



Recycle Right!

**Recycle Right  
at Work & Home**

Presented by:

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Waste Management Recycling Services

June 23, 2021



## INTRODUCTION

### Meghann Maves

- Recycling Account Manager
- 10 years with WM on May 31

Focus on cleaning and improving our recycling streams coming into the region through training and communication.



# Objectives:

Introduction to Waste Management

Current State of the Recycling Industry

How to Recycle Right at Work & Home

Considering Composting

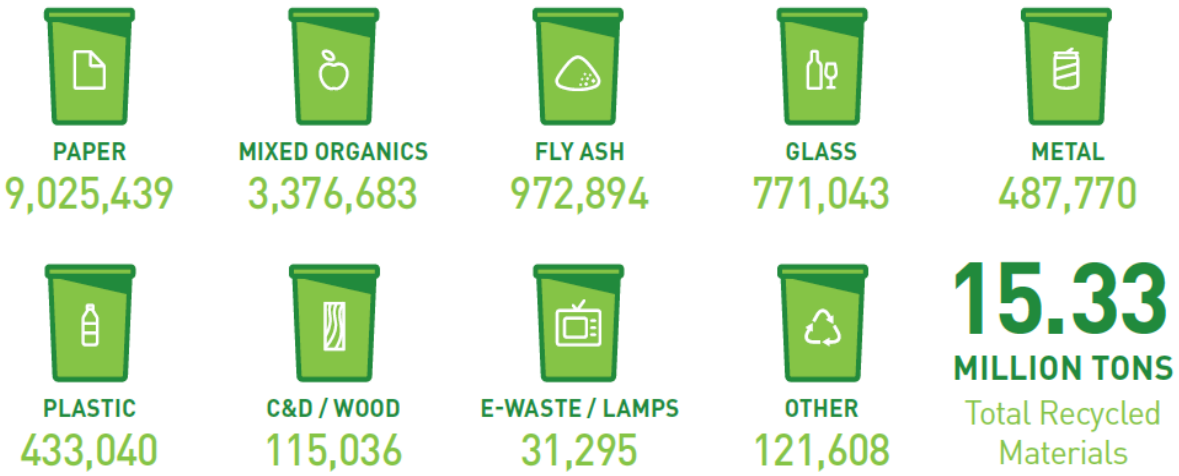


*Be on the lookout for common questions throughout the talk!*

# Waste Management Recycling Overview

sustainability.wm.com

## WHAT WE RECYCLED 2019 (in tons)



## ORGANIC WASTE

3.38 Million Tons of Organic Material Recycled

**15.4**  
MILLION  
GALLONS  
of EBS produced

Food converted to biogas produced enough renewable energy to power over 1,350 homes

\*Total gallons of the EBS® (organic slurry) produced as of 8/2018

**44**  
ORGANICS  
RECYCLING  
FACILITIES

The largest organics recycling infrastructure

- > 40 Waste Management managed composting and mulching facilities, 13 of which can accept food waste
- > 4 CORE® facilities

**19**  
BULKBIN™  
PROGRAMS

Utilizing 2,500+ Bins

Serving customers across various industries, including manufacturing, distribution and retail

## WHERE WE RECYCLED



- Material Recovery Facilities**
- 46 Single Stream
  - 29 Commercial
  - 16 Other
  - 11 Construction and Demolition
  - 2 Dual Stream

<https://sustainability.wm.com/>

# Why do we recycle?

- Recycling conserves resources by **creating secondary feedstocks** for industry
- Conserving virgin resources by substituting recycled feedstocks for raw materials is an recycling environmentally good thing to do
- Recycling makes **business sense** when done correctly



