

# Great American Clean Up Recycling Separation Instructions

## Which roadside litter items are acceptable for recycling?



Aluminum & Steel Cans

Glass Bottles & Jars



Plastic Bottles Type 1 or 2 (look for the recycling symbol)

Water, juice, soda and sport drink bottles; detergent; food containers



## How should recyclables be separated and collected?

- Bottles and cans can be placed together in a clear plastic bag
- Labels and lids do not need to be removed
- Recyclables should be kept separate from bags of trash

## When are the above recyclables not acceptable?

- Use your judgment
- Items too smashed or degraded to recognize
- Containers with hazardous substances inside

## What are some items I shouldn't mix with the recyclables?

- Plastic bags
- Paper or cardboard
- Any items not listed as acceptable

## How does recycling help my family and the environment?

With no open landfills in Rockland County, all of our waste must be transported to landfills over 600 miles round trip. Transportation and disposal costs are on the rise. Recycling helps by reducing the amount of trash that needs disposal. As an added benefit, the Authority rebates Rockland communities \$35 per ton for their recyclables. By capturing recyclable items found as roadside litter, you are improving the environment while earning money back for your community.

For more information on how to get involved in protecting Rockland's environment, call 753-2200 or visit our website at [www.rocklandrecycles.com](http://www.rocklandrecycles.com).



**Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority**

Christopher P. St. Lawrence, Chairman

Anna Roppolo, Executive Director

## Recycling Facts

How do I measure a ton?

One ton equals 2,000 pounds and is equivalent to a cow or a small elephant.

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough energy to power the average American home for five months. (EPA, 2008)

Recycling paper instead of making it from new material generates 74 percent less air pollution and uses 50 percent less water. (EPA, 2008)

Producing recycled paper requires about 60 percent of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp. (EPA, 2008)

Energy saved from recycling one ton of aluminum is equal to the amount of electricity the average home uses over 10 years. (Keep America Beautiful, 2006)

The 36 billion aluminum cans landfilled last year had a scrap value of more than \$600 million. (Some day we'll be mining our landfills for the resources we've buried.)

Every year we make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap Texas. Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour. Most of them are thrown away.

26 recycled PET bottles equals a polyester suit. 5 recycled PET bottles make enough fiberfill to stuff a ski jacket.

About one-third of an average landfill is made up of packaging material.

Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.

The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5% of the world's people generate 40% of the world's waste.

**Reduce**

**Reuse**

**Recycle**

**Rethink**