



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
of Schenectady County



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE A BETTER RECYCLER

## RECYCLING FACT SHEET FOR RESIDENTS

Single-Stream makes recycling easier, which helps more families participate in recycling. Having fewer bins to transport also means fewer trucks on the road, which saves fuel, money, and prevents unnecessary pollution! But it can also create confusion about what should or shouldn't go in your home recycling bin. Use this fact sheet to learn how to be a better recycler!

### RECYCLE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR HOME BIN

- ✓ plastic containers, bottles, tubs, lids, and jugs (food/beverage and health/beauty containers)
- ✓ glass bottles and jars (food/beverage containers)
- ✓ aluminum cans, clean tin-foil balled-up, foil pie pans, empty aerosol canisters
- ✓ paper products: junk mail, envelopes, folders, newspaper, magazines, paper egg cartons, paper bags, drink cartons, paper juice boxes, scrap paper
- ✓ thin cardboard boxes, rolls and corrugated boxes

### DO NOT RECYCLE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR HOME BIN

- ❖ plastic bags (bring these to a grocery store for recycling)
- ❖ Styrofoam © (select locations accept packing peanuts for re-use)
- ❖ broken glass from drinking cups/ mirrors / windows
- ❖ soiled paper like tissues, napkins, paper towels
- ❖ scrap metal
- ❖ any rigid plastic that isn't a container or lid
- ❖ batteries or electronics (see reverse side for disposal guide)
- ❖ hazardous waste (bring to a free Schenectady County Collection Event, call the Recycling Educator to request info)

### PLASTIC BAGS

You can recycle a wide variety of film plastics and plastic bags at local grocery stores as long as bags are dry and food residue has been washed away.

You can recycle

- ✓ bread bags
- ✓ newspaper bags
- ✓ fresh produce bags
- ✓ frozen food bags
- ✓ cereal bags
- ✓ zipper-type baggies
- ✓ shrink-wrap from paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.)

### BULK ITEMS

Make a donation if your item is still functional! Never throw away furniture, home goods, toys, or kitchenware. Donating items improves the lives of others. You may even be entitled to tax deductions for making donations to charitable organizations.

**Habitat for Humanity** will pick up furniture donations for **FREE !**

Call 518.395.3412 ext. 101

#### City Mission

416 Saratoga Road, Glenville  
Call 518.399.0917

#### Home Furnishings Program

924 Albany St, Schenectady  
Call 518.346.2444

## STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO LEARN MORE @SCHENECTADYCOUNTY RECYCLES



### WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Americans create over 250 million tons of trash every year. The average American produces 4.4 pounds of trash every day, Which is 2x the world average waste generation per capita. Most of what Americans throw away can be recycled.

Recycling is a form of natural resource conservation, reducing the demand on the environment for the raw materials needed to make new goods.

Recycling reduces the pollution that contributes to global climate change, which is threatening many plant and animal ecosystems.

Donating unwanted items helps improve the life of others in our community while extending the useful lifecycle of our goods.

Recycling is a leadership behavior, and a citizenship skill that fosters stewardship for the environment and earth's natural resources.

### QUESTIONS?

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### DID YOU KNOW?

New Yorkers throw away **1.4 billion lbs** of textiles every year. These materials are **100% recyclable**. You can donate and recycle fabric and textiles at a community clothing drop-off bin. You can recycle:

- ✓ All types of clothing
- ✓ Shoes and boots
- ✓ Linens
- ✓ Towels and rags
- ✓ Curtains and canvas cloths
- ✓ Blankets and sheets
- ✓ Pillows /pillow cases
- ✓ Book-bags and pocket books

**Donations do not have to be in perfect condition!** They can be stained, ripped, or missing buttons / broken zippers! As long as your material is odorless and dry it can be recycled into new materials like insulation or carpeting!

Find a clothing drop-off bin near you by visiting [nysar3.org/textile\\_recovery\\_locations.php](http://nysar3.org/textile_recovery_locations.php)

### BATTERIES

Drop off rechargeable batteries at local home improvement stores. Visit [call2recycle.org/locator](http://call2recycle.org/locator) to find a drop-off site near you.

### ELECTRONICS

Most e-waste drop-off is **FREE with a permit** at the County Compost Facility. Some e-waste is accepted at electronics retailers but fees may apply, with the acceptance of cellphones which can be brought to any cellphone service provider.