



SUSTAINABLE *focus*

February – Focus on Recycling

Recycling is an easy way to have a positive impact.

Environmental Importance of Recycling

Waste has a massive negative impact on the natural environment. Anything put into the trash eventually ends up in a landfill. Landfills emit harmful chemicals and greenhouse gasses which contribute to air pollution, water pollution, global warming, deforestation, and natural habitat destruction.

Further, creating new products from raw materials requires large amounts of energy. **Recycling** requires much less energy, which helps preserve natural resources further.

The Importance of Recycling to People

An increasing population, with more wealth than ever before, means that more people are buying more products and creating more waste than ever. New products often contain non-biodegradable materials, which are destined for a landfill. With an increased population, preserving natural resources is even more crucial. There is also less physical space for landfills. Recycling is crucial.



Above: photo of a landfill. Below: photo of a recycling center



Confused about what is and what is not recyclable?

See the next page for a **full recycling guide!** Or, contact Sustainability Specialist for GCCCD, Jacqueline Hall, with any questions!

Contact: Jacqueline.Hall@gcccd.edu
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Recycling Guide at WORK



Only Mixed Paper & Newspaper should be placed in the blue bins pictured to the right

- Copier and ledger paper (colors ok)
- Junk mail
- Computer printout paper
- Envelopes (with or without window)
- Soft-cover bound booklets, brochures, and catalogues
- Magazines and glossies
- Gift wrap (except foils)
- Card or coated stock
- Post-it notes
- Paperbound boxes (ie. cereal)
- Books
- Newspaper
- Newsprint catalogues
- Phone directories

**Paper should be dry, free of paper clips, glue, and excessive tape. Staples may remain.*



Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans can be recycled in specifically labeled receptacles located throughout campuses.



Recycling Guide at HOME



In addition to the items listed above, the following materials can be placed into your home recycling curb side pick up bin.

Glass

Glass should be thoroughly rinsed. Metal caps can be recycled.

- Food and beverage bottles and jars
- Clear, blue, green and brown glass
- Reagent bottles (triple rinse)

Miscellaneous Plastic

- Yogurt and other food containers
- Plastic take-out food containers
- Food storage containers like Tupperware

Metal

Metal containers should be rinsed. Labels may remain. Crushing is not necessary.

- Aluminum, bimetal (tin), and steel containers
- Aluminum foil (clean and dry)
- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Paint cans (empty)