

RECYCLING "101" IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY

WHAT DO I HAVE TO RECYCLE?



The Gloucester County Solid Waste Management Plan requires all residents (including all residents living in multi-family dwellings) to recycle the following: (Only these items should go in your recycling bin)

- ** Newspaper & Cardboard
- ** Glass Bottles & Jars
- ** Aluminum Cans
- ** Bi-metal Cans
- ** Plastic #1 & #2 Containers

In addition, all government offices, institutions (schools & colleges), as well as commercial businesses, are also required to recycle (where it applies):

- ** Corrugated Cardboard
- ** Office Paper
- ** Used Motor Oil
- ** Clean Wood Waste

Although it is not mandated in our County, it is also recommended that magazines, catalogs, all junk mail, brick, concrete, scrap metal, many appliances, textiles, batteries, CFL & fluorescent bulbs, are also recycled whenever possible. The more we keep out of the solid waste stream the better for our environment.

In addition to the above items, on January 1, 2011, electronic waste (E-Waste) was banned from the solid waste stream by the NJDEP and needs to be properly recycled. The mandated E-Waste includes:

- ** Computers & their components
- ** Televisions
- ** Printers, Copies & Fax Machines

Everyone must have separate cans for recycling and garbage. The contamination of recyclables with garbage is costly and difficult for the markets to process. Please make sure you separate your recyclables and do not include items in the recycling bin that do not belong there. When in doubt, contact your Municipal Recycling Coordinator for the correct information. A complete MRC list is on page 1 of this guide.

WHY RECYCLE?



It's the Law!

In 1987, NJ Governor Thomas Kean signed into law the *Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act*. This law requires all single family homes, apartments, condos, industries, businesses, governments, schools and colleges in NJ separate certain materials from their regular solid waste stream for recycling. Recycling is also mandated by the Gloucester Co. Solid Waste Management Plan and through local ordinances in all towns.



While residential recycling is a very large part of recycling in our County, businesses are also required to recycle at their facilities. In addition to all the mandated residential recyclables (newspaper, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, bimetal cans, and plastics #1 & #2) businesses in the County are also required to recycle all used corrugated cardboard, office paper, motor oil and clean wood waste, where it applies.

A few easy steps your business should follow to properly recycle. **Step 1**, Designate a Recycling Coordinator to organize and develop a recycling plan for your facility. **Step 2**, Determine what materials your business creates as far as recyclables go. **Step 3**, Determine your disposal options. Some towns provide recycling pick-ups for small businesses, so contact your local municipality for more information. You can also contact your trash hauler to see if they can provide you with recycling services. **Step 4**, Establish a program to separate and store your recyclables between pickups. **Step 5**, Educate your staff as to proper recycling practices in your office. **Step 6**, Keep records of your efforts.

Besides, being a Law, there are many other reasons to recycle. Recycling also helps conserve natural resources. Every ton of recycled paper saves the equivalent of 17 trees, and we need our trees. Preserving landfill space is another very important reason to recycle. The more we recycle, the longer our current landfills will last. In addition, in most cases, making new products out of at least partially recycled materials creates less air and water pollution.

BUSINESS RECYCLING

Recycling tonnages are required to be reported to your Municipal Recycling Coordinator each year so that it can be documented on your town's Annual Recycling Tonnage Report. Your town gets money from the State for recycling. The more they claim, the more funding they receive, which eventually reflects on local taxes and also gives added benefits to your business.

There have been some issues with haulers claiming you only need one trash dumpster and you may mix everything together. They will "sort it all out at their facility out of County". This is wrong & actually illegal. Per the 1987 NJ Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, mandated recyclables MUST be kept out of the regular waste stream. In addition, Gloucester County has Waste Flow Regulations that specify all Type 10 garbage (regular household trash) must stay within the county for disposal. When these haulers transport this trash/recycling mixture out of County, they are in violation of those regulations.

Please remember to recycle at home and work!

RECYCLING'S DIRTY DOZEN



#1 NO Plastic Bags

Bags are the WORST contaminant in the recycling bin. They get wet, dirty and are difficult to recycle. They may be recycled at some grocery stores.

#2 NO Materials in Plastic Bags

Workers have to slow the conveyor belts to rip open bags that contain recyclables and then add the bag to the pile bound for the landfill.

#3 NO Shredded Paper

Shredded paper is too small to sort. The pieces fall through the cracks of the sorting machines and stick to the belts. Please avoid recycling shredded paper when possible. Try to compost shredded paper in your compost bin (if you have one).

#4 NO Scrap Metal

Scrap metal of any size should not go into your curbside bin. These items cause excessive damage to the plant equipment. Take them to a scrap yard.

#5 NO Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste such as paint, car fluids, car batteries and pesticides must be taken to your local HSW Event.

#6 NO Diapers or Bio-Hazards

Syringes, needles, diapers & other sanitary products are not recyclable.

#7 NO Non-recyclable Plastics

There are still many plastics that are not recyclable. Many plastic lids, Styrofoam, and any other plastics not listed in the recycling guidelines are not recyclable because stable markets do not exist for them.

#8 NO Flattened Containers

The new single-stream sorting equipment tries to separate "flats" (paper) from "rounds" (containers). When rounds are flattened, the sorters mistakenly send them to the paper side of the facility, significantly contaminating the paper sent to markets.

#9 NO Caps/Lids on Bottles

Metal lids can be removed & recycled loose in the bin. Plastic caps from plastic bottles are too small and should be thrown away in the trash.

#10 NO Liquids

When bottles are compacted for shipping, liquids splatter and explode all over the floor. Please completely empty and quickly rinse out containers before recycling.

#11 NO Ceramics or Other Glass

Ceramics, dishes, mirrors, light bulbs, porcelain & window glass should not go into the bin! Their different melting points will ruin new glass bottles.

#12 NO Propane Tanks

Propane tanks of any size can explode at the recycling center causing harm to the workers or damage to the plant.

