



**THERE'S A NEW WAY
TO RECYCLE RIGHT**



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



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Living Wisely and Well, Branford, CT - November 3, 2021

What is Recycling?



Made into
New Product
(Recycled)



Collection

Cycle of Recycling (Reclamation)



Sorting/
Processing



Sold to End-
Market
(Reclaimed)



Baled to
Specification



Collecting Materials for Recycling



Source
Separated

Dual
Stream

Single
Stream

Mixed Recycling (Single Stream) *versus dual stream or source separation*

Typically requires
less space and
equipment for
collection and
storage

Typically lower
value
commodities
because of more
contamination

Higher
contamination
key factor leading
to China's
National Sword

We purchase items from many places ... we dispose/recycle in many ways

TRASH



RECYCLING
CART



BRUSH



TEXTILES



PLASTIC FILM



FOOD SCRAPS



BULKY WASTE



OSCAR

Recycling End-Markets

(where commodities are sold)

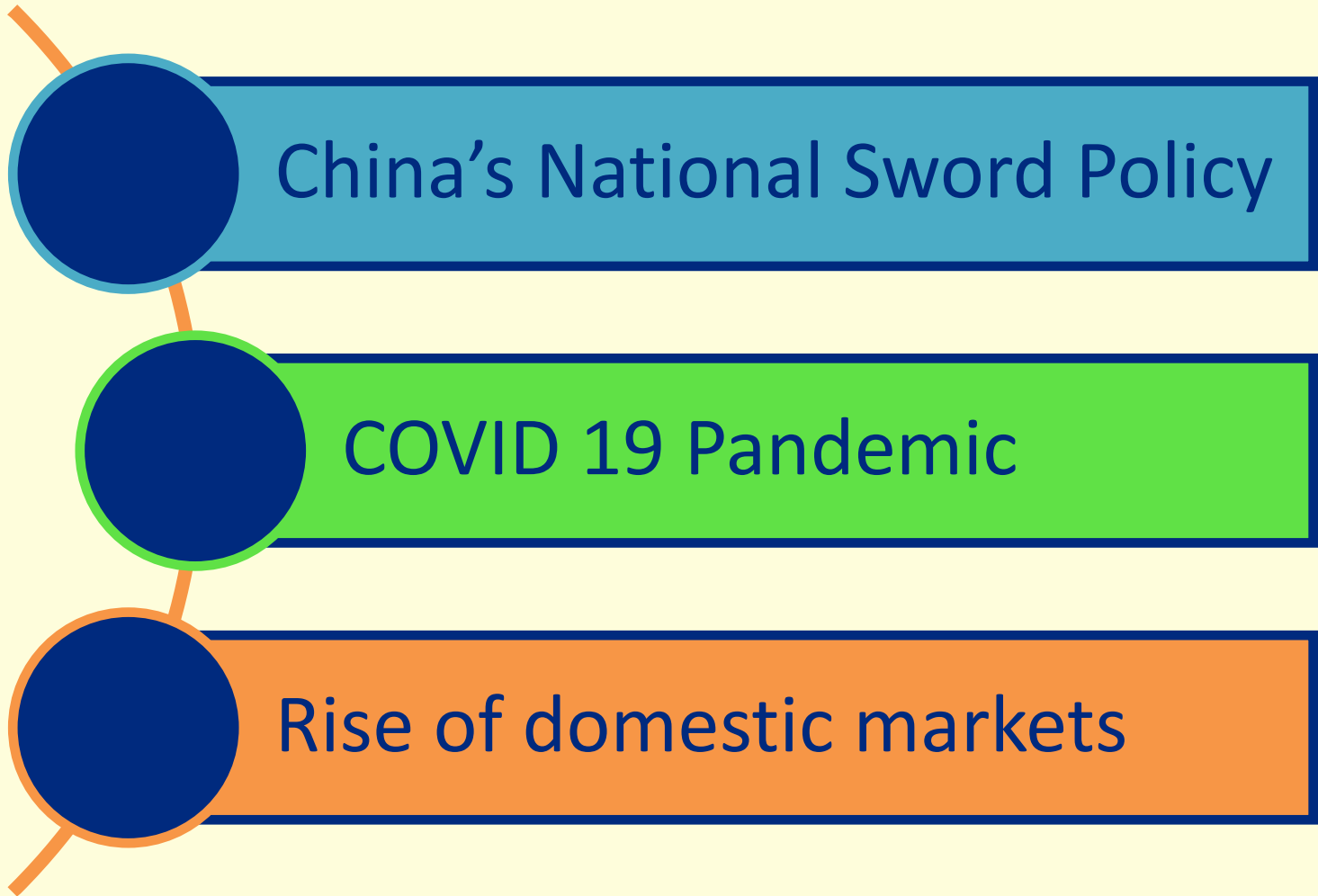


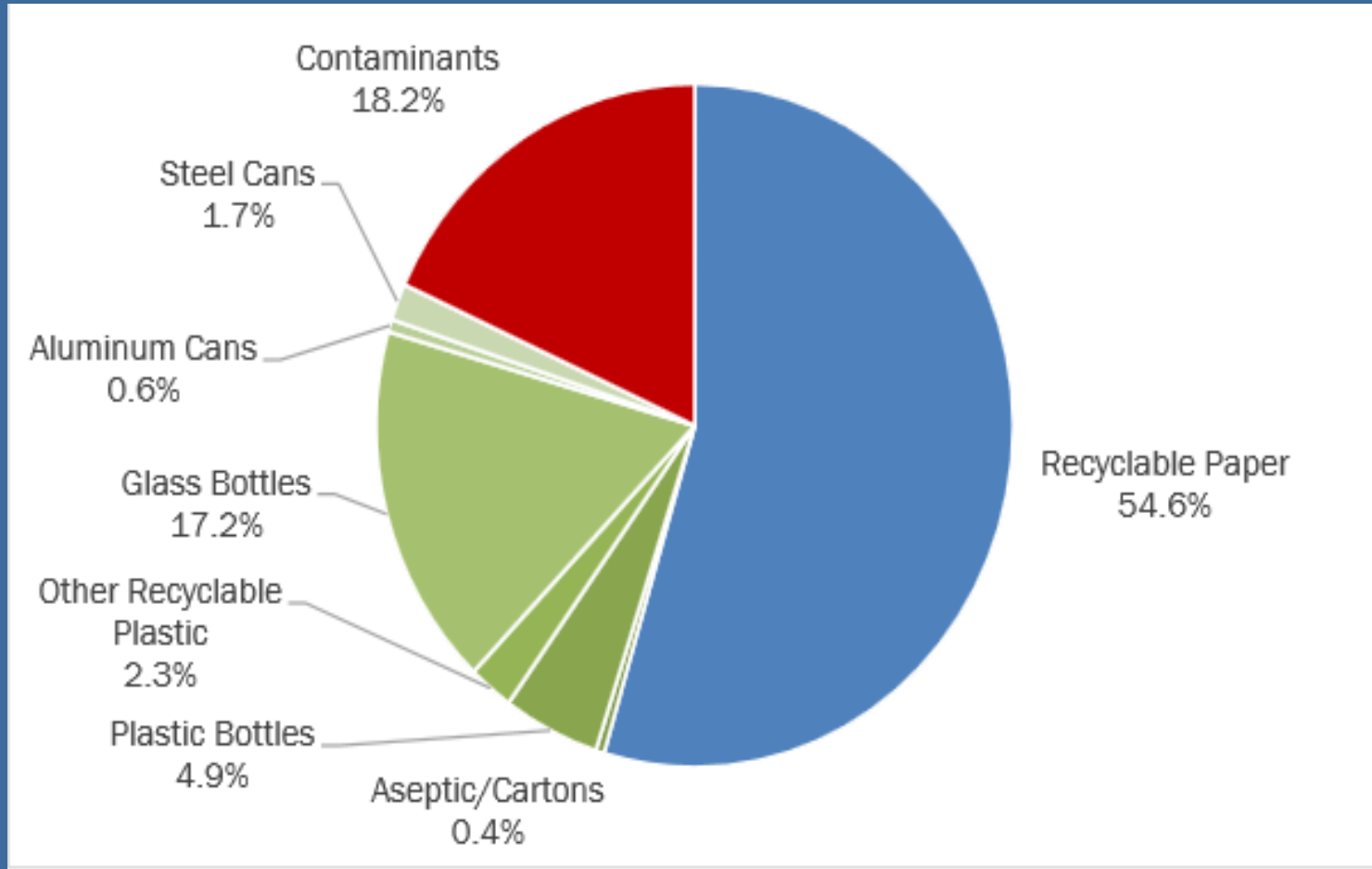


Photo by Howard Shapiro

- Jan 1 2019, Chinese government's import ban on mixed paper went into effect.
- 2021, ban includes all waste paper, incl. corrugated boxes.
- China was not the major end market for America's recycled paper.

