

From: [Haila, John](#)
To: [Hall, Renee](#)
Subject: Fwd: Ames Recycling
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 3:31:32 PM

And another...

John A.Haila, Mayor
City of Ames

From: Gabriel Sehmman <891145seh@ames.k12.ia.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 9:46 PM
To: Haila, John
Subject: Ames Recycling

[External Email]

Dear Mayor John Haila,

My name is Gabriel Richard Sehmman, and I am currently a senior at Ames High School.

I am reaching out to you about the lack of recycling in the city of Ames. In talking with my parents, I understand that the city services do not offer garbage collection. Instead, garbage collection services are provided by various private companies. Before moving to Ames in middle school, my family lived in Des Moines, and recycling was part of our garbage collection. We did have to pay an extra fee, but we were definitely willing to pay in order to recycle.

The reason that I am writing to you is to ask: Why doesn't our city have a comprehensive recycling program, and what can be done to expand our recycling program?

In looking through the City of Ames website, I noticed a section concerning the City's commitment to renewable energy. The paragraph went like this:

"Green Smart, Green, and Solar

- Renewable Energy - Our commitment to becoming a more sustainable organization, promoting conservation, and encouraging renewable energy within our community.
- SunSmart - Learn about and participate our community solar farm project.
- Smart Energy - Energy audits, efficiency improvements, and rebates."

I am glad about all the renewable energy programs the City of Ames is now offering, except this makes me wonder why we aren't doing the same for recycling.

I only know of two places to drop-off glass for recycling, at the Hy-Vee convenience store locations. And why is this in the hands of a private company? There used to be another company that handled cardboard recycling, but they have since folded due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and there have since been no more cardboard recycling programs in Ames.

Me and my family lives in West Ames, near Tahira & Labh Hira Park and Munn Woods. In thinking about writing this letter to you, I just thought about the new park in our neighborhood, Tahira & Labh Hira Park. As you know, this new park was developed on the old grounds of Edwards Elementary School when that was closed and torn down. With the brand-new design for the green-space, there is absolutely no recycling in the park. The same goes for other parks such as Emma McCarthy Lee park

Iowa State University has a recycling program, but not the City of Ames. Could the city offer curbside pick-up, recycling bins in the park, recycling drop-off centers, and partner with Iowa State University to encourage recycling for all Ames residents?

In conclusion, I believe that there are many people in the City of Ames who would really enjoy recycling, but unfortunately have limited opportunities to do so.

I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my concerns, and I hope to hear about your ideas about offering recycling services in Ames.

-- Gabriel Sehmman, 231 Wildflower Dr., 50014, Ames IA.
(515)451-5137, 891145seh@ames.k12.ia.us

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Gabe

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