



Recycling Beyond the Curb

Why are Some Items Hard to Recycle and
What Can We Do With Them?



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May 12, 2021



Who We Are

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Who's with us tonight?

- Please participate in this quick online poll!



Outline

- Our global waste production
- Value of recycling
- A global issue - contamination
- Materials, industry, and recycled products
- What can we recycle
- Our recycling path
- Beyond the curb

Goal: To increase knowledge of the recycling process, giving you more tools in your waste reduction toolbelt.

What about our waste?

Who generates the most waste?

Metric tons of solid waste generated each day*
(In thousands)

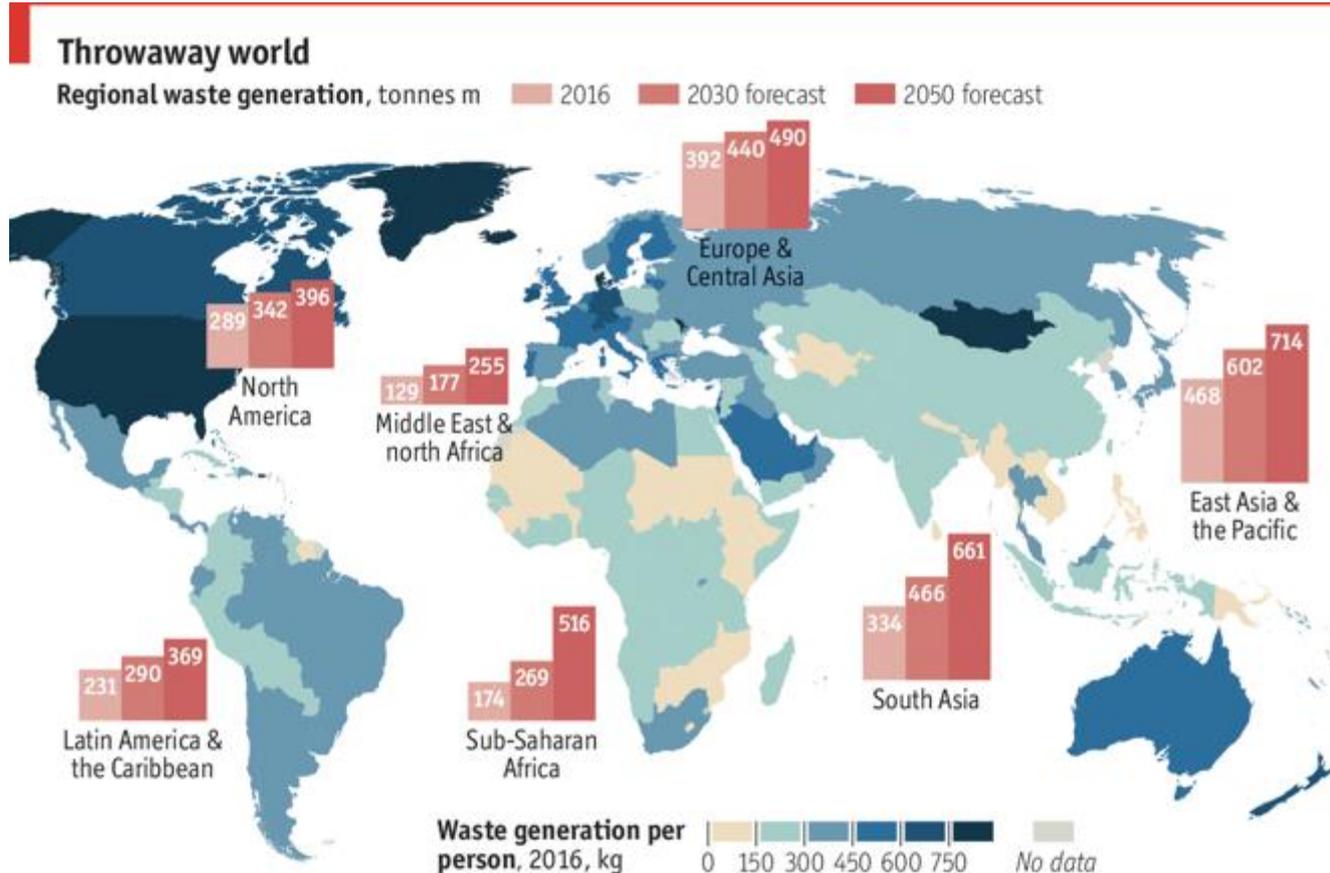


*Figures are from a 2011 report that compiled data from earlier years.

