

One Saturday, Nearly Five Tons Saved: Robins' First Clean-Up Day Showcases the Power of Partnership

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The Iowa Waste Exchange is built on a simple but powerful idea: materials that one person or organization no longer needs may still have value to someone else. The City of Robins' first-ever Clean-Up Day brought that idea to life, keeping nearly 10,000 pounds of reusable and recyclable materials out of the landfill through strong community participation and collaboration among local partners.



As a free, confidential, and non-regulatory program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Waste Exchange works with businesses, organizations, local governments, schools, and communities throughout Iowa to identify opportunities for reuse, recycling, and beneficial material management. Community events like the Robins Clean-Up Day demonstrate how partnerships can reduce disposal costs, conserve resources, strengthen local sustainability efforts, and save valuable space in our landfills.



On a Saturday morning in May, Robins residents arrived with trailers, truckloads, and car trunks full of unwanted items. By the end of the event, nearly 10,000 pounds of materials had been donated, recycled, or responsibly managed rather than sent to the landfill

Nearly 10,000 pounds of reusable and recyclable materials were kept out of the landfill thanks to the City of Robins' first-ever Clean-Up Day, demonstrating the power of community partnerships and resident participation. The event, held following the city's annual garage sales, provided residents with a convenient opportunity to donate, recycle, and responsibly dispose of unwanted items while supporting local reuse and recovery efforts.

Community-wide garage sales often leave behind items that still have life left in them but are no longer wanted by their owners. Rather than seeing those materials discarded, the

City of Robins and its partners created an opportunity for residents to extend the useful life of household goods, furniture, electronics, and other materials through reuse and recycling.

The event was held on Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 8-11:00 at New Covenant Bible Church. Residents were guided through the parking lot, where partner organizations were staged and ready to accept donations. The last partner was ABC Disposal, who took any remaining materials that couldn't be diverted from the landfill. Additionally, document shredding services were provided.

The success of the event was made possible through the collaboration of several community organizations and businesses. Partners included **New Covenant Bible Church, Central Furniture Rescue, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Goodwill of the Heartland, Midwest Electronic Recovery, and ABC Disposal Services**. Each organization played an important role by accepting materials that could be reused, recycled, refurbished, or properly managed.

Thanks to these collaborative efforts, **9,741 pounds of usable materials were diverted from the landfill**. Furniture found new homes, electronics were responsibly recycled, reusable household items were donated for continued use, and many materials were directed to the most appropriate recovery outlets instead of becoming waste.

"We saw 130 cars come through during the 3-hour event. We have received City Council support for making this an annual event, and given the very positive response we received, I think next year's event could be even bigger!" says Lisa Goodin, Robins' City Clerk.

Interested in organizing a similar event or learning how the Iowa Waste Exchange can assist your community or organization? [Contact](#) your local IWE Resource Specialist to learn more about the free services available through the Iowa Waste Exchange.

Robins Clean-Up Day at a Glance

- 🔄 **9,741 pounds** diverted from the landfill
- 🚗 **130 vehicles** participated
- 🤝 **6 community partners**
- ⌚ **3-hour event**
- 🏠 Furniture, electronics, household goods, paper shredding, and more

