

FREQUENTLY ASKED RECYCLING QUESTIONS

Revised 2/22/16

So ALL SMALL batteries are recycled now? Do some have to have their terminals taped? Which must be placed in a plastic bag?

All single use Alkaline batteries 12V or less can now be put directly in the “Battery Recycling Box” located at the recycling center. Greater than 12V batteries must be bagged first, or their terminals taped.

Similarly, rechargeable batteries (any with Nickel) 9V or less can now be put directly in the “Battery Recycling Box”. Greater than 9V Nickel rechargeable batteries and any other rechargeable batteries (lithium, small sealed Lead Acid, button/coin cell) must be bagged first, or their terminals taped.

How about recycling Cell Phones?

Place the old cell phones in a bag before putting into the “Battery Recycling Box”.

Are car batteries and other large batteries accepted at the Center?

No. Auto parts stores take the old battery when you buy a new one, or take to the Hartford Recycling Center or a hazardous waste collection.

Are Fluorescent Tubes recyclable? How about Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs)?

Yes. They contain mercury, so are required to be recycled. There are long boxes for tubes, and smaller boxes for CFL’s. Boxes must be packed full, with material between CFLs so bulbs do not shift during transport. PLEASE NOTE: incandescent (regular and flood) and halogen bulbs are trash, and should be disposed of responsibly. They are not recyclable.

No more peanut collection?!

Correct. The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District (GUVSWMD) will no longer be collecting packing peanuts, as there is currently no local demand for them. Until further notice, please dispose of all packaging material responsibly. If you can use peanuts in your business and would be willing to pick them up from the Recycling Center, let us know.

Will there be another used paint collection in Strafford?

No. However, there are three local places to bring your used paint in their original, non-leaking container: Norwich Transfer Station, Welch’s True Value in South Royalton, Hartford Transfer Station. For more information about what paints are accepted, go to: <http://www.paintcare.org>

Can we toss old stoves and washing machines into the Metal bin?

Yes – BUT... Some gas ranges and washing machines may have mercury in their safety devices or back-lighting of the control panel. These devices must be safely removed from the appliance before the appliance can be put in the metal recycling container.

What are those yellow bins for?

The bright yellow Planet Aid receptacles are for used textiles, clothing, shoes that are no longer reusable. Prioritize your best used clothing, shoes, and textiles for the annual church rummage sale (or if you can't wait – Listen Center, etc.), but if they are ratty and unusable, take them to the yellow bins.

What's with the cat food container?

We get slightly more for aluminum cat food (and sardine) cans, than the usual aluminum foil, so please clean and separate out these items and put in the marked container. Please note – certain cat food cans and tuna cans are tin, not aluminum, and should continue to be placed in the co-mingled container with other non-deposit glass, plastic and tin items. There is a magnet tied to the aluminum cat food container – if the item sticks to the magnet, it is TIN not aluminum.

Where should I put aluminum?

Please put all aluminum in one of four separate containers, NOT in co-mingled container, as we get some funds back for this material – Deposit Aluminum Cans (not flattened); Non-Deposit Aluminum Cans (not flattened); Aluminum Cat Food Cans; and Aluminum Foil and Pans (flattened)

Are lids allowed?

Yes, in the co-mingled container, but no lids attached, please, as this better insures that the containers will be cleaned and flattened. Any metal lids or plastic lids are acceptable in the co-mingled container. Cleaned items will also deter rodents, flies and hornets. To be a good neighbor and to comply with our recycling cooperative NRRA, we encourage cleaning of all recyclables.

Do I need to flatten containers?

We are encouraging the flattening of the co-mingled items to allow for more efficient hauling (hence reduced costs). DO NOT flatten aluminum and cans, as they then cannot be redeemed at the redemption center used by the Lions Club. DO flatten all cardboard and boxboard to reduce hauling expenses.

What plastics are accepted?

Plastics with the recycle symbol #1 through #7 are accepted in the co-mingled container, with the exception of hazardous waste containers such as paint, auto oil and gasoline. Unfortunately, our

recycling cooperative DOES NOT accept plastic bags, even though they may have a recycling symbol/number on them, nor the large white rigid packing Styrofoam blocks.

Is there a special place for glass deposit bottles?

