



Hey, Orson – that’s a mighty unusual “Valentine” you’ve got there... *Maybe so, but every one of us ought to shower Mother Earth with valentines for all the ecosystem services and resources she provides to us for free, like warmth, food, air, water, and other natural resources.*

Good point, Orson. We should all be more mindful about how we treat our shared environment, taking what we *need* and not being wasteful. *For sure! There’s that old saying, “If Momma ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy.” Trust me, you do not want to get on Mother Earth’s bad side!*



Recyclemania starts February 2nd and runs thru March 28th. Wells competes annually in this friendly competition among several hundred higher ed institutions to see who can recycle the most. Help Wells score well again this year! How can you help? Make sure you **recycle the right things right**, including items generated in our offices, rooms, kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms. Here is a handy reminder of all the materials that we **can recycle** at Wells:

- **Mixed paper** (white and colored paper, magazines, catalogs, newspapers, envelopes, paperboard, junk mail)
- **Glass containers**
- **Metal Cans and Foil**
- **Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, and lids**
- **Small rigid plastics**



All containers for recycling should be empty and any remaining food waste rinsed out. PLEASE don’t dump liquids *or* food into recycling bins!

SPECIAL HANDLING

What recyclable items must be handled differently and what do you do with them?

E-waste – take your non-working or obsolete electronics (phones, computers, cords, etc.) to the IT department in Macmillan and put them in their e-waste recycling box.

Plastic bags – bags and other plastic films can be deposited in the collection box in Zabriskie 212.

Batteries – Deposit **rechargeable batteries** in the collection box in Zabriskie 212. Single use alkaline batteries are not (yet) recyclable and can be put in landfill trash.

Light bulbs – **fluorescent lamps** can be deposited in the collection box in Zabriskie 212. LED lamps or incandescent bulbs can safely go in landfill trash.

What can't we recycle? (What should go into the landfill trash bins instead):



- **Food waste** (unless you compost it!), Used paper towels, paper cups and plates, etc.
- **Disposable, single-use plastic items** (cups, lids, straws, eating utensils, plastic plates, etc.)



Redeem your **GOTCHA card** - good for a free 12-oz. refill in your own container - at the **GRIND** before 3/15. New **GOTCHA** will be issued for semester Block 2.

“Installment” is a double play on words: these informational mini-newsletters are put inside bathroom cubicles (*“in stalls”*) and the content gets changed out - in *“installments.”*

Get it? Got it? Good!

Have a more sustainable Valentine's Day

Skip the card: Instead of a stock greeting card, **handwrite a letter or poem on recycled paper.** Create a long list of all the things you love about your special person.



Flowers: Choose a potted plant over imported, short-lived flowers or make your sweetie an origami rose.

Avoid Perfume. Many perfumes contain hazardous chemicals. Give an all-natural essential oil reminding you of your love.



Chocolate: Select **Fair Trade** certified and/or organic chocolates. Create a romantic experience making fudge together.

Romantic dinner: Sharing even a simple homemade meal is a great, affordable alternative to eating out and allows you to prepare foods your partner enjoys most.



Find the perfect gift: Look for vintage items. Antique jewelry or some other retro gift you know your special person will really enjoy can have added meaning without using new resources.

There are many reuse stores near Ithaca. Check out the **Reuse Trail**. <http://reusetrail.com/>



Questions? Email: sustainability@wells.edu

Installments are produced as a community service by the Wells Center for Sustainability and the Environment.