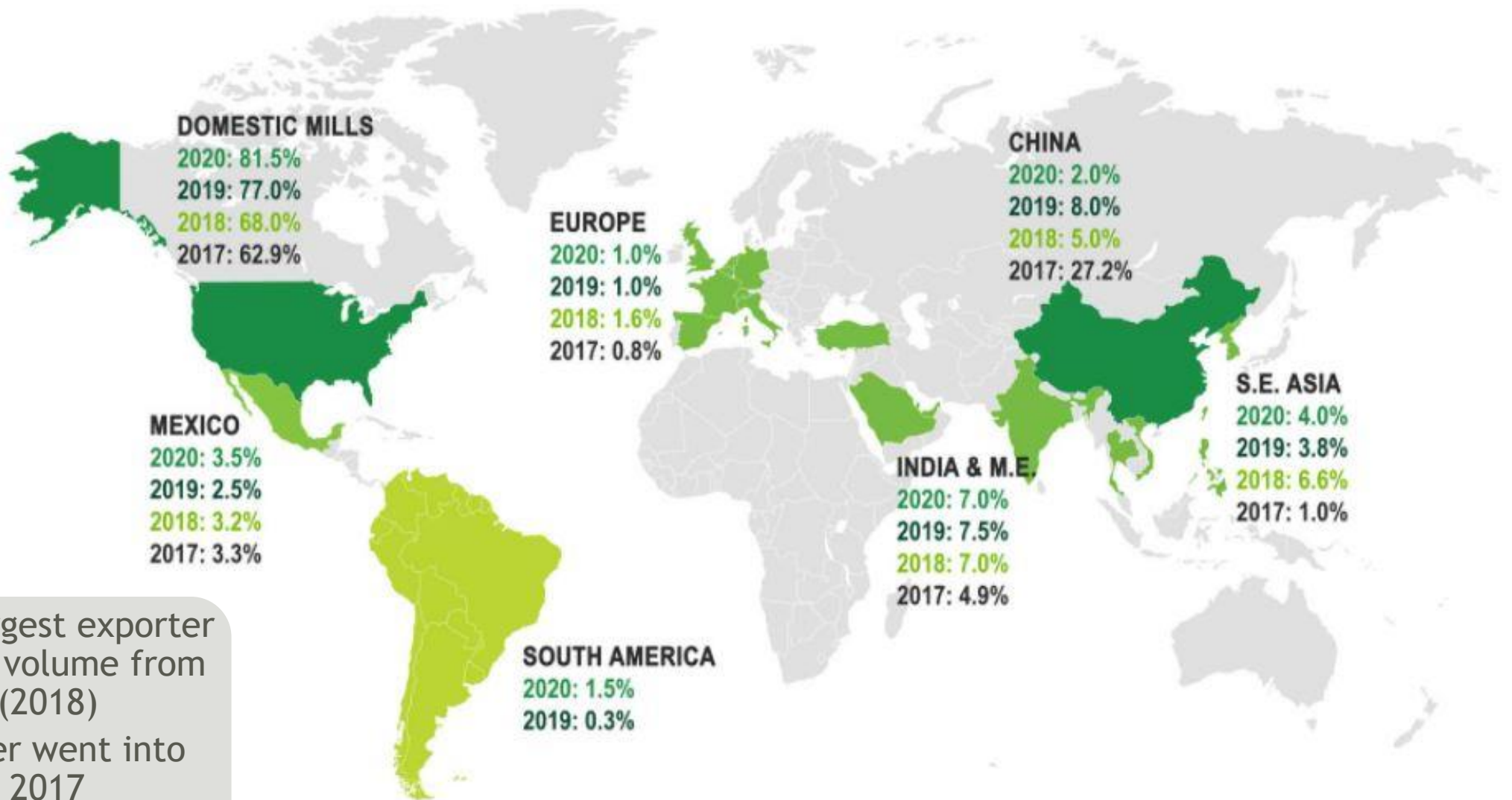
Our recycling world: What has changed?

# China's import policies changed recycling

- Prior to 2017 China consumed 50% of all paper and plastic recycled in the world
- 13.2 millions tons per year of recyclables are now competing for alternative markets.
- Mixed Paper and Mixed Plastics are banned from import into China. The 0.5% contamination limit on all other recyclables makes it difficult to sell into China
- China banned all imports in 2020



Reduced overall demand, supply surplus, increased quality requirements =  
increased processing cost and low commodity values for paper



WM is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of all goods (by volume from the U.S. (2018)

27% of our fiber went into China in 2017

<3% in Q3 2018

WM is no longer exporting any residential plastics

**Following the Path of Our Commodities | 2017-2020**



What does this mean for recycling?

# A resilient and adaptive industry

The industry has been adapting to China's recent policy changes. This helped with the respond to COVID-19 challenges:

- **Technology:** As global demand for recyclables fell, the need for improved quality and efficient processing became apparent. Subsequent investments in improved processing efficiencies have been unprecedented in our industry.
- **Markets:** Domestic demand has increased in response to the shift in global market conditions.
- **Education:** We've all learned how important it is to invest in recycling education. Collective industry efforts are making a difference.

Investments and adaptations by the recycling industry due to China's policy changes have created a more resilient industry that is able to operate effectively, and more efficiently within the safety protocols required by COVID-19

# Contamination Reduction

- In 2019, we added a new goal to reduce our inbound contamination to 10% or less by 2025.
- Although we successfully reduced our contamination at our single stream MRFs to 17% in 2019, the number has crept up over the past 18 months.

Collection is not recycling



≠





**NEARLY 1 IN 4 ITEMS PLACED  
IN EVERY RECYCLING BIN ISN'T  
ACTUALLY RECYCLABLE**

# Contaminated Recycling



What happens at home if people throw plastic bags into their recycling bins?

Does it get landfilled?

How do we educate our friends and neighbors on that?




So, **HOW** do I recycle?






# KNOW YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM!

At work, everyone should have a **recycling AND GARBAGE BIN**







In **single-stream recycling** programs, paper cardboard & acceptable bottle and can materials can be **co-mingled/mixed together**.