Look for the banana boxes in or near the large shed – that is where we collect deposit glass bottles. All deposit proceeds benefit the Lions Club which in part supports the Recycling Center.

Where should I put brown paper bags?

Reuse them if possible, or leave them in a special box at the recycling center for reuse by Coburns' or the Rummage Sale. If they are torn or soiled, they go in the Mixed Paper Container (NOT in with cardboard).

Do recyclables need to be clean?

Yes, please rinse, clean, and flatten all items as required by our recycling cooperative. It also helps deter rodents and wasps, making the Recycling Center a more enjoyable and safe place to visit and work.

Is refrigerated boxboard recyclable?

No, unfortunately any paper packaging with a waxy coating used to store food in the refrigerator or freezer (cardboard juice/milk containers, butter boxes, frozen food packaging) is not recyclable, due to their water-resistant coating. Similarly, any paper/cardboard that has been in direct contact with food or drink are NOT recyclable (napkins, paper plates, coffee cups, greasy pizza boxes). We do have farmers who will re-use boxboard egg cartons, however.

May I recycle hard cover books?

To recycle hard cover books and encyclopedias, the hard cover and binding must be removed and disposed of properly before the pages can be recycled. The Library also accepts books for their annual book sale.

How about construction debris?

These materials are accepted at the Hartford Recycling Center. A car sticker and coupons are necessary and can be obtained at the town clerk's. Hartford Recycling Center hours are Monday-Saturday 8-4.

What should I do with old electronics, refrigerators, ac units, dehumidifiers?

Electronics will be collected annually at the town garage. The Recycling Center can no longer accept electronics or any appliance with refrigerant (unless there is the payment of a \$20 fee for any appliance with refrigerant (humidifiers, refrigerators, AC units) to dispose of it on special Large Trash days).

- Everything electronic, including VCRs, stand-alone copiers, televisions, etc. is accepted at the Hartford Recycling Center. We have a once a year collection in Strafford – date and time to be announced – usually in June. There is a charge for all except computer-related equipment, which is recycled for free. There is no sticker or permit necessary to drop off computer-related items at Hartford's Recycling Center.
- Norwich has expanded their recycling center at 24 New Boston Road which is open to Strafford residents for all but zero sort and trash (Saturdays 9-12 and Wednesdays 8-4:45); contact 649-2209:
 - o Mixed Electronics (\$1-\$155 depending): personal computers, televisions, microwaves, cell phones, etc.
 - o CFC appliances (\$20): refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, freezers, water coolers.
 - o Lighting: fluorescent bulbs, flood lamps, etc.
 - o Ballasts, capacitors, and transformers.
 - o Batteries: standard, rechargeable, NICAD, and lithium (no car batteries or deep cycle lead acid batteries)
 - o Mercury-Containing Devices (\$1): thermometers, switches, barometers, and thermostats.
 - o Motor oil – translucent container

Oops! I inadvertently discarded something in the wrong bin. What do I do?

If you can't reach the item, let one of the volunteers know. Using the picker, they continually scan through the co-mingled container for any deposits or aluminum.

How do I sign up to volunteer four times a year?

Contact any member of the Recycling Committee, or go directly to Dori Wolfe (dori.wolfe@gmail.com) who currently creates the quarterly schedules. We strive to have two volunteers helping at the Recycling Center each Saturday to improve quality and share the work load. The volunteer hours are 8:45 to 12:15. We'll provide you with a full training.

What can I do with my old refrigerator if it is still working?

Efficiency Vermont, as part of an incentive to replace older refrigerators, has contracted with Jacco Environmental (877-545-4413) to pick up old refrigerators for free as long as they are between 10-30 cubic feet, operational, clean, and someone 18 years or older is on site at time of pick-up to sign off.

All other appliances with Freon can be taken to the Hartford Landfill for a \$15 fee or brought to the Strafford Recycling center on big trash days for a \$20 fee.

What should I do with rigid white Styrofoam packaging material?

Please dispose of properly. Unfortunately, our recycling cooperative does not accept this material, even if it has a recycle symbol and number on it.

Other questions?

Let the recycling committee (Michael, Vince, David, Scott, Dori) know if you have any questions or concerns.