

RECYCLING

Getting Started



Waste reduction helps save raw materials and landfill space. It's also a good way to reduce pollution and save energy. Waste Reduction starts with the easy changes you can make at home, work, in your community and when shopping.

Shopping:

- Buy only what you need.
- Purchase in Bulk.
- Avoid "over-packaged" products.
- Avoid disposable goods.
- Read the label—Choose materials made with non toxic ingredients.
- Reuse or refuse shopping bags—bring your own sturdy bags.
- Buy durable, high quality goods.

At Home:

- Reuse household articles such as bags, boxes and plastic food containers.
- Maintain and repair items before buying new ones.
- Rent instead of buying such as a power tool.
- Sell or donate goods you no longer want.
- Donate old magazines and catalogues to local charities, waiting rooms or schools.
- Leave cut grass clippings in your lawn.
- Pack litter-free lunches by using reusable containers and a lunch box or cloth bag.
- Take the following items to your recycling drop-off center: newspaper, glass, aluminum cans, cereal and cracker boxes, tin cans and #1 and #2 plastics bottles.

At Work:

- Make two-sided copies, whenever possible.
- Make interoffice phone calls or emails, if appropriate, instead of sending memos.
- Use ceramic mugs or glasses instead of disposable cups.
- Use scrap paper for memos, notes, etc.
- Reuse envelopes for routing memos and office materials.



For additional information contact Gloucester County's Clean Community Office 804-693-5370.

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It Makes Dollars and Sense!



Reducing waste and recycling are sound practices that can make economic sense. Waste is not always garbage — in many cases it can and should be considered a valuable resource.

Here are some things to consider:

Glass

- Every ton of glass recycled saves the equivalent of nine gallons of fuel oil needed to make glass from virgin materials.
- At least 30% of glass containers on grocery store shelves have been recycled.
- Container glass can be recycled repeatedly with no loss of quantity or quality.

Metals

- Every three months, the U.S. throws away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.
- Recycling aluminum uses 95% less energy than making new aluminum from bauxite ore.
- We throw away enough iron and steel to continuously supply all of America's auto makers.
- Metal is melted down and reformed into new products such as cans, automobile parts, siding, appliances and building materials.

Paper

- Making new paper from old paper uses 30% to 55% less energy than making paper from trees, and reduces related air pollution by 95%.
- Each day American businesses generate enough paper to circle the globe at least 40 times!
- Newspaper is recycled into newspaper, game boards, egg cartons, gift boxes, animal bedding, insulation and packaging material.
- Office paper is recycled into office paper, tissue paper, paper towels and toilet paper.
- Corrugated cardboard is recycled into new cardboard and cereal boxes.

Plastic

- 35% of the polyester carpet sold in America contains recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles (primarily soft drink bottles).
- Recycled plastics are made into fiberfill bottles, shower stalls, recycling bins, scouring pads, paint brushes, industrial strapping, drainpipes, plastic lumber and flowerpots. Markets are expanding and developing daily.