**RECYCLE RIGHT<sup>SM</sup>** 


Always recycle:

-  Plastic Bottles & Containers
-  Food & Beverage Cans
-  Paper
-  Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard
-  Glass Bottles & Containers

**DO NOT** include in your mixed recycling container:

-  NO Food or Liquids
-  NO Foam Cups & Containers
-  NO Loose Plastic Bags, Bagged Recycling or Film  
Empty recyclables directly into your cart.
-  NO Hazards - check for all state-kill programs for proper disposal
-  NO Green Waste
-  NO Clothing, Furniture & Carpet

To Learn More Visit:  
[wm.com/recyclerright](http://wm.com/recyclerright)

 **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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# KNOW YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM!

Do you have dual-stream collection?

Paper and Bottles & Cans are collected in separate bins in your offices. NOT mixed.



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 Office Paper

 Newspaper

 Junk Mail

 Brown Paper Bags


 Flattened Cardboard


 Paperboard


Paper & Cardboard Recycling 


**WM**  
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 Glass Bottles

 Plastic Bottles

 Aluminum Cans

 Tin & Steel Cans

Bottle & Can Recycling 



# KNOW YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM!

## Why would you have a source-separated program?

Your material does not go to the same place as your home recycling program.

It keeps bins & materials clean and dry

It helps building maintenance identify what is clean enough to collect to recycle.





# Acceptable Paper Materials



White Paper



Colored Paper



Junk Mail



Envelopes – w/ Windows



Cardboard



Books



Newspaper



Coated Paper



Magazines/Brochures



Post It Notes



Postal Envelopes



Manilla Folders



## Recycling Container

*Everyone should have a larger bin in a common area for comingled collection*

**Common Areas:  
Kitchen, break area, vending -  
Glass, Bottles, Cans**





# Acceptable Comingled Materials



- All plastic beverage containers & tubs,  
*Beverage caps acceptable if left on!*



- **Beverage cartons & boxes (aseptic packaging)**
- All metal beverage & soup cans
- All glass bottles & jars for food/drink





## Unacceptable Materials – The Big 3



**NO Food Waste**



**NO Foam Cups & Containers**  
(Check [Earth911.org](http://Earth911.org) for options.)

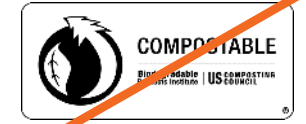


**NO Plastic Bags & Film**  
(Find a recycling site at [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org))



# Unacceptable Materials

• No bio-based plastic (compostable plastics)



Food Waste



Issues & Napkins



Paper Towels



Wax Coated Paper



Wood



Hot Paper Cup



Vinyl Binders



Greasy cardboard pizza boxes go in the garbage.



Carbon Paper



Greasy paper/cardboard



Plastic Bags/ Film



foam

If the top or bottom of the box is super clean, tear the box in half and recycle only clean part.



Traditional disposable cups are NOT acceptable in recycling - all garbage! Hot and cold cups!