Source: World Bank

Angelica Quintero / @latimesgraphics

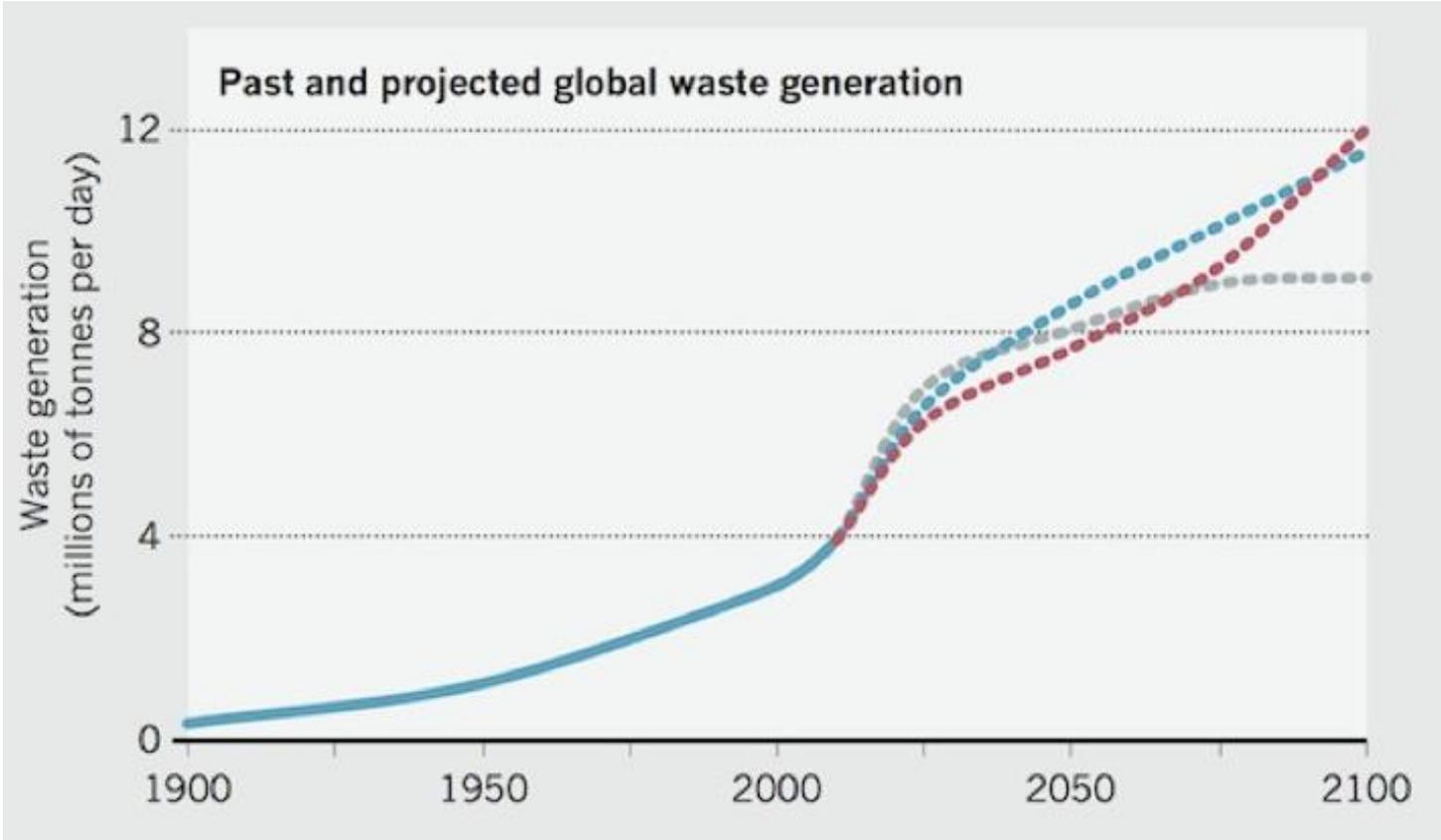
What about our waste?



Source: World Bank

The Economist

What about our waste?



What about our waste?

Recycling is just one tool in our arsenal for waste reduction and decreasing environmental impacts

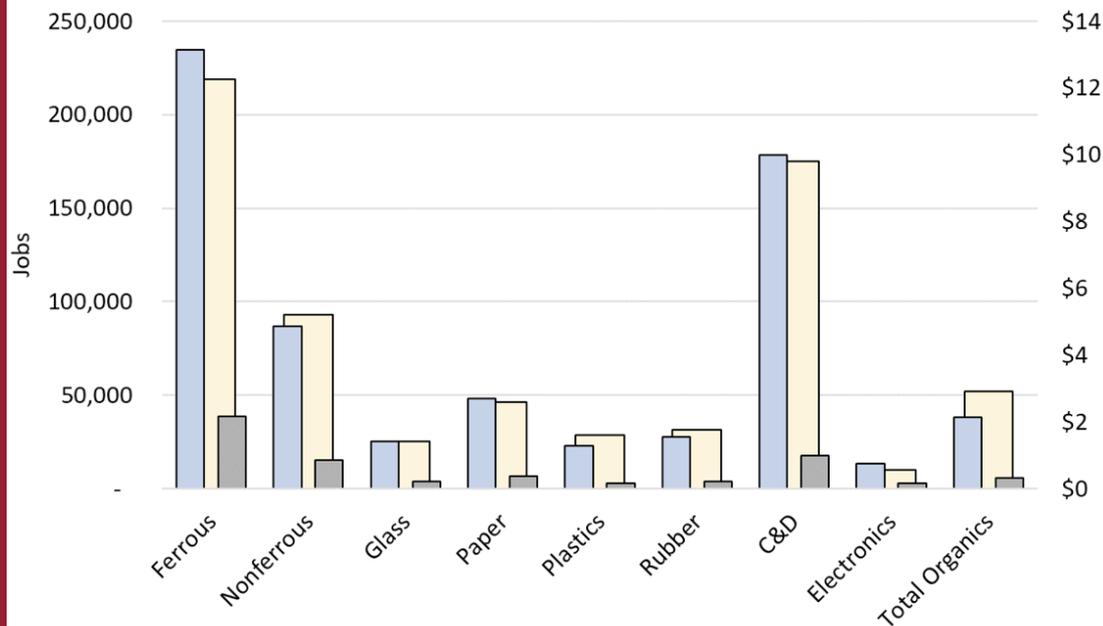


[This Photo](#)
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Why is recycling important?—Natural Resources

- Saves water, timber, minerals, etc
- Recycling 1 ton of paper saves:
 - 17 mature trees
 - 7000 gallons of water
 - 3 cubic yards of landfill space
 - 2 barrels of oil
 - 4100 kilowatt-hours of electricity
- It takes 95% less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials

