

## Recycling WORKS When We Recycle BETTER!

Converting trash into reusable material has so many benefits to the environment AND it creates many jobs in our region. No wonder it's so popular? Plus, recycling has never been easier now that residents can put all of their recycling into one bin.

However, **contamination** has become an overwhelming problem for the recycling companies with too many unaccepted items coming through, causing the good recycling to become unusable. Tossing in unacceptable items – like plastic bags or a container that still has food or liquid in it – can ruin a whole bale of materials that could have been recycled. People in the recycling community call this “Contamination.” Recycling facilities are unable to sell contaminated bales of material. Contamination is the biggest threat to our recycling industry – We need to “Clean up our act!”

To help us all be better recyclers, here's a list of what you CAN recycle!

### **YES – Put these items in your recycling bin:**

- Paper
- Flattened cardboard
- Plastic bottles & containers
- Glass bottles & jars
- Metal food & beverage cans
- Food & beverage cartons
- Clean aluminum cans and foil

**MAKE SURE ALL CONTAINERS ARE EMPTY, RINSED AND DRY!**

### **Where to take other recyclables**

Confused about where to take plastic bags, Household Hazardous Waste, and other items that cannot go in your recycle bin? Check out the Madison County Website.

[https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/planning\\_and\\_development/sustainability.php](https://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/planning_and_development/sustainability.php)

How recycling helps our economy

- From the Illinois Recycling Association's 2010 Recycling Economic Information Study Update for Illinois, the recycling, recycling reliant, and reuse and remanufacturing industry contributed roughly 111,500 jobs, \$3.6 billion in payroll (labor income), and \$30.3 billion in gross receipts (output) to the State of Illinois in 2009.
- Source from the EPA, Nationwide, in 2016, recycling activities in the U.S. accounted for:
  - 757,000 jobs in recycling
  - \$36.6 billion in wages
  - 6.7 billion in tax revenue
- For every 1,000 tons of material recycled in the U.S. equals 1.57 jobs, \$76,000 in wages and \$14,101 in tax revenues. (EPA)
- Recycling increases economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials. (EPA)



# Accepted Materials

Ensure items are empty, clean and dry.<sup>™</sup>

Asegúrese de que los artículos estén vacíos, limpios y secos



## Paper & Cardboard

Cardboard (flattened), office paper, file folders, magazines, catalogs, newspaper and inserts, junk mail, telephone books, etc.

Cajas de cartón (desarmadas), papel de oficina, carpetas de archivos, revistas, catálogos, periódicos y folletos, directorios telefónicos, etc.



## Aluminum/Metal

Aluminum, tin or steel cans, foil, pie tins

Latas de aluminio, hojalata o acero, papel de aluminio, bandejas de papel de aluminio



## Plastic

Plastic bottles, containers

Botellas y envases de plástico



## Glass

Glass jars, bottles

Botellas y envases de vidrio



## NOT ACCEPTED IN RECYCLING CONTAINER

NO ACEPTADOS EN CONTENEDORES DE RECICLAJE

**NO plastic grocery bags**  
Bolsas de compras de plástico

**NO food waste**  
Restos de alimentos

**NO yard waste**  
Desechos de jardín

**NO light bulbs, window glass or mirrors**  
Bombillas de luz, vidrio de ventanas o espejos

**NO batteries**  
Baterías

**NO ceramics or dishes**  
Cerámica o vajilla

**NO cellphones, computers or electronics**  
Celulares, computadoras o productos electrónicos

**NO clothing**  
Ropa

**NO styrofoam**  
Poliestireno

**NO hazardous waste containers**  
Recipientes de desechos peligrosos

**NO garden hoses**  
Mangueras de jardín

**NO construction waste**  
Desechos de construcción

**NO oil containers of any kind**  
Recipientes de aceite de cualquier tipo