Most coffee products are NOT acceptable in recycling bins

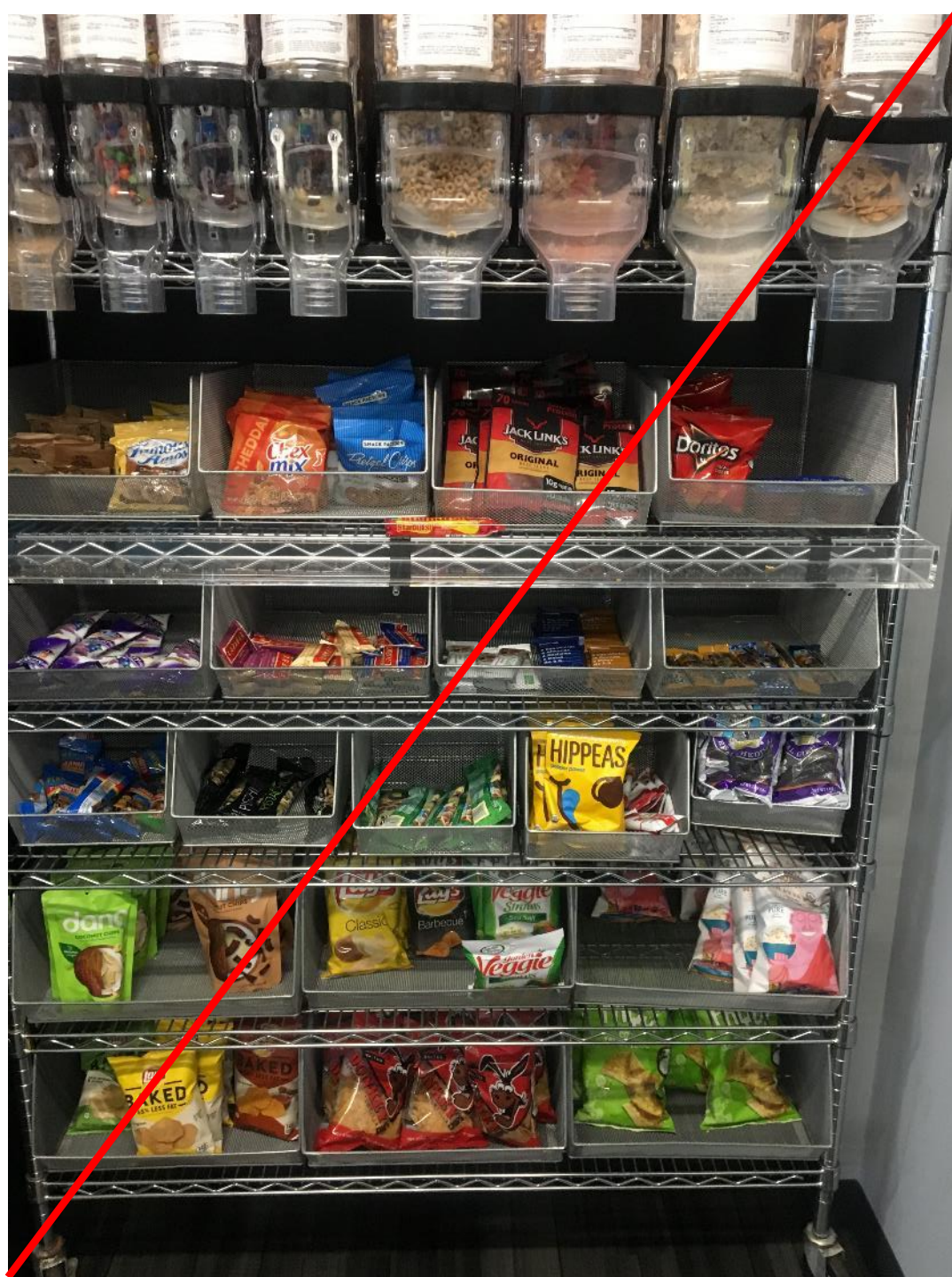


**NO DISPOSABLE HOT/COLD CUPS, COFFEE PODS, CREAMER PODS, STRAWS, STIRRERS, CUTLERY, OR COMPOSTABLE SERVICEWARE**



Any small plastics, that are an inconsistent size and shape, cannot be recycled with bottles and cans. We call these items RESIDUALS. Examples: loose bottle caps & lids, prescription pill bottles....





## Contamination

Chip bags, clear plastic bags, granola bar wrappers, juice pouches.

**TIP!** Just because something look shiny doesn't mean it's aluminum.



Contamination





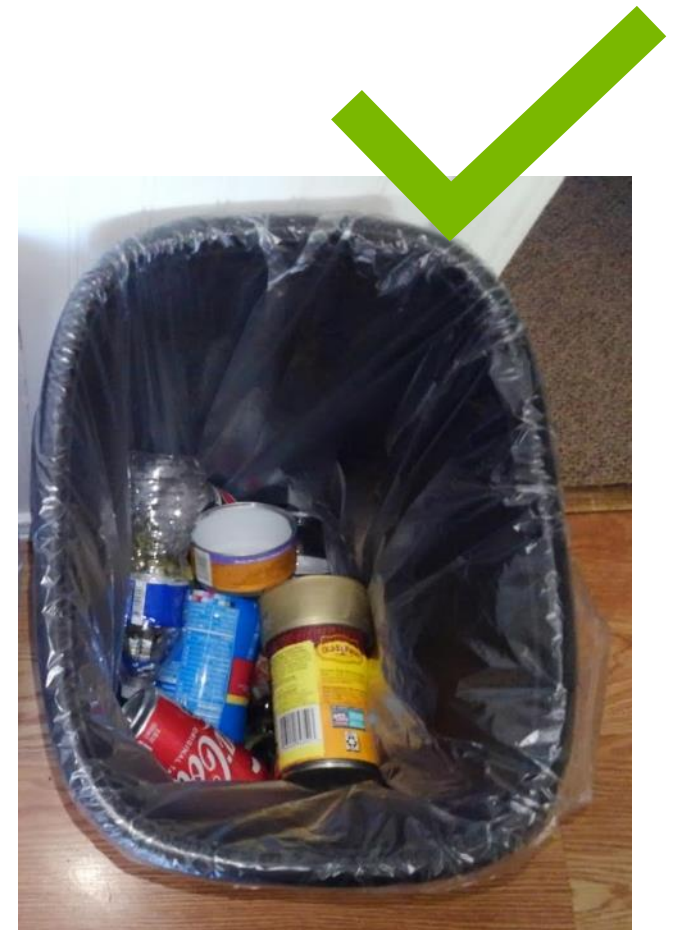
# Recycling & The Evolving Package



Light-weighting  
Flexible packaging  
increasing  
Non-recyclable materials replacing  
recyclable materials

Many new products offer great overall  
emission reductions, yet they are not  
recyclable!

# Example: Contaminated Bottle & Can Bag



Wait, what about COMPOSTING?