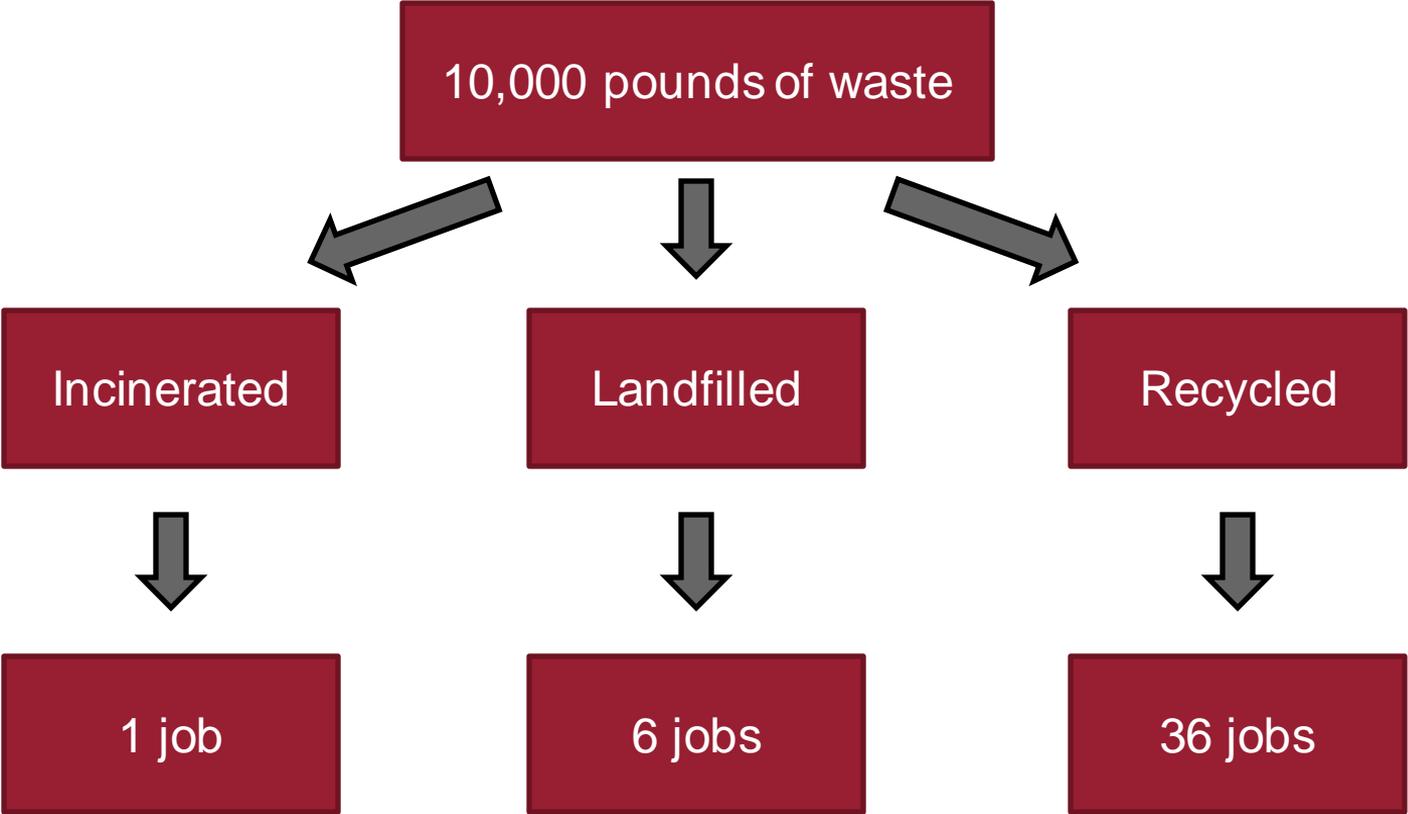
Why is recycling important?—Economy



- 681,000 jobs
- \$37.8 billion in wages; and
- \$5.5 billion in tax revenues.

Employment
 Wage (\$1B)
 Tax (\$1B)

Why is recycling important?—Economy



Why is recycling important?—Mental health

- Several studies show a strong positive association between life satisfaction/wellbeing and pro-ecological behaviors, such as recycling, buying recycled content products, etc.
- Feeling burnt out by the work necessary to recycle? This can be improved by...
 - Changing focus from time consumed to how quickly the recycling bin fills
 - Listen to music, news, podcasts to pass the time
 - Emphasize that you are working with reusable resources rather than garbage

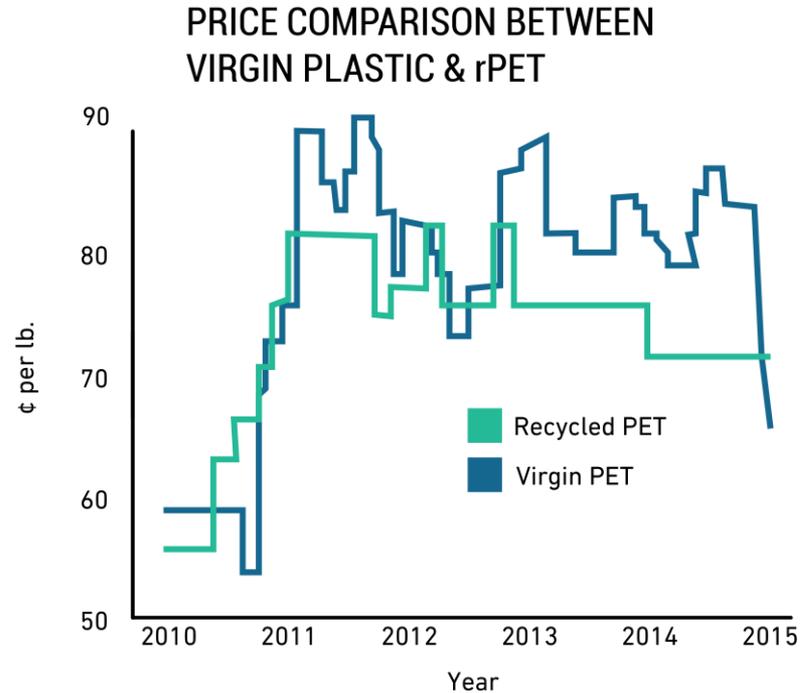
The Importance of Buying Recycled Content Products

- Helps create a demand for recycled content
- Diverts materials from landfills
- Saves water, energy, and natural resources required for acquiring virgin materials

