

NOTHING GOING TO WASTE: CITY OF MARION PARTNERS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO REPURPOSE RESIDENTS' OLD RECYCLING BINS
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Last fall, approximately 13,000 Marion households got an upgrade to their waste collection services. Five new trucks equipped with a mechanical arm and divider for trash and recycling hit the streets, making the bins residents were using a thing of the past.

The City partnered with Container Pros to distribute more than 32,000 standardized carts compatible with the faster and safer new system, but it begged the question: What do you do with the old bins when they are no longer needed?

The answer: Repurpose them into everyday products and uses! The City of Marion worked with Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) Region 4 Resource Specialist Josh Ventling to prepare options for the 10,000 to 15,000 recycling bins residents could no longer use.



While IWE came up with a variety of ideas for repurposing the bins – from storage for yard tools and firewood to building composters and rainwater collection bins – the nearly 30,000 pounds of plastic went to two main recycling partners.

The primary recipient of the old bins will be a local plastics recycler, Cedar Poly (a subsidiary of UFP Industries). Cedar Poly partnered with Marion to take the majority of the bins to their Tipton, Iowa facility and turn them into pellets that can then be used to make UFP's Deckorators Traditional composite decking or turned into field drainage tiles. Deckorators Traditional composite decking is an American-made product (Prairie du Chien, Wis.) made up of 95% recycled content like the bins supplied by the City of Marion.



The second recipient was Chain Reaction Bike Hub, which used 80 bins for bike parts and other uses. This partnership saved the Cedar Rapids nonprofit more than \$2,000 that can instead be used to support the Hub's community programming like Bikes for Kids or Earn-A-Bike. Learn more about the partners and programs that made this collaboration possible:

- For more information about the City of Marion's Automated Collection System, visit: [Automated Collection | City of Marion, IA](#)
- Learn more about Cedar Poly and the services they provide here: [Post Consumer and Post Industrial Recycling Services | Cedar Poly, LLC](#)
- Learn more about Deckorators composite decking here: [Traditional Composite Technology – Deckorators](#)
- Check out the Chain Reaction Bike Hub here: [Chain Reaction Bike Hub](#)