# Food scrap (industrial) composting can complement existing recycling programs!



**Produce**  
Fruits & vegetables



**Meat**  
All cooked and raw meat products including bones, shells, fish, beef & chicken



**Dairy**  
Milk, yogurt, ice cream & cheese



**Floral**  
Plants & flowers



**Bakery & Dry Goods**  
Pasta, beans, rice, bread & cereal



**Soiled Paper Goods**  
Coffee grounds & filters, tea bags, soiled paper bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins & uncoated take-out containers



**Fats, Oils & Greases**  
Cooking oil, butter, & grease

Organics Recycling



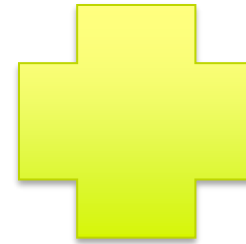
# What will the program look like?



Landfill/Trash



Paper & cardboard only  
- desk sides and copy areas



Bottles/Cans/Glass – *Green Lid with Holes*  
In kitchenette or vending areas



Food waste/compost  
Kitchenette/  
Lunchroom/  
Meeting Center



# Unacceptable RECYCLING Materials



Food Waste



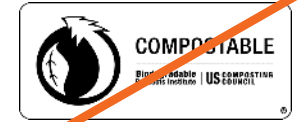
Tissues & Napkins



Paper Towels



Wax Coated Paper



**• No bio-based plastic (compostable plastics)**



Wood



Greasy cardboard pizza boxes go in the garbage.



Hot Paper Cup



Vinyl Binders



Carbon Paper



Greasy paper/cardboard



Plastic Bags/ Film



Foam

If the top or bottom of the box is super clean, tear the box in half and recycle only clean part.



# Unacceptable RECYCLING V. Acceptable composting materials



Food Waste

Issues & Napkins

Paper Towels



Wax Coated Paper



• **No bio-based plastic (compostable plastics)**



Wood



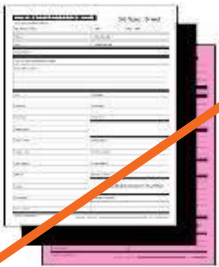
Hot Paper Cup



Vinyl Binders



Greasy cardboard pizza boxes go in the ~~garbage~~ compost bin.



Carbon Paper



Greasy paper/cardboard



Plastic Bags/ Film



Foam

My materials are in my bin at work.  
What happens now?



Material is brought to Recycling Services' plant, and tipped onto the sorting floor.



The paper is sorted manually and mechanically to remove any garbage or contaminants from the load.





At the end of the sorting line, the different types of fiber are consolidated.