- Pre- vs post-consumer products

The Recycling Industry and Markets

- Recycling Business
- Supply and demand

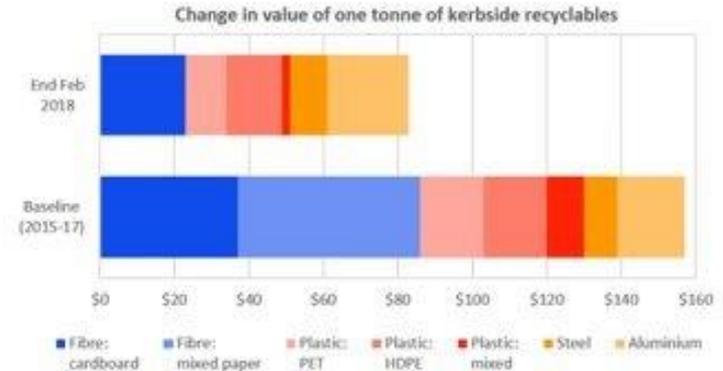


Source: Wall Street Journal

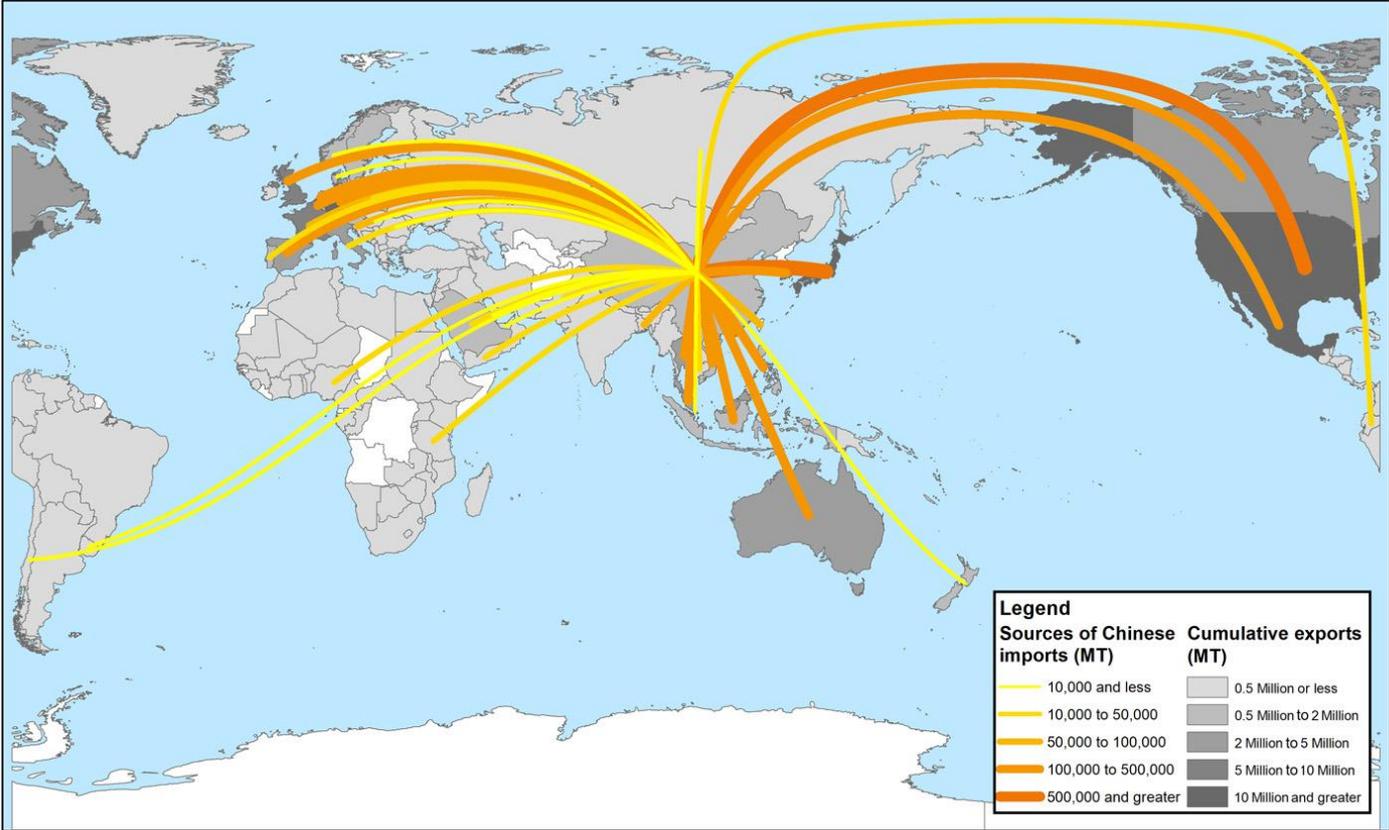
The Recycling Industry and Markets



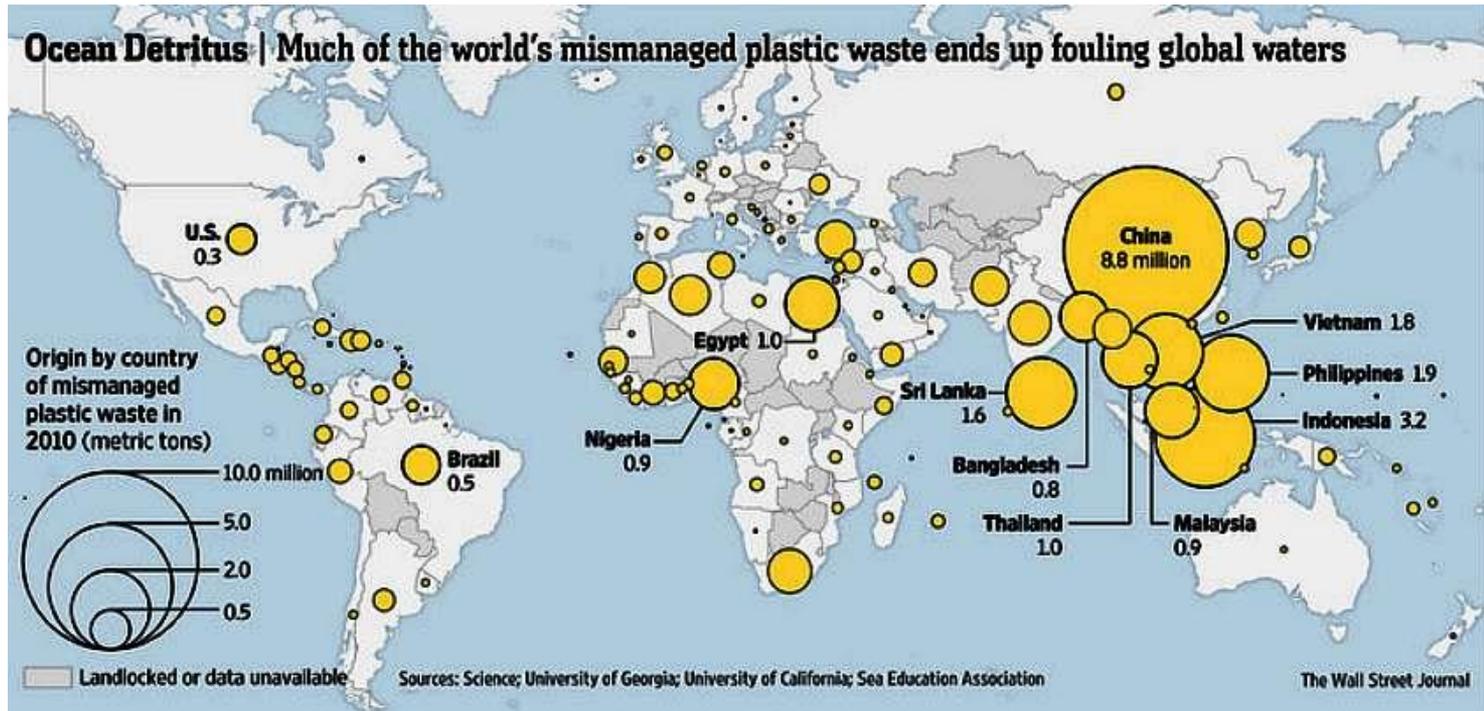
- Mixed plastics 3-7 \$0/ton
- Aluminum cans \$1k/ton
- \$1 Plastic bottles \$234/ton



