

Keys to Successful Recycling



The Atlantic Popular Latest Sex

TECHNOLOGY

Is This the End of Recycling?

Americans are consuming more and more stuff. Now that other countries won't take our papers and plastics, they're ending up in the trash.

ALANA SEMUELS MAR 5, 2019



Plastic, paper, glass, and cardboard at a Recology facility in San Francisco (ROBERT GALBRAITH / REUTERS)

After decades of earnest public-information campaigns, Americans are finally recycling. Airports, malls, schools, and office buildings across the country have bins for plastic bottles and aluminum cans and newspapers. In some cities, you can be fined if inspectors discover that you haven't recycled appropriately.

But now much of that carefully sorted recycling is ending up in the trash.

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NR Recycling Is a Waste

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Recycling Is a Waste

By KYLE SMITH | March 8, 2019 12:06 PM



Liberty Mutual. Our customized could save you

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The US used to ship 4,000 recyclable containers a day to China. Where will the banned trash go now?

USA TODAY NETWORK David Carrig, USA TODAY Published 3:51 p.m. ET June 21, 2018 | Updated 8:28 a.m. ET



FAQs

GET AUTO WITH FAR

USA TODAY NEWS SPORTS LIFE MONEY TECH TRAVEL OPINION 36° CROSSWORDS MORE

Recycling is in trouble — and it might be your fault

Paul Singer, USA TODAY Published 2:22 p.m. ET April 20, 2017 | Updated 2:34 p.m. ET April 28, 2017



WHICH MAKES RECYCLING MORE COSTLY FOR EVERYONE

The cost of recycling is increasing due to contamination by items that can't be recycled. Jasper Coit

ELKRIDGE, Md. — If you are recycling at home, you are probably doing it wrong.

That is why a worker lunged to grab a garden hose off the conveyor belt at a Waste Management recycling facility here Wednesday before it got caught in a giant sorting machine. Such tangles frequently require the plant to stop the waste processing line and clean out the jaws by hand.

"Our contamination changes by the season," said Mike Taylor, the company's director of recycling operations here. Since it's spring, the facility is getting a lot of garden hoses. Around the holidays, they get broken strands of Christmas lights, a hazard for the sorting line. And all day every day there are plastic

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Pacific Standard

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

WHAT DOES AMERICA DO WITH RECYCLED PLASTIC?

India just banned imported scraps of plastic, leaving countries like the U.S. with limited overseas options for where to send their plastic waste.

KELLEY CZAJKA · MAR 7, 2019



Workers sort recycling material at the Waste Management Material Recovery Facility in Elkridge, Maryland, on June 28th, 2018. (Photo: Steve Lombardi/Getty Images)

The Indian government announced a ban on plastic waste imports on Wednesday. This follows China's import prohibition in 2017, leaving Western countries with dwindling markets interested in their millions of tons of plastic.

Between 1988 and 2016, the United States exported 26.7 million tons of plastic. For over 25 years, the U.S. and many other countries relied on China to take most of that in. When China's ban went into effect last year, it left the U.S. to question what to do with its roughly 68 million tons of recycling now generated annually. According to a 2018 study published in *Scientific Advances*, China took in 45 percent of the world's scrap plastic between 1988 and 2016, and the ban will have displaced 111 million metric tons of plastic waste globally by 2030.

If you thought throwing that water bottle in the recycling bin immediately put it on a happy journey to become a cozy sweatshirt made of recycled plastic, you may be disappointed to learn that the path is not so simple.