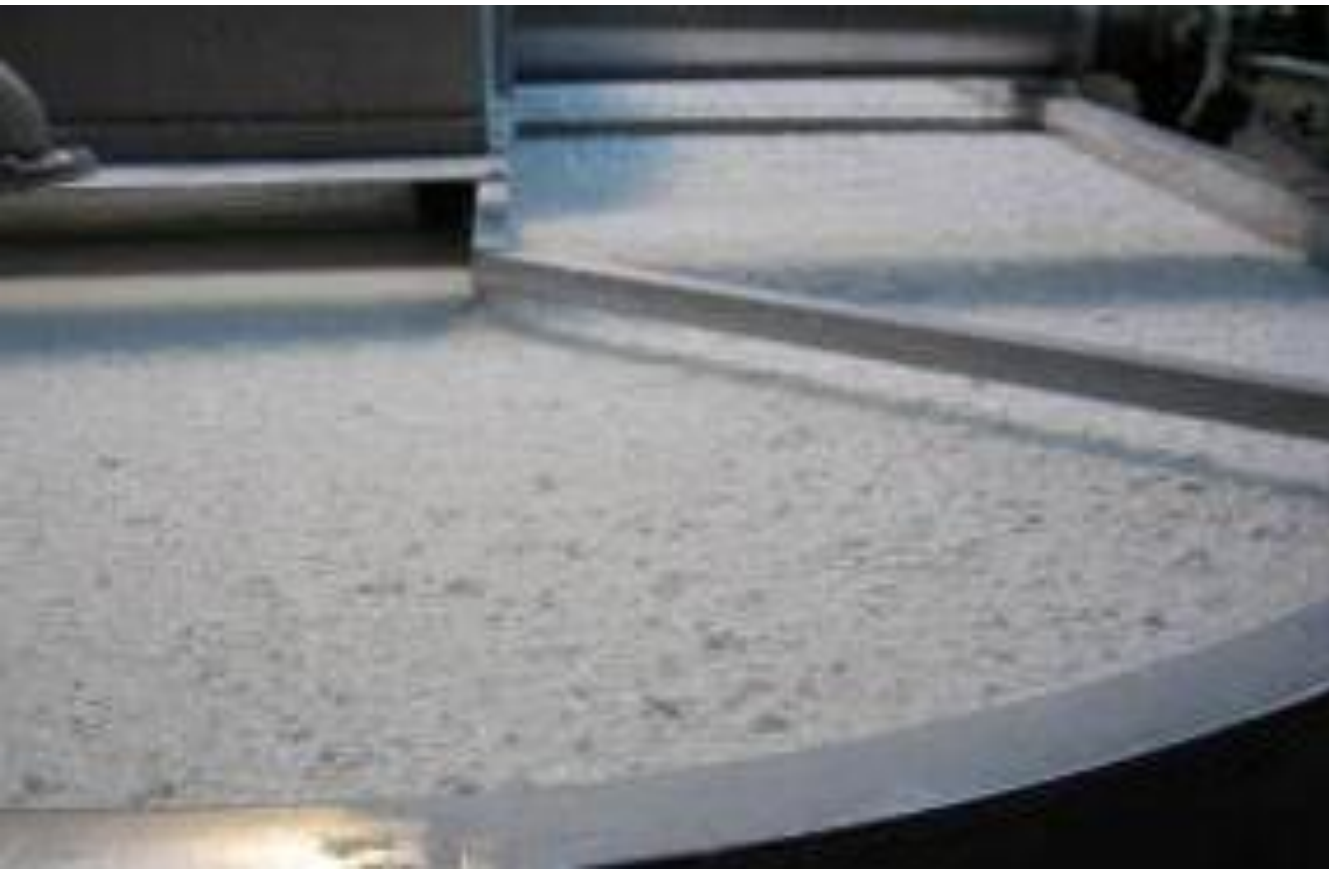


The fiber is baled...



Essity plant in Menasha, Wisconsin.

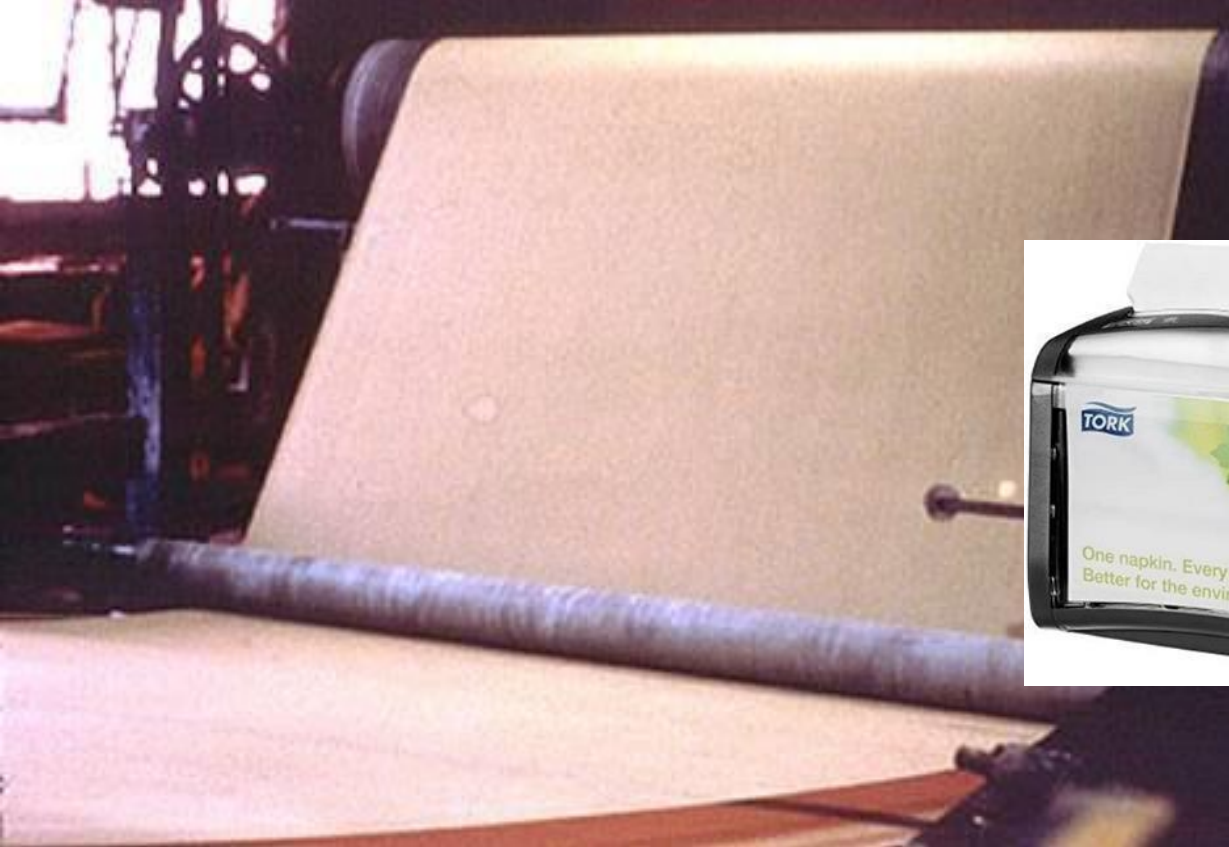




At the paper mill! The paper moves into the hydropulper. This machine acts like a giant blender, breaking down the fiber and removing any ink.