Global Review of Recycling

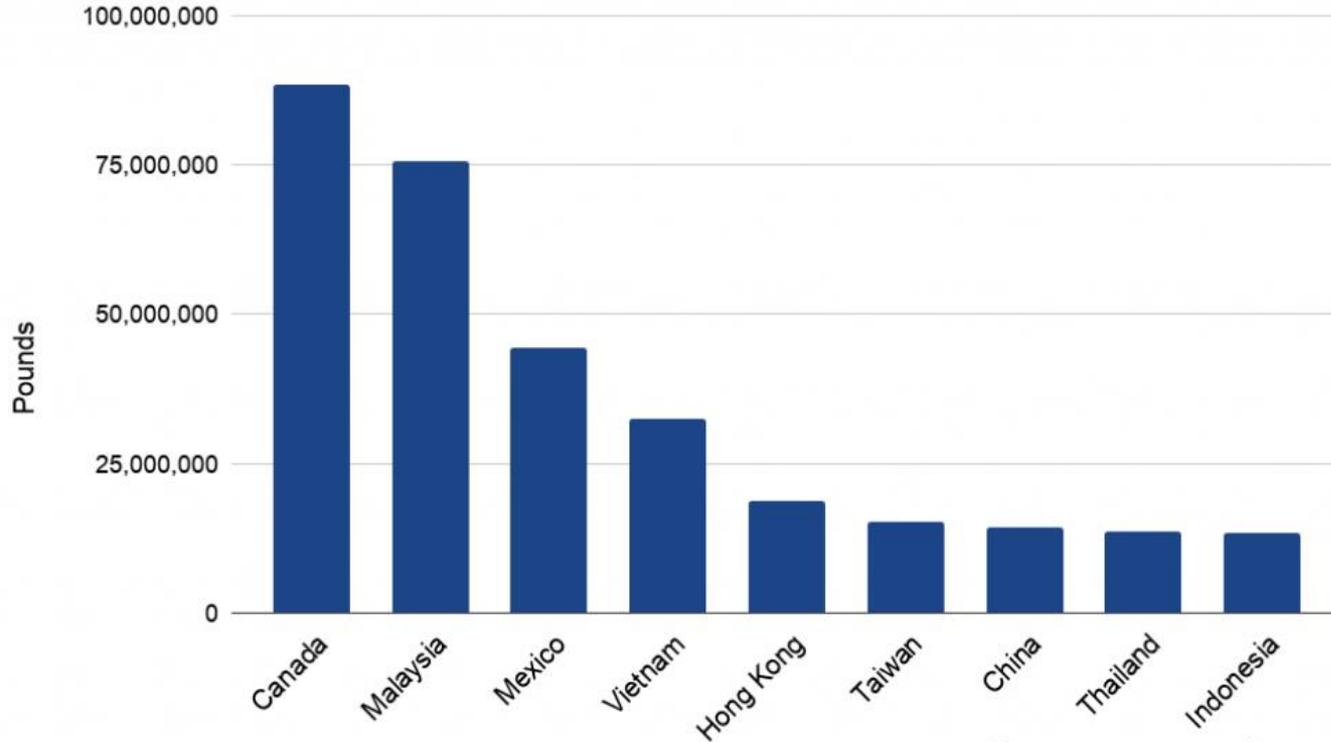


Global Review of Recycling



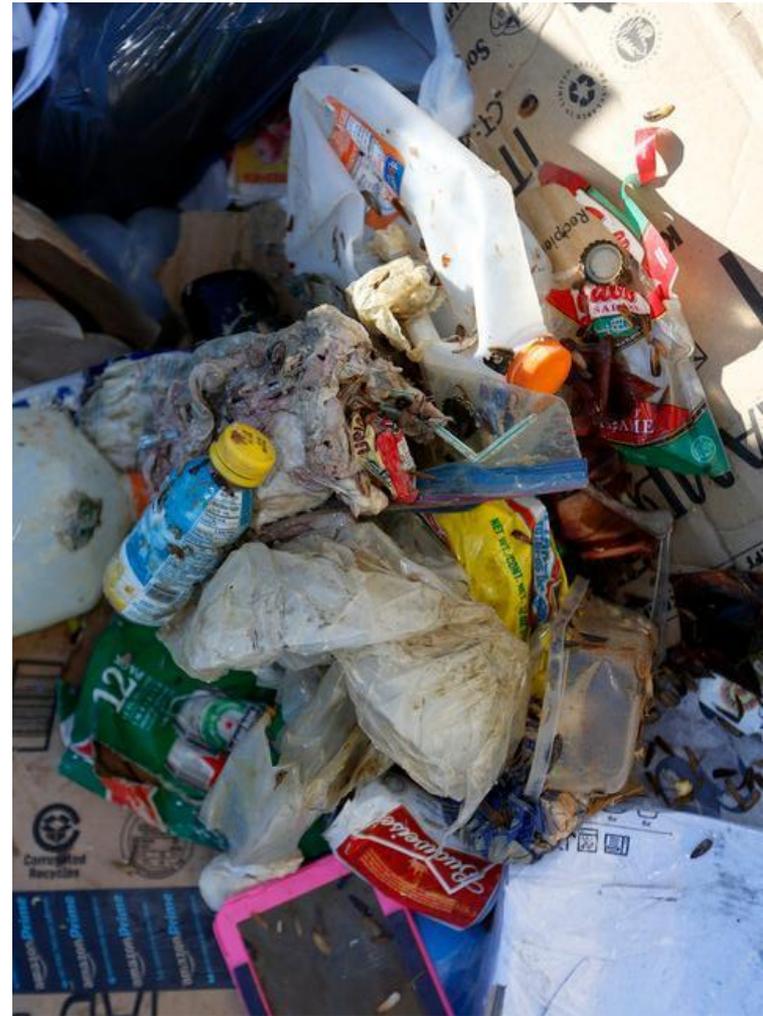
Global Review of Recycling

Major importers of U.S. scrap plastic, July-September 2020



Contamination

- Items that reduce value of other items or are not recyclable



Most common contaminants

- Plastic bags
- Food Waste/dirty
- Wrong plastics
- Small paper/shredded paper
- Hazardous wastes
- Bio-Hazards
- Aseptic boxes and frozen food containers
- Wrong place



Reasons

- Confusion
- Lack of Understand
- Good intensions



Impact of Contamination



- Drives up costs
- Causes machinery maintenance issues
- Unsafe work environments
- Reduces quality of commodity
- Damages recycling perception

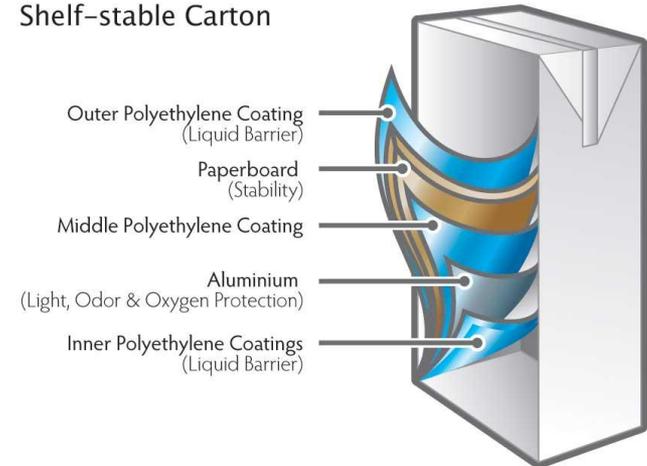
What is it really made of and why does it matter?

- Resins
 - Flexibility
 - Strength
 - Longevity

- Combined materials
 - Primarily packaging - composite
 - Approx 65% of all plastic by weight
 - Single-use
 - Currently not separable



Shelf-stable Carton

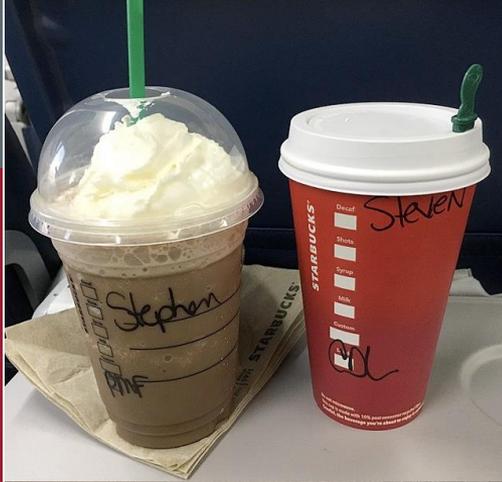


"Chasing Arrows"

Plastic Resin Identification Codes

|  PETE |  HDPE |  PVC |  LDPE |  PP |  PS |  OTHER |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Polyethylene Terephthalate | High-Density Polyethylene | Polyvinyl Chloride | Low-Density Polyethylene | Polypropylene | Polystyrene | Other |