Fiber

Characterization of CT's Mixed Recycling (aka Single Stream) (2015)



Fiber

Completed	2021	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Midwest paper Group (WI)• Packaging Corporation of America (LA)• Hood Container (LA)• Copamex (Mexico)• Pratt Industries (OH)• International Paper (AL)• Port Townsend (WA)• Grupo Gondi (Mexico)• Bio Pappel/McKinley Paper (WA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine Dragons Paper WI, WV, ME)• Packaging Corporation of America (WA)• Green Bay Packaging (WI)• Global Win/Shanying; Phoenix Paper (KY)• Total Recycle Fiber (VA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empire Recycled Fiber (PA)• CorrVentures (NY)• Graphics Paper (MI)• Saica Group (OH)• Atlantic Packaging Products (Ontario)• Cascades (VA)• Crossroads paper (Utah)• Kamine/Celadon (FL)• Sonoco (SC, WI)• Domtar (TN)

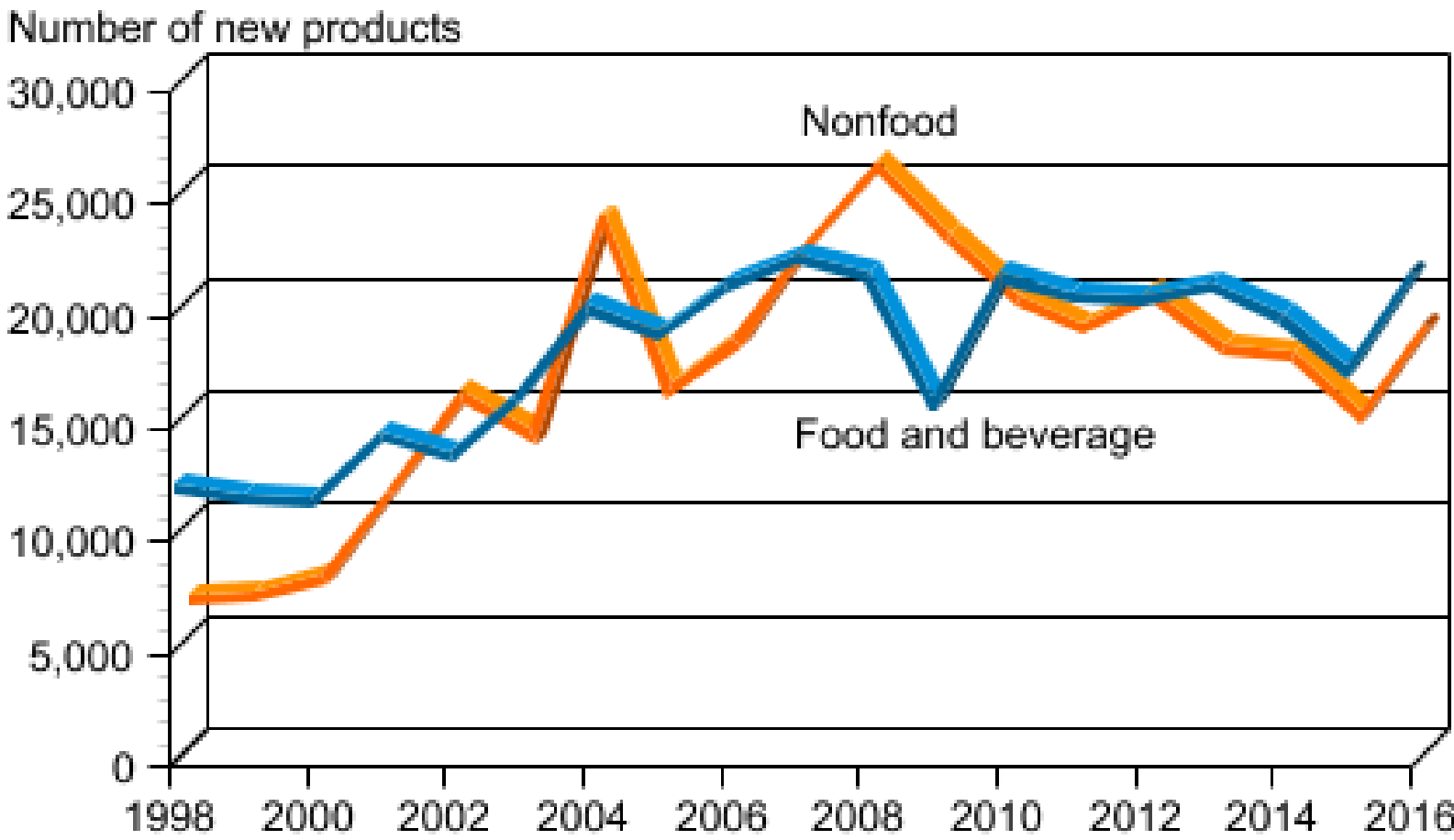
Are we doing it wrong?



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

New product introductions of consumer packaged goods, 1998-2016

After declining between 2007 and 2009, the number of new food and beverage products rebounded in 2010, dipped again between 2013 and 2015, then bounced back in 2016



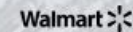
Source: Calculated by ERS, USDA using data from Mintel's Global New Product Database (Mintel GNPD).



how2recycle.info

A Cleaner World Starts With Us

How2Recycle is a standardized labeling system that clearly communicates recycling instructions to the public. It involves a coalition of forward thinking brands who want their packaging to be recycled and are empowering consumers through smart packaging labels.



