



~BECOME A BETTER RECYCLER~ FACT SHEET FOR RESIDENTS

Single-Stream refers to when recyclables are co-mingled in the same recycling bin – no need to sort paper from plastic! Single-Stream makes recycling more convenient, but can create some confusion about what belongs in the recycling bin. Putting trash in the recycling causes more harm than you think! Use this fact sheet to learn how to become a better recycler – and when in doubt, *throw it out!*

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS SINGLE-STREAM

- ✓ plastic containers, bottles, tubs, lids, and jugs (food/beverage containers and health/beauty bottles *keep bottle lids attached)
- ✓ glass bottles and jars (food/beverage containers)
- ✓ aluminum cans, clean tin-foil balled-up, foil pie pans, foil food trays, empty aerosol canisters
- ✓ paper products like junk mail, envelopes, folders, newspaper, magazines, paper egg cartons, paper bags, drink cartons, paper juice boxes, etc.
- ✓ cardboard boxes & thin paperboard rolls

DO NOT PUT THESE IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN

- ❖ plastic bags and other thin plastic films
- ❖ Styrofoam ©
- ❖ small plastic items like forks, straws, etc.
- ❖ broken glass / dishes / ceramics / mirrors
- ❖ tissues / napkins / paper towels / paper plates
- ❖ batteries or electronics
- ❖ flexible plastic packaging like tubes of lotion, tooth paste, etc.
- ❖ complex materials like garden hoses, VHS tapes, electrical wires, textiles, etc.
- ❖ hazardous wastes (call 518-372-1622 ext. 264)
- ❖ plastic spray-bottle nozzles



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PLASTIC BAGS

New Yorkers use **23 billion** plastic bags each year, only 15% get recycled properly. Do not put plastic bags in your home recycling bin. Recycle plastic bags and other thin plastic films at your local grocery store:

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

~ Bags must be clean, dry, & empty ~

FABRIC & TEXTILES

New Yorkers throw away **1.4 billion lbs.** of textiles every year. The market value of these discarded textiles is \$130 million per year – and a loss of 1,000 NYS jobs. Donate and recycle fabric and textiles at a clothing drop-off bin near you. Recycle:

- ✓ All types of clothing
- ✓ All types of shoes & boots
- ✓ Linens & bedding
- ✓ Towels & throw rugs
- ✓ Curtains & canvas cloths
- ✓ Bookbags, purses, & more

Recycle clothing & fabric regardless of condition Items can be stained, ripped, missing buttons, broken zippers etc. Items must be odorless, dry, & free from blood stains or grease

Find a clothing drop-off bin near you by visiting nysar3.org/textile_recovery_locations.php

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 4.5 pounds of trash every day. Most of what Americans throw away can be recycled or composted!

Recycling protects natural environments and natural resources. Recycling conserves energy, fuel, water, and other natural resources by reducing the demand for raw materials to make new goods. Recycling reduces the pollution that's causing global climate change.

It's important to recycle, but it's better to *recycle right*. Not everything can be recycled, so when in doubt, *throw it out*.

Recycling is only part of the solution! You can make a difference every day by making simple choices that reduce waste – like avoiding single use disposable products and opting for ways to reduce and reuse. Recycling is a leadership behavior and a citizenship skill that fosters stewardship for our environment and sustainable communities. Encourage your co-workers, friends, and family to recycle right!

QUESTIONS?

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County provides equal program and employment opportunities. Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County office if you have any special needs.

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HOME GOODS

Never throw away household items that are still in good condition! Furniture, tools, toys, home goods, books, kitchenware, and small appliances can be donated to local charitable organizations like:

Home Furnishing Program

518-346-2444

City Mission

518-399-0917

Habitat for Humanity

518-395-3412

Salvation Army

518-399-8444

Good Will

518-355-4265

Or other thrift store near you!

BATTERIES

Drop off rechargeable batteries at local home improvement stores. Visit call2recycle.org/locator to find a drop-off site near you.

ELECTRONICS

Donate electronics that are still in good condition!

Recycle cellphones at any cellphone service provider / store.

Bring e-waste to electronics retail outlets (fees may apply)

Most e-waste is accepted for free at the County Compost & Recycling Facility- 24 Hetcheltown Road, Glenville. Purchase a permit \$20/year and recycle many items for free – (additional fees for TVs)

Call 518-399-6980