| <p>Common products: soda & water bottles; cups, jars, trays, clamshells</p> <p>Recycled products: clothing, carpet, clamshells, soda & water bottles</p> | <p>Common products: milk jugs, detergent & shampoo bottles, flower pots, grocery bags</p> <p>Recycled products: detergent bottles, flower pots, crates, pipe, decking</p> | <p>Common products: cleaning supply jugs, pool liners, twine, sheeting, automotive product bottles, sheeting</p> <p>Recycled products: pipe, wall siding, binders, carpet backing, flooring</p> | <p>Common products: bread bags, paper towels & tissue overwrap, squeeze bottles, trash bags, six-pack rings</p> <p>Recycled products: trash bags, plastic lumber, furniture, shipping envelopes, compost bins</p> | <p>Common products: yogurt tubs, cups, juice bottles, straws, hangers, sand & shipping bags</p> <p>Recycled products: paint cans, speed bumps, auto parts, food containers, hangers, plant pots, razor handles</p> | <p>Common products: to-go containers & flatware, hot cups, razors, CD cases, shipping cushion, cartons, trays</p> <p>Recycled products: picture frames, crown molding, rulers, flower pots, hangers, toys, tape dispensers</p> | <p>Common types & products: polycarbonate, nylon, ABS, acrylic, PLA; bottles, safety glasses, CDs, headlight lenses</p> <p>Recycled products: electronic housings, auto parts,</p> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

"But we used to recycle these"





Recycle Camano

Save Money & Resources



Don't pay to dispose of these items. Recycle for free, save money, energy and resources.