The fiber is cleaned - paper clips, rubber bands, and staples are removed.



The fiber passes through heated felt pads...

The parent rolls are cut and processed to make new product. Nearly all of SCA's products are made from 100% recycled paper using a process that is chlorine free.



# Tips to help you Recycle Right



In your office, find ways to **FORMALIZE** your program

## Instruct employees

- \*Refresh for existing
- \*Instruction for new hires/interns

## Educate


- \*Offer education
- \*Post Signage, not just symbols
- \*Check in – email the recycling report, spot check bins

Check your program before using your recycling! Only include what you see on the signs!



**Monthly Waste Stream Summary**







Blackline Test Customer\_MM - 1751 W. Diehl Road March 2020

	Landfilled	2.00 tons	28.57%
	Diverted	5.00 tons	71.43%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.00 tons</b>	<b>100%</b>

Diverted Material Includes:

Recycled Material:	Special Waste Material:
Paper: 1.00 tons	
Plastic: 1.00 tons	
Aluminum: 1.00 tons	
Glass: 1.00 tons	
Cardboard: 1.00 tons	

These recycling efforts conserved the following resources:

-  29,263 KW-hrs of electricity  
Enough to power 2 homes for a full year
-  211 gallons of oil  
Enough energy to heat and cool 1 homes for a full year
-  48 gallons of gasoline  
Enough gasoline to drive 1,344 miles
-  36 mature trees  
Enough to produce 46,040 sheets of newspaper
-  14,000 gallons of water  
Enough to meet the fresh water needs of 744 people for a year
-  19 cubic yards of landfill airspace  
Enough airspace to meet the disposal needs of a community of 288 people





# Should I put it in the bin - at work or home?

- **Clean (not greasy)**
- **Empty**
- **Dry**
- **Is it a sheet of paper (2d)**
- **Does it look like the picture????**

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Office Paper Newspaper Junk Mail

Brown Paper Bags Flattened Cardboard Paperboard

Paper & Cardboard Recycling

This graphic illustrates the types of paper and cardboard accepted for recycling. It shows stacks of office paper, newspapers, junk mail, brown paper bags, flattened cardboard, and paperboard. A large grey arrow at the bottom points to the right, labeled 'Paper & Cardboard Recycling'.

WM WASTE MANAGEMENT THINK GREEN!

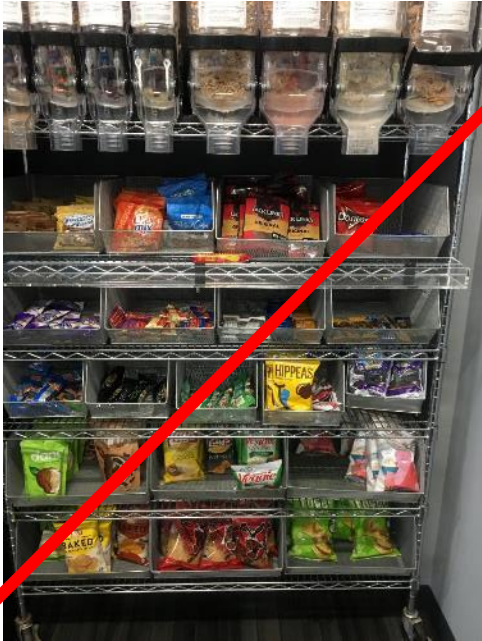
Glass Bottles Plastic Bottles

Aluminum Cans Tin & Steel Cans

Bottle & Can Recycling

This graphic illustrates the types of bottles and cans accepted for recycling. It shows glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and tin & steel cans. A blue banner at the bottom is labeled 'Bottle & Can Recycling' and features a white recycling symbol.

# Is it free from contamination?



Is it Loose-Loaded/Bagless? OR COULD IT BE?



## 4. Back to basics!

# Single-Stream Recycling



- Size & shape Matters!

- We didn't forget anything!



Steel, Tin & Aluminum Cans



Plastic Bottles & Containers #1-5 & 7



Paper



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Glass Bottles & Jars



## *Bonus Question!* How do I recycle \_\_\_\_\_ at work?

- Batteries
- Electronic Waste
- Toner Cartridges
- Lightbulbs
- Office Supplies
- Food scraps
- Clean Outs
- Other?

