUR GLASS HERE™
RippleGlass®
What Can Be Recycled?

Gwinnett

Process for placement

- Original sites placed based on convenience for pilot
- Placement of expansion containers
  - Coordinated with Parks department to ensure locations were evenly distributed across the County, taking into consideration already-existing city managed sites
  - Considered Commissioner districts and other publicly available collection sites (City of Lawrenceville and City of Snellville)
  - Worked with ADA coordinator to ensure accessibility of sites


Buford Dam Rd
REST HAVEN
BUFORD
SUGAR HILL
BRASELTON
Suwanee Dam Rd
Buford Hwy
SUWANEE
MULBERRY
Buford Dr
Braselton Hwy
AUBURN
Old Peachtree Rd
Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd
Sugarloaf Pkwy
DULUTH
PEACHTREE CORNERS
BERKELEY LAKE
Duluth Hwy
Holcomb Bridge Rd
Peachtree Pkwy
Peachtree Industrial Blvd
DACULA
LAWRENCEVILLE
Harbins Rd
NORCROSS
Pleasant Hill Rd
Lawrenceville Hwy
Grayson Hwy
New Hope Rd
Indian Trail Rd
Five Forks Trickum Rd
Ronald Reagan Pkwy
Jimmy Carter Blvd
GRAYSON
LILBURN
Killian Hill Rd
Scenic Hwy
Loganville Hwy
Atlanta Hwy
SNELLVILLE
LOGANVILLE
Stone Mountain Hwy
Annistown Rd
Centerville Rosebud Rd
Lenora Church Rd
Lee Rd
District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4

How does it operate?

- Where does the glass go after collection/what is it used for?
  - Taken to Strategic Materials in Atlanta, much of it stays in Georgia, some made into insulation
- Virtual monitoring with cameras
- Site signage on a-frames to educate/prevent contamination
- Accessibility options at sites- platform stairs and smaller containers added

Outreach

- Promotions/outreach methods
- Glass collection bags given to residents
- Pop up events
  - Celebrated users visiting containers and taught new residents about the process



Gwinnett

Mailers

Gwinnett Glass Recycling

All colors of food and beverage glass are accepted at any of our drop off locations.

Accepted Items:



Drinking vessels
(pint, wine, mason jars)



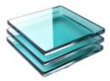
Candle jars
(leftover wax allowed)



Cosmetic bottles/jars



Glass food and beverage containers
(labels can stay on)



Windows, shower doors, and table tops
(frames/hardware removed)

Not Accepted Items:



Cardboard boxes and trash bags



Mirrors



Ceramic and milk glass



Porcelain, dinnerware, and leaded glass



Laminated glass and windshields



Pyrex and dishware



Light bulbs



TVs and computers screens

GWINNETT CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL | Gwinnett

Gwinnett Glass Recycling Drop Off Location

Join us on Friday, March 28 from noon to 4:00pm!

Bring your glass to recycle at the Rabbit Hill glass recycling container as Gwinnett Solid Waste will be giving out glass recycling bags and hot dogs while supplies last.

Scan here for more information on how to recycle your glass. Website is can be viewed in multiple languages.

Rabbit Hill

Rabbit Hill Park Football Entrance
401 Rabbit Hill Road, Dacula
Glass recycling bin open sunrise to 11:00pm daily