RECYCLE THESE ITEMS AT THE CAMANO ISLAND TRANSFER STATION



ONLY #1 & #2 PLASTIC Bottles, Tubs, Jugs, Jars
(Empty & Rinse. No Caps, No Lids)
(NO Toxic Product Containers)



GLASS Bottles & Jars Only
(Empty, Rinse, Remove lids)



PAPER
(Clean, No Food or Other Contaminants)

Cardboard, Paper Bags, Newspaper, Office Papers, Cards, Calendars, Phonebooks, Paper Back Books, Wrapping Paper (non-foil, no ribbons or bows), Magazines, Mail & Stationary, Envelopes, Boxboard (cereal boxes), Packing Paper, Paper Egg Cartons & Formed Paper Packaging, Cartons.



Recycling Symbol



TIN & ALUMINUM CANS
(Empty, Rinse)

PLEASE DON'T CONTAMINATE OUR RECYCLING
Placing the wrong items in recycling containers creates contamination. Contaminants can damage recycling equipment, cause injury to personnel, degrade the value of commodities, and/or render commodities unacceptable for processing.

Camano Transfer Station Recycles:

TVs, Computer CPUs, Monitors, Laptops, Tablets, E-Readers, Portable DVD players FREE



Don't dump it, Recycle it!

RECYCLING

Clean paper and cardboard

Mail, envelopes, newspaper, flattened cardboard, magazines, catalogs, phone books, paper boxes (cereal, etc.)



Clean plastic bottles, jugs and tubs



Clean glass

Glass bottles and jars.
Remove caps and lids.



Clean metal

Aluminum and tin cans.



Recycling has changed!
Please only recycle items that are found on this list, if it's not on the list it doesn't belong in the cart!

Everything you put in your recycling cart should be:



CLEAN

Give food containers a quick rinse.



EMPTY



LOOSE

Keep recyclables out of bags and boxes.



KEEP OUT OF RECYCLING

Hazardous Waste
Medical Waste

Sharp or Greasy Metal
Liquids

Foam Cups, Packaging and Peanuts
Yard/Food Waste

So, what is accepted?



TIN & ALUMINUM CANS

Empty, Clean, & Dry



GLASS Bottles & Jars Only



PAPER

When in doubt, throw it out!

So, what is accepted?



**ONLY #1 & #2 PLASTIC
Bottles, Tubs, Jugs, Jars**

Empty, Clean, & Dry

When in doubt, throw it out!

Recycling options beyond the curb



Unacceptable Materials

- **Medical waste**
- **Ammunition - gun stores**
- **Hazardous material**
 - **Batteries**
 - **Fuel**
 - **Oils**
 - **Explosives**
- **Tire Chains**
- **Waxed cardboard - compost**
- **Christmas Lights/rope – special collections**
- **Plastics not on your recycling guide**
- **Small Appliances – consider repair rather than replace**

Where does it go from the curb?

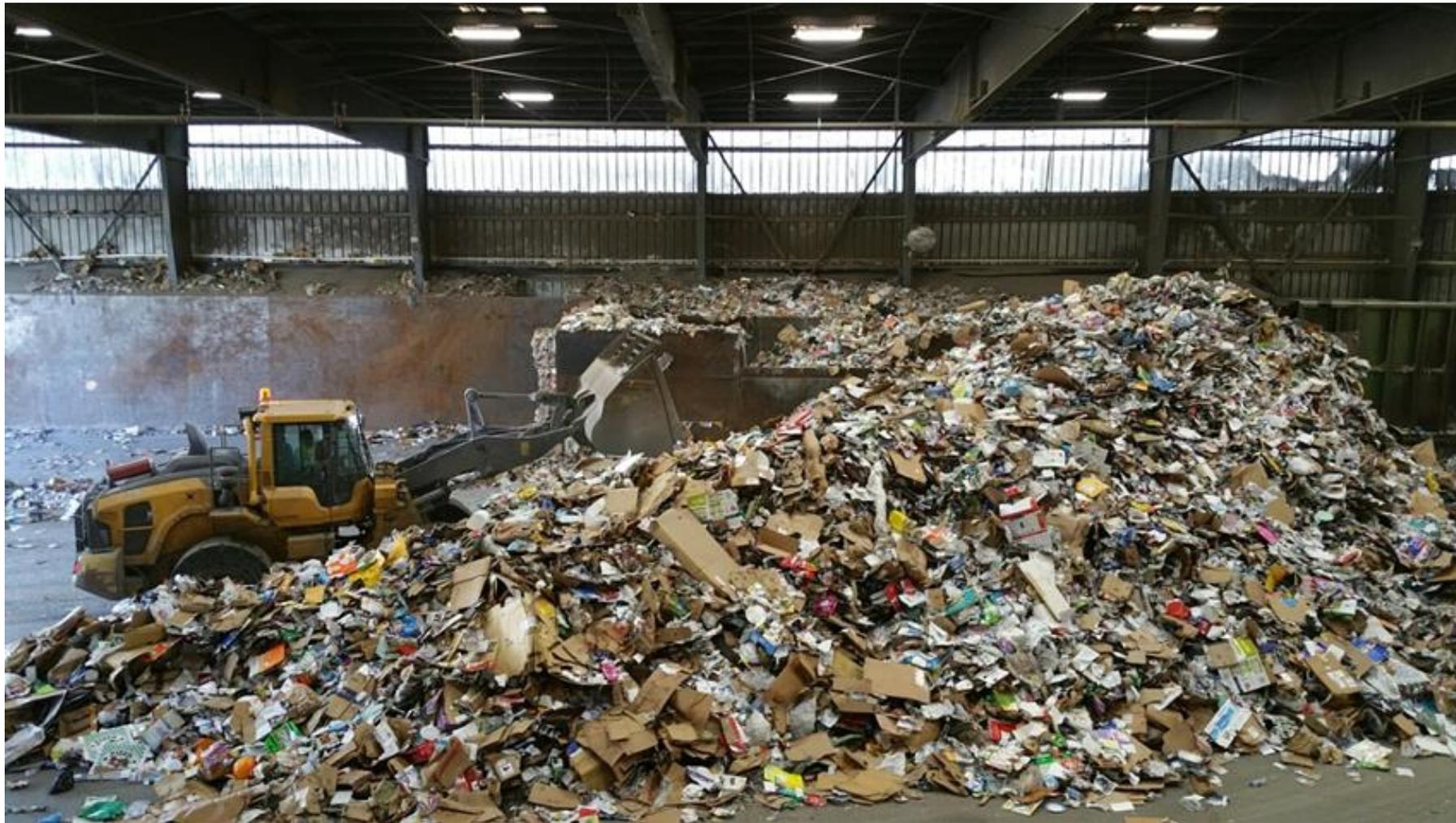
- Materials Recovery Facility (aka MRF) such as Waste Management's Cascade Recycling Center