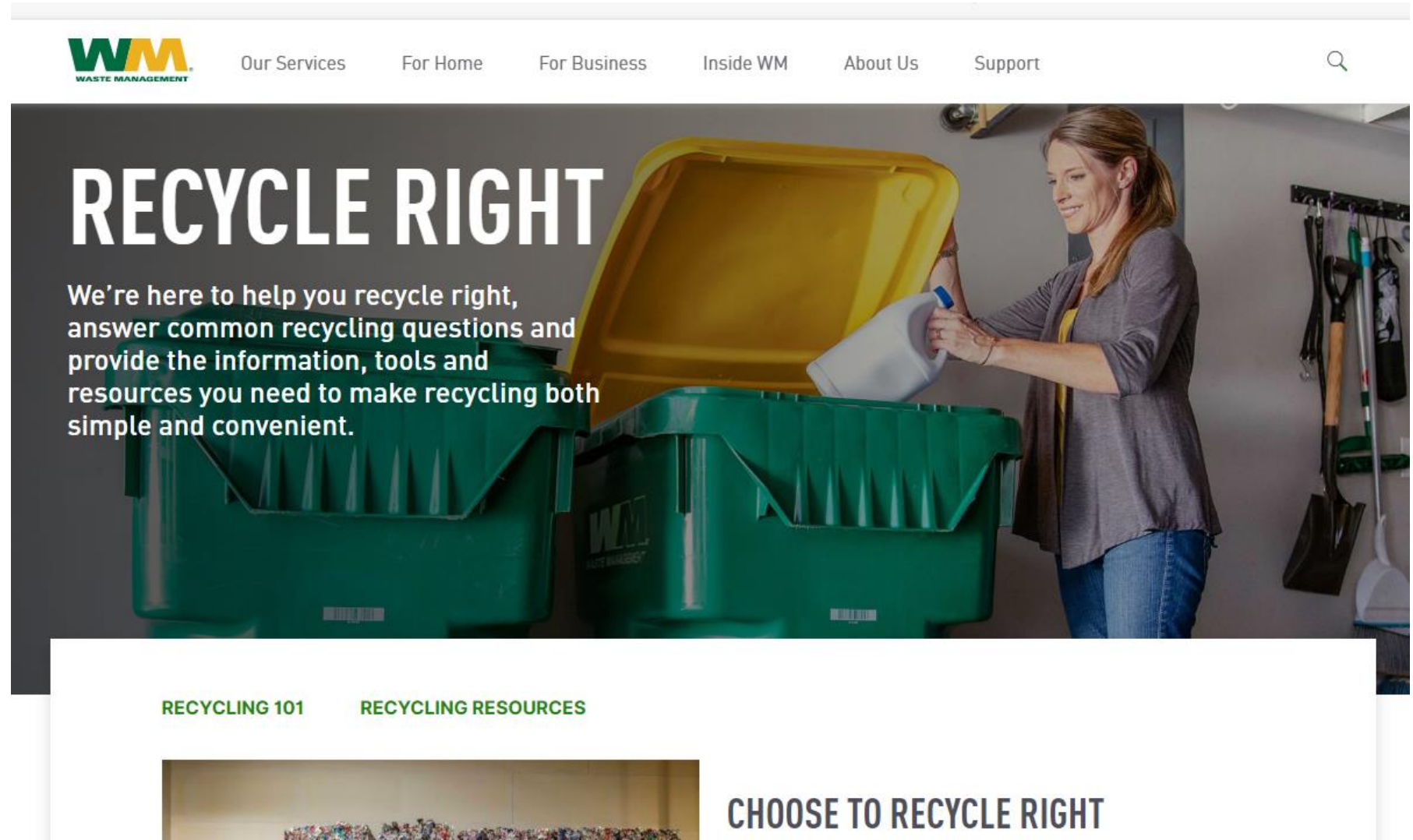
**1. Contact your office's facilities contact**

**2. Don't have one? Reach out to property management**

**\*In addition to assisting with finding options, you will need to coordinate new services through the building**

When in doubt, throw it out...but *then* find out!

[www.wm.com/RecycleRight](http://www.wm.com/RecycleRight)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the WM RecycleRight website. At the top left is the WM logo with 'WASTE MANAGEMENT' underneath. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links: 'Our Services', 'For Home', 'For Business', 'Inside WM', 'About Us', and 'Support'. A search icon is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large image of a woman in a grey cardigan and blue jeans pouring a white plastic jug into a green recycling bin. The bin has a yellow lid. To the left of the woman, the text 'RECYCLE RIGHT' is displayed in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a paragraph reads: 'We're here to help you recycle right, answer common recycling questions and provide the information, tools and resources you need to make recycling both simple and convenient.' Below the main image, there are two buttons: 'RECYCLING 101' and 'RECYCLING RESOURCES'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled 'CHOOSE TO RECYCLE RIGHT' with a small image of a recycling bin filled with various items.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

[Our Services](#) [For Home](#) [For Business](#) [Inside WM](#) [About Us](#) [Support](#)

# RECYCLE RIGHT

We're here to help you recycle right, answer common recycling questions and provide the information, tools and resources you need to make recycling both simple and convenient.

[RECYCLING 101](#) [RECYCLING RESOURCES](#)

**CHOOSE TO RECYCLE RIGHT**



# Thank you for listening!

## Next Steps

I'll be sending out a PDF copy of this presentation to our property management contacts that accepted the planner, they can distribute to anyone who requests them.

## Recycling Program Development

Coordinating through our property managers; we can provide:

Recycling Spot-Check Reviews

In-person or virtual education

Copies of signage and memos to help craft your internal recycling message