



recyclemoreminnesota.org

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Where Does My Recycling Go?

While recycling programs are available to citizens and businesses all throughout Minnesota, many people may wonder, “where does my recycling go?” Whether you have curbside collection or you bring in your recyclables to a drop-off site, our paper, bottles, and cans make their way to a nearby recycling facility, and then off to a buyer to be turned into new products. In our region, you may be surprised that recyclable material buyers are closer than you think. Recycle more and help out Minnesota and regional businesses.

Paper and cardboard recycling:

There are several locations throughout the state where paper and cardboard are recycled into new products:

- Rock Tenn, St. Paul, MN: Approximately half of the paper recycled in Minnesota is done at this St. Paul facility. They recycle the old paper into cardboard for many products you already have in your cupboards, like cereal boxes.
- Liberty Paper, Becker, MN: Liberty Paper recycles cardboard boxes into new paper.
- New Page Corp., Duluth, MN: New Page uses recycled paper fiber and pulp to be made into new paper products like educational books, and business documents.
- Bowater, Thunder Bay, Ontario: Bowater recycles paper pulp into new newspaper, tissue, paper towels, and writing paper.

Plastic bottles and jugs:

There are several locations throughout Minnesota where plastic bottles and jugs are recycled into new pop bottles, milk containers, landscaping materials, polar fleece, carpet, and plastic lumber.

- Master Mark, Paynesville, MN: Master Mark uses recycled plastic milk jugs and sawdust to make lawn, garden, and building supplies.
- Bedford Technology, Worthington, MN: Bedford Technology creates plastic lumber from recycled milk jugs.
- Many plastic pop bottles are recycled and remanufactured into carpet at several locations in the state of Georgia.

Glass containers:

- Anchor Glass, Shakopee, MN: Anchor Glass recycles clear, brown, and green glass that is made into new glass bottles and food containers.

Aluminum cans:

In Minnesota many companies who accept aluminum cans for recycling prepare and process the cans so that they can be taken to several larger companies who melt down the aluminum and create aluminum can sheets. The sheets of aluminum are then sold in rolls to be re-manufactured into new aluminum cans, as well as many other products.

- Alter Trading Corp., St. Paul, MN: Alter Scrap processes aluminum cans and scrap metals that are melted down at a separate metal recycling facility.

E-Waste:

There are several companies in the Twin Cities area where old electronic items are de-manufactured for recycling of individual components. These are a few companies in Minnesota who make certain that the material they recover is properly recycled or disposed of (some components of electronic items are hazardous waste such as lead and mercury). For a list of state-certified e-waste recyclers and collectors, visit:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/stewardship/electronics-law.cfm>

- MPC-E, Eagan, MN: MPC-E is one of the few companies with a no-landfill policy. Every component which comes to them for recycling is recycled properly.
- Asset Recovery, St. Paul, MN: Asset Recovery Corp. was founded in 1987; ARC offers comprehensive value recovery programs in addition to managing the environmental, security and legal risks associated with technology disposal.
- Green Lights Recycling, Blaine, MN: Green Lights Recycling specializes in recycling of e-waste and fluorescent bulbs.

Textiles (old clothes, fabric, shoes, etc.):

You know the drill at your local Goodwill, you wait in line, drop off your bags, you get your receipt and then you hope that those t-shirts with holes are put to good use. But how do you know? Even if Goodwill cannot re-sell shoes or clothing in their stores they forward that material onto textile recyclers.

- Wipers Recycling, LLC, Maplewood, MN: Wipers Recycling recycles shoes and other textile goods into absorbent products.

About Recycle More Minnesota

The Recycle More Minnesota campaign is a joint effort between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Recycling Association of Minnesota to help increase awareness about recycling throughout the state. Established in 2008, we are working with our partners to promote recycling at home, work and on the go, with the goal of increasing the state recycling rate to 50% by 2011 through educational and social marketing efforts.

Help us track the use of this campaign!

This toolkit was provided by the MPCA and RAM as a part of the Recycle More Minnesota education campaign. Please help us track the use of this campaign. Please send an e-mail to info@recyclemoreminnesota.org with a description of how and when the materials were used and, if published, the estimated circulation of the publication. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact us at (651) 296-6300.