For curbside recycling, a private company typically hauls collected recyclables to a plant to sort out "marketable" goods that companies or governments can sell to domestic or overseas processors, according to the *New York Times*. At a plastic processor for instance, plastics are melted and formed into small pellets or even

SAVINGS AROUND THE CORNER

Materials affected

CHINA WASTE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: MATERIALS AFFECTED



POST-CONSUMER PLASTIC WASTE

- Soft drink bottles
- Water bottles
- Takeout containers
- Milk jugs
- Juice bottles
- Cleaning supplies
- Shampoo
- Grocery bags
- Cereal box liners
- Condiment containers
- Produce bags
- Bread bags
- Garbage bags
- Beverage cups
- Yogurt cups
- Margarine tubs
- Plastic film
- PET
- Polystyrene
- PVC



BANNED RECYCLABLES

- Unsorted waste paper of various grades, such as:
- Old mail
 - Paperboard packaging
 - Magazines
 - Copy and computer paper
 - Egg cartons



LOWER CONTAMINATION RATES 0.5%

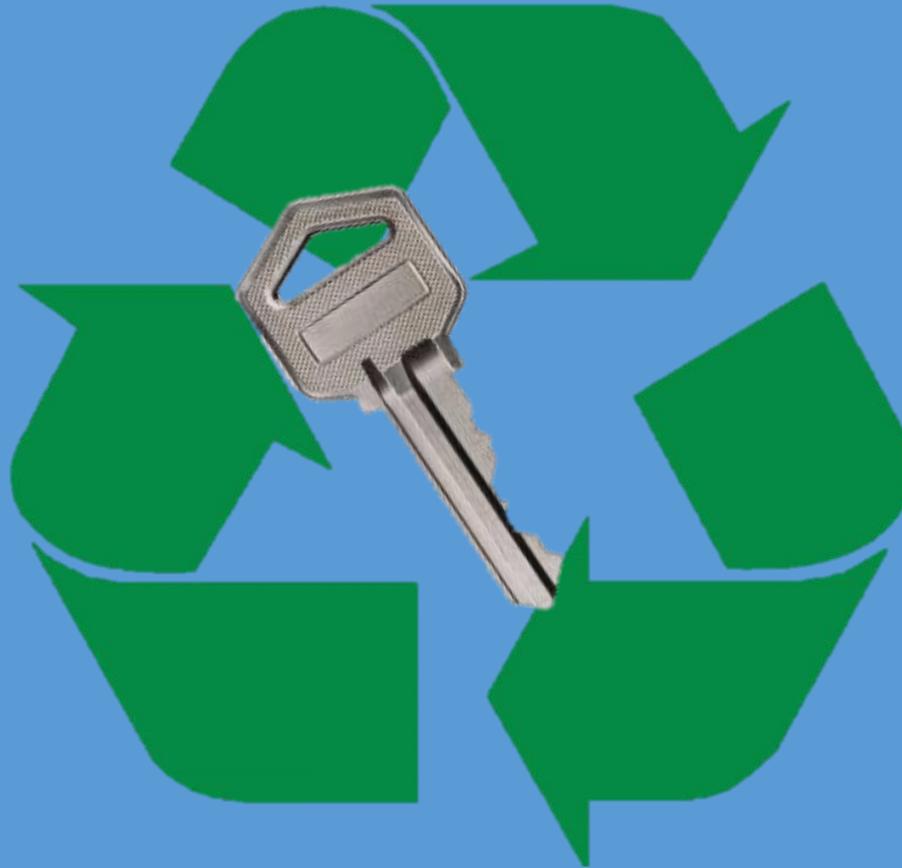
- Cardboard
- Sorted paper

For more information visit SWANA.org/ChinaResources



Keys to Successful Recycling in PWC

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why
- How



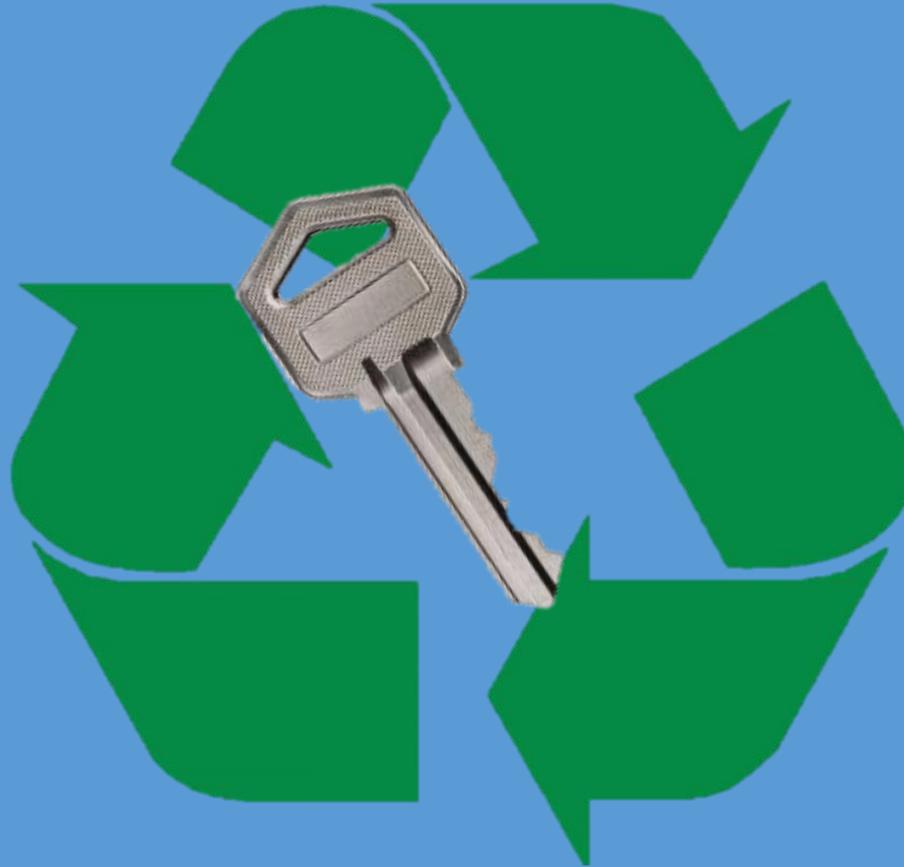
Know who must recycle in PWC



Who must recycle in PWC - Everyone



Know what items can be recycle in PWC



What items can be recycle in PWC



Cardboard



Paper



Plastic Bottles & Jugs



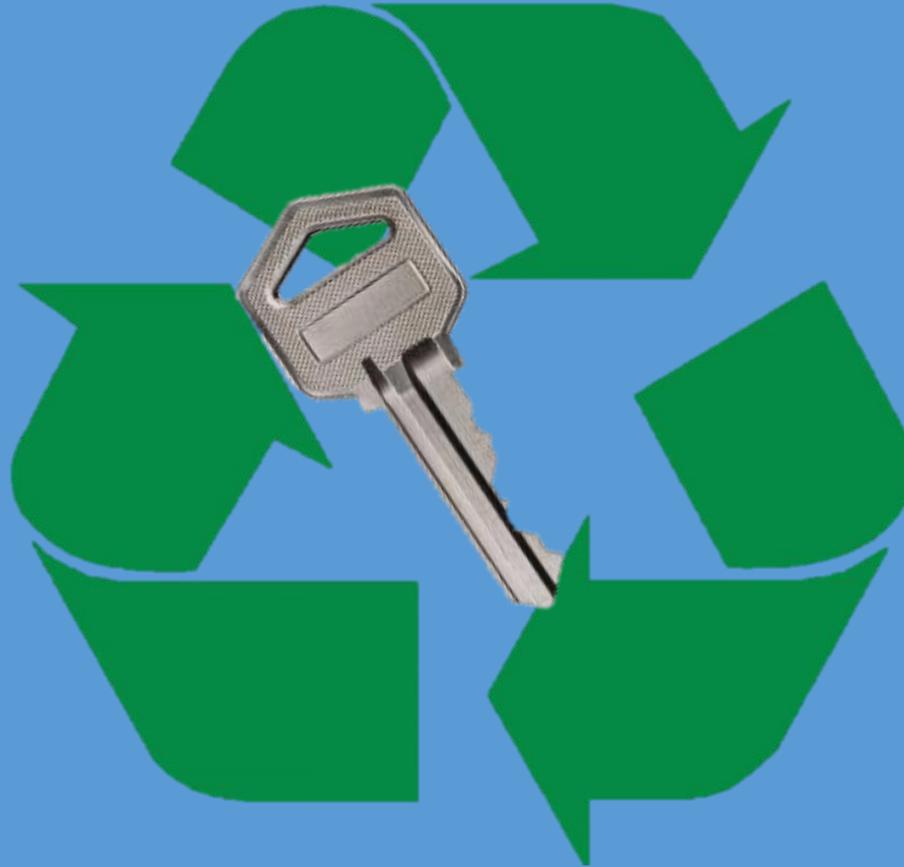
Aluminum & Steel Cans Cans

Tip to improve quality of recycling

Just Say No
to
Contamination



Know when to recycle



When to recycle --at home, work, play, every place



Know where to recycle



Where to recycle – curb, trailer, and special locations





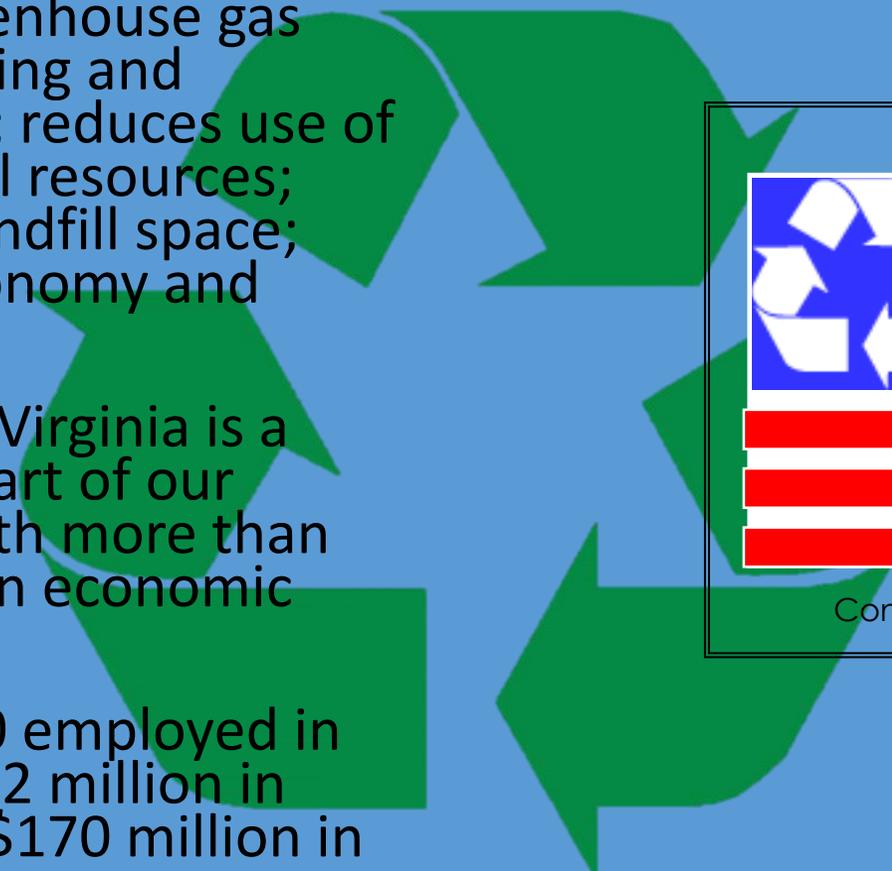
Know why recycling is important in PWC



Why recycling is important in PWC

Recycling Benefits

- Good for the environment- reduces greenhouse gas from landfilling and incineration; reduces use of finite natural resources; preserves landfill space; good for economy and creates jobs
- Recycling in Virginia is a significant part of our economy with more than \$1.9 billion in economic impact
- Nearly 8,700 employed in Virginia, \$542 million in wages, and \$170 million in taxes paid



Know how to “recycle right”



How to “recycle right” – Proper preparation

Empty
Clean
Dry
Loose



Recycling can be challenging . . .



Keys to Successful Recycling in PWC

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why
- How



Master Key to Success

Recycle with care



Keys to Successful Recycling in PWC



Let's take out the trash

Take out the Trash


Microsoft
verPoint Presentat


Household Trash


Recycling Bin


Special Attention