

## Community Award Winner – City of Guntersville, Alabama



**Location – Guntersville, AL**

**Amount of paper and paper-based packaging recovered in 2012 – 865 tons**

**Population – 8,500**

**Amount collected per resident – 203 pounds**

### **Background:**

A peninsula nestled in the foothills of Appalachia and encompassed by 69,000 acres of lake, Guntersville landscape is a source of great pride for its residents. Developing a comprehensive recycling program was an important step for them to effectively manage limited resources and maintain their identity as the “playground of the South”.

### **Program:**



The City of Guntersville Recycling Program began in 1994 as an initiative to control the growth of its municipal landfill, reduce solid waste expenditures and preserve its natural beauty. Continual improvements have helped achieve the current program, which provides curbside collection to residents and 275 commercial participants. Additional drop-off receptacles are located throughout the

community at the recycling center, City Hall, city parks and numerous churches. Thanks to their success within city limits, Guntersville has now extended recycling opportunities by collaborating with the Marshall County Commission to establish drop-off centers at each county shop.

### **Education:**



Information about the Guntersville Recycling Program’s guidelines, collection sites and special events are promoted through public service announcements provided by a local radio station and newspapers. They are also outlined in informational flyers available in municipal offices and promoted on the city’s

website along with guidelines, schedules and calendars of events. Further, the Guntersville City School Board of Education disseminates materials about the recycling program to students and families throughout the school year.

**Partners:**



Working with city officials, civic groups, churches, state and federal agencies and the five-school Guntersville City School system to create and publicize paper recovery opportunities has aided in the great paper recovery success in Guntersville. The extensive outreach not only encourages recycling in weekly recovery efforts, but also provides volunteers for community-wide collections such

as Don't Drop on Alabama, Great American Clean-Up and America Recycles Day.

Learn more:

To learn more about the City of Guntersville, Alabama, visit [www.guntersvilleal.org](http://www.guntersvilleal.org).