

Sustainability updates in Chicago

- The 2025 the state of Illinois is requiring compost at all facilities that hold large events over 3500 people.
- Chicago created A Chicago Action Plan. This outlines specific waste diversion targets by year.
- Compost drop off locations are now available. Through the City of Chicago Block Bin. Thee nearest to you is EDGEWATER - 5853 N Broadway
- For all events, questions or latest environmental news go to:
- <https://www.recyclebycity.com/chicago>



What CAN you recycle?



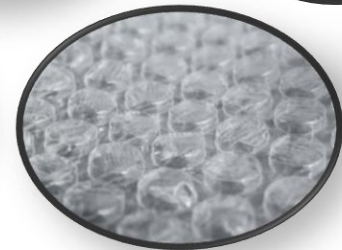
- Paper: office and printer (white and colored), envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspaper, Post-it notes
- Aluminum, bi-metal and steel cans
- Rigid plastics: bottles and jugs (i.e., water, soda, juice, detergent and milk bottles)
- Flattened, empty cardboard boxes
- Empty, clean and dry fiber cartons
- Clean glass bottles and jars



Recycling must be CLEAN, DRY and EMPTY

What CAN'T you recycle?

- Food or beverage waste
- Soft plastic packaging & bubble wrap
- Styrofoam
- Padded & Tyvek style envelopes
- Styrofoam coffee cups & K cups
- Tissues & paper towels
- Straws and plastic cutlery
- Candy & chip wrappers
- Dirty pizza boxes
- Shredded paper
- Paper plates
- Plastic bags
- Pouches
- Hazardous materials
- Tangles



Is your waste in the right place?

What about the chasing arrows?

- The number on the item identifies the plastic resin code of what it is made from, not necessarily its recyclability.



This says to drop off at the store

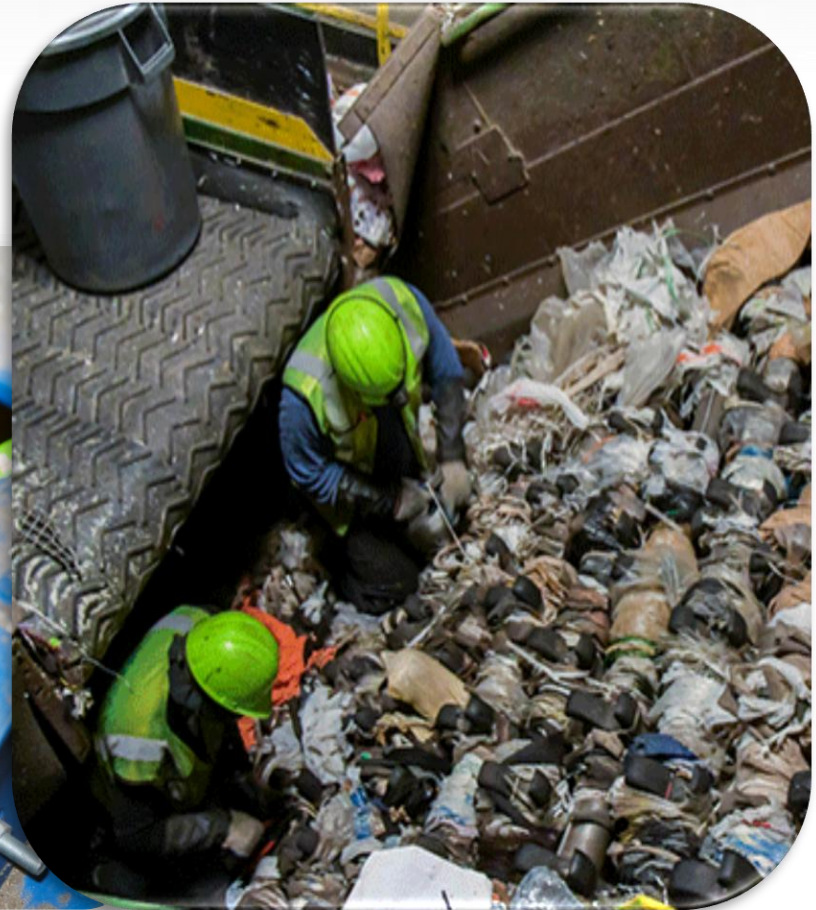


This is a #4 but it is a soft plastic and must go in the trash

Consider starting a soft plastics recycling area at home and drop off at the grocery store

Plastic bags and flexible packaging should not go in the recycling!

