How Recycling Works

Recyclable material is delivered to the UARRC from our member communities. Then all material is sorted and loaded by hand and compressed in vertical balers to form bales weighing 600 to 1400 pounds depending on material type. The processed recyclable material then becomes a commodity and is sold to mills and/or manufacturers that use the material to produce new products or to reduce the amount of virgin material required to produce a given product. When consumers purchase items that are made from recyclable material, or at least contain post-consumer content, a demand is created for the commodities that we produce.

When you purchase items that contain post-consumer content, or purchase items which are made from 100% recyclable material, you are creating a demand for the commodities Centers like yours produce. When recyclable commodity demand increases, so does the price per ton that we receive (supply and demand). The revenue generated offsets the member obligation, or cost, to operate the Center; more clean recyclable material = more revenue = greater offset. Recycling is not free, but it is a responsible approach for every town’s solid waste management plan. Recycling creates jobs, conserves natural resources and diverts part of the solid waste stream that would otherwise be burned and/or tarffiliated.


Everyday is Earth Day Please Recycle.
**PAPER**

- **WHITE OFFICE PAPER**
  - Buckets
  - Lawn furniture
  - Children’s toys
  - Vinyl siding or PVC pipe
  - Motor oil or antifreeze containers

- **MIXED PAPER/LOW GRADE PAPER**
  - True colored paper (e.g., when torn see colored fibers)
  - Junk mail, envelopes with plastic, glossy paper, heavier stock papers
  - Cereal boxes, cracker boxes, gift boxes, shoes boxes, paper egg cartons
  - Magazines & catalogs
  - Phone books, textbooks with covers removed
    - Waxed (e.g., juice carton, ice cream)
    - Kleenex, paper towels, napkins

- **NEWSPRINT**
  - Newspapers (all newspaper contents)
  - Glossy advertising and coupon papers

- **CORRUGATED CARDBOARD**
  - Boxes (very fine to large corrugation)
  - Feed bags (no plastic liner)
  - Brown paper bags

- **PLASTIC BAGS & WRAP**
  - Grocery bags
  - Wood pellet bags
  - Industrial stretch film & bubble wrap
  - Kitchen food storage wrap (e.g., Ziploc bags)

- **#1, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 PLASTIC**
  - Bottles, jars and containers using screw top design
  - Labels on, rings on permitted
  - Clamshell containers (e.g., strawberry, cherry tomato container)
  - Plastic egg cartons
  - Plastic containers numbered #1, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7
  - All plastic caps
  - #6 polystyrene (styrofoam like) meat trays

- **#2 NATURAL PLASTIC (SEMI-CLEAR)**
  - Jugs (e.g., milk, water, vinegar, windshield washer fluid)
  - Labels on, rings on permitted, caps
  - Motor oil, pesticide or hazardous waste

- **#2 COLORED PLASTIC (SOLID WHITE OR COLORED)**
  - Bottles (e.g., laundry detergent bottles, bleach containers)
  - Labels on, rings on permitted, caps
  - Motor oil, antifreeze, pesticide or hazardous waste

- **PLASTICS RIGID PLASTIC**
  - Buckets
  - Lawn furniture
  - Children’s toys
  - Vinyl siding or PVC pipe
  - Motor oil or antifreeze containers

**GLASS**

- **BOTTLES AND JARS**
  - All colors
  - Canning jars
  - Broken jars
  - Broken glass
  - Drinking glasses
  - Ceramics, vases, bowls, cookware
  - Chemical bottle (e.g., water test kits)
  - Window glass
  - Candle containers

**METALS**

- **TIN/STEEL**
  - Food cans (labels permitted, helpful to remove both ends and flatten)
  - Small amounts of scrap iron
  - Empty paint cans

- **ALUMINUM & ALUMINUM FOIL**
  - Magnets (e.g., soda can)
  - Food and beverage cans
  - Some cat food
  - Pie and roasting pans
  - Foil seals on jars
  - Aluminum foil (flat or rolled into ball)

**PLASTICS**

- **RIGID PLASTIC**
  - Buckets
  - Lawn furniture
  - Children’s toys
  - Vinyl siding or PVC pipe
  - Motor oil or antifreeze containers

**GLASS**

- **BOTTLES AND JARS**
  - All colors
  - Canning jars
  - Broken jars
  - Broken glass
  - Drinking glasses
  - Ceramics, vases, bowls, cookware
  - Chemical bottle (e.g., water test kits)
  - Window glass
  - Candle containers

**TIN/STEEL**

- Food cans (labels permitted, helpful to remove both ends and flatten)
- Small amounts of scrap iron
- Empty paint cans

**ALUMINUM & ALUMINUM FOIL**

- Non-magnetic (e.g., soda can)
- Food and beverage cans
- Some cat food
- Pie and roasting pans
- Foil seals on jars
- Aluminum foil (flat or rolled into ball)

**METALS**

- Tin or steel

**UNIVERSAL HAZARDOUS WASTE**

- Batteries (all types, including automobile, rechargeable)
- Ink and toner printer cartridges
- TVs
- Computers & computer monitors
- Game consoles & digital picture frames
- Mercury containing devices. Please use caution handling mercury, it is a poisonous heavy metal (e.g., fluorescent bulbs, thermometers, thermostats, automotive switches, some antiques - pendulum clocks, barometers, silvered mirrors and vases)

**FREON APPLIANCES**

- Intact - still containing refrigerant
- Refrigerators & freezers (empty & clean)
- Air conditioners
- Dehumidifiers

**MIXED ELECTRONIC WASTE**

- E-Waste – needs to have circuitry to function, may have LCD display or time clock
- Coffee makers with timer
- Printers & keyboards
- Microwave ovens
- Fax and copy machines
- Portable radios
- Telephones (including cell phones)
- Coffee makers with on/off switch
- Toasters
- Fans
- Vacuums
- Hair dryers

**MAINE RECYCLERS**

- All items must be clean & dry

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- All items must be clean & dry

- Revised 2/2013

Accepted materials are subject to change. Contact UARRC with questions.
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