Glass Recycling Bin Location

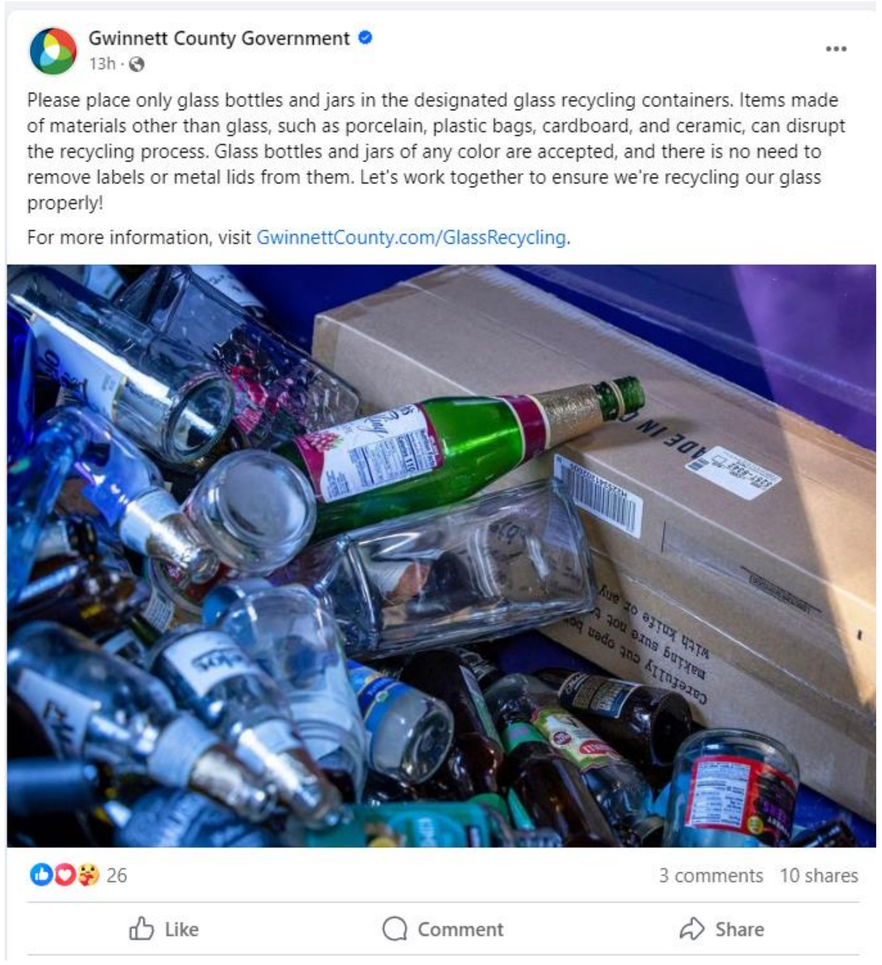
Gwinnett

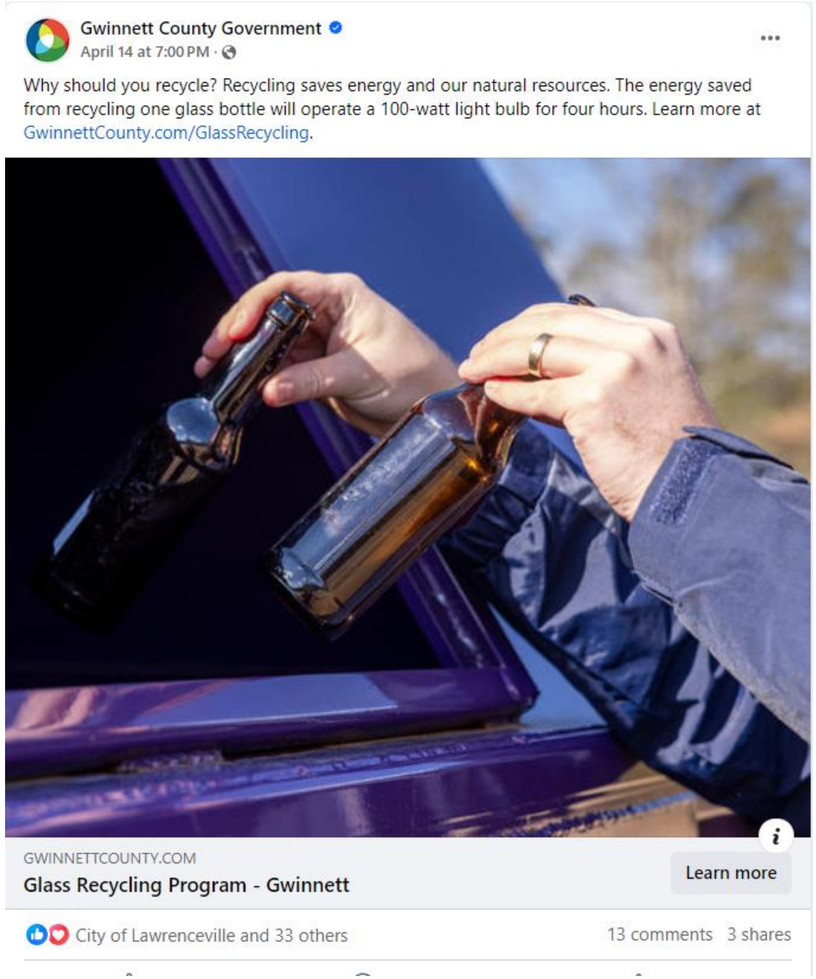
GWINNETT COUNTY
SUPPORT SERVICES

75 LANGLEY DRIVE
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30046

Gwinnett

Social Media Campaign

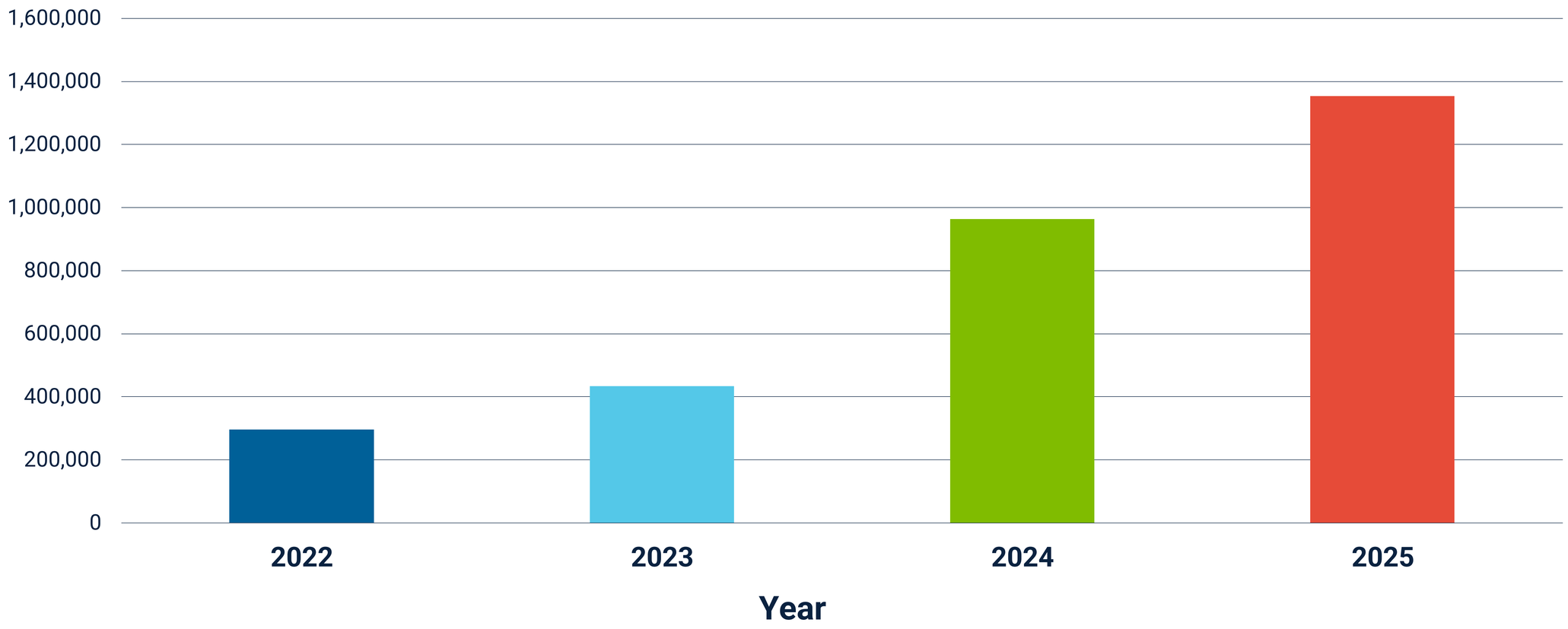




Gwinnett


What can I recycle?
Accepted Items:
Drinking vessels
(pint, wine, mason jars)
Candle jars
(leftover wax allowed)
Glass food and
beverage containers
(labels can stay on)
Windows, shower doors,
and table tops
(frames/hardware removed)
Cosmetic
bottles/jars
Not Accepted Items:
Cardboard
boxes and
trash bags
Ceramic and
milk glass
Porcelain,
dinnerware,
and leaded glass
Laminated glass
and windshields
Pyrex and
dishware
TVs and
computers screens
Mirrors
Light bulbs

Pounds of Glass Recycled



Gwinnett

Strategies for Improvement

- The purple containers are tall, 65 gallon bins and stair platforms were added to increase accessibility for seniors and individuals with reduced mobility
- Cameras inside the containers look for contamination and fullness level
- Staff visit the site to remove contamination and spread out glass to maximize each load taken (5.9 ton average per container currently)



Gwinnett

Lessons Learned

- Local governments don’t necessarily need to build and operate every part of a recycling system themselves. Partnerships were key to leverage their areas of expertise – operations, education, collection, etc.
- Convenience and geographic coverage matter – having the ability to relocate a low producing collection site to a better-served area was important.
- Celebrating participants = positive reinforcement, not just for glass but for recycling in general.
- Public feedback demonstrated this was a highly desirable program for residents.
- Significant collaboration across departments was critical to the success of the initiative.

Future Considerations

- Targeted mailers in neighborhoods around sites that have lower participation and are not collecting as much glass
- Continued public education and outreach about the benefits of the program

Questions?

Mendie White
Sustainability Officer
Mendie.white@gwinnettcounty.com
770.822.7369



Gwinnett