- Plastic bags/packaging can get caught in the machinery and have to be cut out **by hand**.



Recycling procedure 101

- Remove packaging and flatten boxes.
- Rinse any items with food residue.
- Nothing smaller than a credit card in the recycling.
- Place all recycling **loose** inside the appropriate container.
- **Do not use bags!** Clear bags are used **only** to prevent leakage in bottle and can containers at businesses which should be then emptied loosely into outside containers. A brown bag can be used.



Why we shouldn't put electronics in the trash.



- Since 2012 electronics have been banned from Illinois landfill because they contain hazardous waste such as lead and mercury.
- Last year, there were 343 reported fires at U.S. and Canadian waste and recycling facilities due to battery-powered electronics, such as old cell phones, laptops and other lithium battery devices.
- At home, look at your local city or municipality for electronic recycling events in your area.

Common contaminants



Common contaminants seen



Common contaminants seen



The process



The process



What happens to the recycling?

- Aluminum can be recycled hundreds of times into new soda cans.
- Plastic bottles can be made into many products, like clothes, carpeting and composite decking.
- Paper and cardboard is made into new paper products, such as paper towels and napkins.
- Recycled glass can become new glass for the beverage industry, fill for asphalt, countertops, fiberglass production, reflective road beading, garden mulch and shoring for beaches.



Acceptable Compostable Materials

- Food waste (excluding bones)
- Dairy products
- Breads
- Coffee grounds
- Flowers
- Plants and flowers
- Eggs
- CMA certified compostable disposables



If it grows, it goes!

Where does the Composting Go?

Auger- chops the food scraps with landscape waste



Wind Rows

- Turned weekly for 90 days or more.



Final step: Screening

- Final screening to take out any material that has not broken down



Action items residents of Park Tower can do together

- Start a compost program with a few interested residents.
- Start an environmental focused book club within the building. Titles to consider are: The Overstory. The Big Fix: Seven practical steps to save the planet. Many more to choose from!
- Start a lending library of tool or items that people need infrequently. Offer up used furniture or items to residents before they are donated.
- Do a large donation drive yearly.
- Have a Little Free Library or bookshelf to share books.



Consider taking 5 new environmental actions in 2025

- Turn off electronics and unplug chargers when not in use.
- Buy refurbished electronics and replace batteries instead of buying new!
- Unsubscribe and delete old emails. This using a lot of energy everyday!
- Follow ECO sites on social media, listen to Green Podcasts and continue to educate and share with your followers. Such as zero waste Chicago, The Wasteshed, etc...



More actions to consider

- Reuse glass jars to store food instead of buying plastic containers.
- Carry an empty reusable bottle through security at airports and refill at touchless stations.
- Support companies recycling program such as Nordstroms Beauty or Patagonia's take back program.
- Check out [Terracycle.com](https://www.terracycle.com) or [Earth911.com](https://www.earth911.com) to see what recycling options are available for your unique home items.
- Use reusable bags, share, borrow, have a clothes swap, shop second hand and have experiences instead of buying stuff!



There is no Planet B

More ideas to investigate:

Do not reply “thank you” or “got it” to emails. Reduce your electronic carbon footprint. Read about data centers or an interesting article can be found at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/shortcuts/2019/nov/26/pointless-emails-theyre-not-just-irritating-they-have-a-massive-carbon-footprint>



Read about the effects of Fast Fashion on the environment:

<https://earth.org/fast-fashions-detrimental-effect-on-the-environment/>

- What is the life cycle of the items we donate?

<https://www.greenamerica.org/unraveling-fashion-industry/what-really-happens-unwanted-clothes>



It costs more to do nothing

Please see more information and watch
Republic Services videos, please check
out our website at:

<https://recyclingsimplified.com/>

Or the Chicago recycling website at:

<https://www.recyclebycity.com/chicago>

To check out the Chicago Action Plan (CAP)

<https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/sites/climate-action-plan/documents/Chicago-CAP-071822.pdf>

Thank You!