"TERRA FIRMA"
Project Artist: Carol DePelecyn
Photographer: Steve McGehee

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill



Inside a MRF

[Cascade Recycling Center - YouTube](#)



Recycling options beyond the curb

- Transfer Station Recycle Areas
- Free Drop-off of Several Items
- Scrap Metal & Clean Wood - *Inside Station*



Household Hazardous Waste



Household Hazardous Waste

Drop-Off Station

Residential: Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SQG By appointment only

Businesses: 425-388-6050

3434 McDougall Ave.



Snohomish County
Public Works

Batteries & Auto Fluids

- Retail business drop-off
- County Recycle Area



Appliances & Scrap Metal

Major Appliances
with Compressors \$
Refrigerators, Freezers, Air
Conditioners, Dehumidifiers

The Other Major
Appliances - Ovens,
Washers, Dryers, Hot Water
Tanks, Dishwashers,
Microwaves

Scrap Metal Dealers



Electronics & Fluorescents

- State law requiring product stewardship
- Retail business free drop-off
- Cell phones?



Prescription Medicine

- Free Drop-off to any Police station and select Pharmacies
- *Never flush or toss in the garbage*



Styrofoam

- Drop-off Locations
- Special Collection Events



Donation/Sharing Options

- [2good2toss - Home](#)
- [Buynothingproject.org](#)
- [Earth 911](#)
- [Freecycle.org](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity Store](#)
- [OfferUp App](#)
- [Ridwell.com](#)
- [TerraCycle](#)
- Thrift Stores

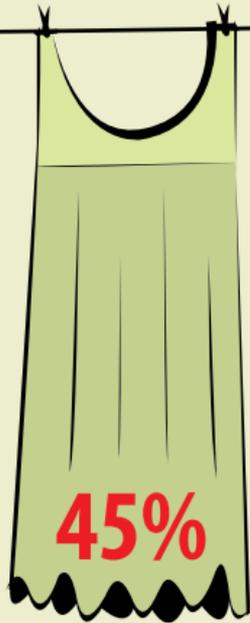


Clothing & Books

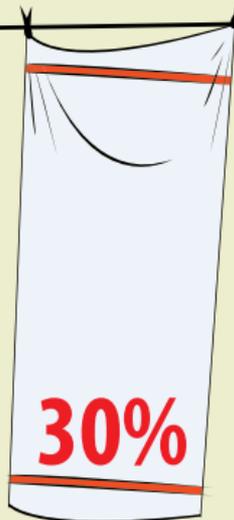
- Parking Lot Collection Bins
- Retail Charity Outlets



What happens to the clothes, shoes, and linens you give?



Reused as secondhand clothing, in the US or other countries



Recycled and converted into items like commercial wiping rags



Reprocessed into fiber used in new products, such as carpet padding and insulation



Unusable – if textiles are wet, moldy, or contaminated with hazardous materials, they cannot be reused or recycled

Source: *Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association Media Kit*,
www.smartasn.org/about/SMART_PressKitOnline.pdf

Goodwill Has A Trash Problem. We're The Cause.: NPR

- Goodwill Doesn't Want Your Broken Toaster (repair it instead!)
- Is it in good enough condition that you would buy it?
- Textile Recycling -ThreadCycle
- Nike Shoe Recycling



Exit Poll

- Please participate in this quick online poll!

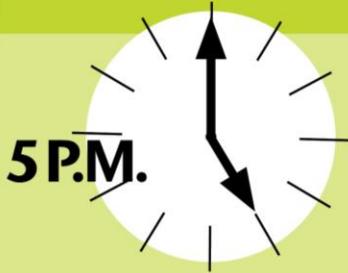


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ReThink

Understand the challenges of recycling and the footprint of our consumer habits.



Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Creating a Zero Waste Life: Tips and Tricks from the Last 25 Years



Siobhan McComb

The way the zero waste lifestyle is becoming the norm in daily conversations is so inspiring! Are you ready to be inspired? Join us as Siobhan shares first-hand her creative tips and tricks to successfully tackle the challenges of those striving for Zero Waste Living with a family of 4, especially doing so during a pandemic!

Siobhan McComb is an entrepreneur, community educator-presenter, wife and mother of two with a passion for the environment. For the past 25 years her family has been transitioning to a zero waste lifestyle. Along the way she has been presenting about zero waste at locations around the beautiful Puget Sound. She has taught and presented at; Amazon, 21 Acres, Sustainamania Fair, The Recology Stores and Sno-Isle Natural Food Coop to name a few. She has also appeared in *The Washington Post* in December 2018. Follow her blog, <https://oneglassjar.com>, to see how she and her family manage and how you can transition to a zero waste lifestyle.

What else would you like to learn about?

What other sustainability/waste reduction topics are you interested in learning about?