Recycling is Mightier than the Sword

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The Evolution of Recycling

What hasn’t changed:

✓ People still want to recycle & “do the right thing”
✓ States & local government have established recycling bans, goals & mandates
✓ “The Right Thing” must be reframed - not all materials can be recycled

What has changed:

✓ China is enforcing a 0.5% contamination rate and complete ban of mixed paper
✓ Operating costs have increased
✓ Diversion has led the way to aspirational recycling

1 in 4 items placed in a recycling cart is not recyclable!

% Contamination Enforced by China: 0.5%
Avg. Contamination % in Our MRFs: >25%
Following the Path of Our Commodities
Destination of our fiber recyclables 2017 vs 2018

~27% of our fiber went into China in 2017 vs 5% in Q1 2018

Alternative markets to move material were developed: India, SE Asia, and domestic mills are all being used by WM export group.
Local mill recycles 850,000 tons of cardboard

- Reduced transport distance by 88%
- Recovered ~3,000 tons metal / year
- Diverted 44,000 tons of waste from landfill
You Have the Power!

Ever wonder, "Why and how to recycle?" When you use "Recycle Often. Recycle Right." great things happen. Every day we encounter hundreds of recyclable items. By recycling properly, you help materials get to their next best use, which in turn saves tons upon tons of raw materials, time, energy and expense.

It’s Time to Rethink Recycling

69% of plastic bottles don't get recycled.* 45% of aluminum cans end up in the garbage.* Liquids often spoil a whole load of otherwise recyclable paper. That’s why it’s time to get back to the basics of good recycling. The fact is that some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. The Recycle Often. Recycle Right™ Recycling Rules will help you rethink recycling to make a sustainable impact!

Visit RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com to make the promise and become a Recycling Ambassador. Whether you’re a home owner, teacher, city official, business, kid, or a recycling enthusiast, all the information you need to help pass it on is just few clicks away.

*Source: US Environmental Protection Agency

RECYCLING RULES

1. RECYCLE ALL BOTTLES, CANS AND PAPER
2. KEEP ITEMS CLEAN AND DRY
3. NO PLASTIC BAGS

Certain offenders can slow down the recycling process or even ruin the load.

Make the Promise at RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com …and then pass it on

Participation is Key

With the help of communities across the country, Waste Management recycled enough material last year to fill 168,819 Boeing 737s.

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Always recycle:
- Plastic Bottles & Containers
- Food & Beverage Cans
- Paper
- Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard
- Food & Beverage Cartons

Do NOT include in your recycling cart:
- NO Food Waste
- NO Plastic Bags & Film
- NO Foam Cups & Containers
- NO Needles

To Learn More Visit: RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com
#RORR
Paper:

- Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, etc.
- Home Office Paper, Files, School Papers, etc.: shredded paper in brown paper bags only.
- Junk Mail, Advertisements and Brochures
- All Envelopes: window envelopes too!
- Corrugated Cardboard: flattened, 2x4 feet maximum *(Do not bundle or tie together)*
- Phone Directories and Soft-cover Books
- Paper Boxes—cereal, cracker, soda, tissue, shoe, gift, toy, etc.: flatten box and recycle any plastic liners at grocery store with other plastic bags.
- Pizza Boxes & Paper Egg Cartons: discard all contents and flatten.
Plastic:

- **Bottles**: beverage, soap, squeeze bottles, and spray bottles (reattach caps, pumps, and lids)
- **Jugs**: milk, laundry detergent, etc. (reattach caps)
- **Jars**: peanut butter, mayonnaise, sauce, etc. (reattach lids)
- **Tubs**: dairy products like sour cream, margarine, yogurt etc. (reattach lids)
- NO plastic bags, foam egg cartons, single-use plastics (coffee pods, straws, utensils, cups) or prescription bottles
Metal:

- **Metal Food and Beverage Cans**: lids are accepted.
- **EMPTY Aerosol Cans**: with caps. **NO pesticides or spray paints.**
Glass:

- Glass Food and Beverage Bottles, Jugs and Jars: reattach and recycle lids and caps.
- No drinking glasses, window glass, pyrex, light bulbs, etc.
Items Not Accepted in Recycling Program

- Plastic bags*
- Foam*
- Food or liquid waste
- Propane tanks*
- Cord/Hoses/Ropes
- Prescription bottles*
- Electronics*
- Tarps or Pool Covers/Liners
- Sharps/Syringes*
- Clothing*
We Waste a LOT of Food!

- Nationally, about 35 million tons/year; $165 billion wasted
- In Onondaga County: about 36,000 tons/year trashed
  - 25% of the food we buy wasted
    - 265 lbs. / person/year
Organics Recovery

- Largest municipal facility in NYS
Plastic Bags

Current Laws:

• NYS Plastic Bag Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Act of 2009 (retail store collection).

• In NYS, 14 municipalities have enacted plastic bag ordinances.

• In U.S., 121 cities, towns & municipalities have taken steps to reduce consumption of single-use plastic bags; primarily through outright bans.
Current Proposals


• Bans single-use carry out plastic bags

• Fee on paper bags; **80% of revenue goes to Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)** for municipal pollution reduction, clean up, education, purchasing reusable bags; **20% of fee to retailers.**

• Minimum fee of $0.10; maximum of $0.25
Each Day We Use
Hundreds of “Complex” Products
Some products contain toxins.

- Beryllium, PVC, brominated flame retardants, lead, copper
- 4 mg mercury
- 0.8 g mercury
- 4 g mercury

- BPA, endocrine disruptors
- Petrochemicals, volatile organic compounds
- Brominated flame retardants
- Pharmaceutical compounds
- 4 lbs lead; barium, nickel, cadmium, rare earth metals
- Nickel, lithium, cadmium

The Trash Stream . . .
The Trash Stream . . .

Some products are bulky and hard to manage at end-of-life.
The Trash Stream . . .

All products eventually reach their end-of-life and must be managed properly.
• #3 Reduce Food Waste
  70.53 gigatons avoided if 50% global food waste reduced by 2050

• #55 Household Recycling
  2.77 gigatons avoided if average global recycling rate is 65% by 2050

• #68 Waste-to-Energy
  1.1 gigatons avoided if 62.6 GW of WTE facilities installed globally by 2050

Source: Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, Edited by Paul Hawken, 2017
Thank You!
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