A Smarter Label System

Variation in recycling programs, unclear labeling, and inaccurate recyclability claims make proper recycling a challenge. The How2Recycle label was created to provide consistent and transparent on-package recycling information to consumers in North America.



Clear. Consistent. Concise.

Recycling labels that make sense.



Preparing Material for Recycling

Information is provided to ensure the proper steps are taken to effectively recycle materials.

Rinse & Insert Lid	Empty & Replace Cap	Empty Before Recycling	Rinse Before Recycling
Rinse & Replace Lid	Recycle If Clean & Dry	See Website For Cap	Remove Label Before Recycling
Empty & Discard Sprayer	Empty & Reattach Sprayer	Empty & Discard Pump	Empty & Reattach Pump

Empty & Discard Sprayer: This means before you recycle your bottle, make sure you remove the sprayer. This usually means the sprayer contains metal parts.



Recycling... It's the Law!

Mandatory Recycling in CT:

- 1975
- 1989
- 2012



Items Designated (Mandated) for Recycling

- Glass & Metal Food & Beverage Containers
- Plastic Containers (PET or PETE #1)
- Plastic Containers (HDPE #2)
- Scrap Metal, including appliances
- Ni-Cd Rechargeable Batteries (from consumer products)
- Waste Oil (crankcase oil from internal combustion engines)
- Leaves (must be composted)
- Lead Acid Battery or Motor Vehicle Batteries
- Commercially Generated Source Separated Organic Materials (Only applies to those businesses compelled to do so per CGS Section 22a-226e)
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Boxboard
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- White & Colored Office Paper (*residences and businesses*)

Recycling Laws and Regulations



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

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Recycling Laws and Regulations



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Other Programs: Bottle Bill

- Law passed in 1978 and went into effect 1/1/1980.
- Primary initial purpose of this program was to help reduce litter.
- In 2009, CT program expanded to include water containers. Also in 2009, unclaimed deposits (escheats) were directed to the state's General Fund (instead of remaining with the distributors).
- In 2021, [Public Act 21-58](#) passed, significantly modifying CT's program.



Other Programs: Bottle Bill

- Beverage containers:
 - 1980: beer, soft drinks, carbonated mineral water (5c)
 - 2009: water (5c)
 - 2021: hard seltzer, hard cider, plant water, juice, juice drink, tea, coffee, kombucha, plant infused drink, sports drink or energy drink (*effective 1/1/23*)
 - Increased deposit to 10c (*effective 1/1/24*)
 - 2021: 5c surcharge applied to sale of miniatures or mini liquor bottles (≤ 50 ml) containing spirits or liquor (*effective 10/1/21*)



Other Programs (not in mixed recycling bin)

- Electronics
- Paint
- Mattresses
- Thermostats
- HHW
- Textiles
- Food scraps
- Large quantities of books
- Eyeglasses
- Household items
- Playscapes; 5 gallon buckets; bulky rigid plastics
- Plastic bags; plastic wrap
- Shredded paper



Rethink

Refuse

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Personal Changes: Purchasing

- Think before you hit “buy” with easy online shopping
- Do you need it or want it?
- Can you buy it locally?
- Can you buy it used?
- Can you repair the one you already have?
- Could you borrow it from a neighbor or friend?
- Does your library offer this to borrow?



Personal Changes: Food

- Make a list before shopping
- Create a menu for a few days or week at a time
- Freeze items before they go bad
- Rotate food in your refrigerator
- Mark items – what and dates for frig and freezer
- Learn to compost
- Join the “Clean Plate” club - use smaller plates



Personal Changes: Reuse

- Donate unused items you no longer want or need
- Donate responsibly
 - Clothing, sports equipment, medical supplies, art supplies, pet needs
- Repair the items you have
- Organize a community events –
 - Tag sales, SWAP events, Free Days, start a swap shop
 - Repair clinics
 - Mini-libraries – community book reuse
 - Tool lending library, cookware, paintings



Waste Crises in Connecticut

- MIRA, incinerator in Hartford will be closing June 2022
- They burn about 1/3 of CT's Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
- If trash is hauled out-of-state, the price of trash disposal is likely to increase.
- Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management, formed August 2020

CCSMM Priorities

- Reduce amount of waste that is generated
- Expand reuse opportunities
- Increase food scrap collection programs
- Improve recycling programs
 - Reduce contamination
 - Reduce municipal costs for disposal
- Implement new approaches including Unit-Based Pricing and EPR programs



CCSMM Priorities

Menu of Options, Dec. 2020

An exhaustive list of potential legislative, department and municipal actions identified and discussed in the CCSMM process.

This menu is not an endorsement of specific policies or actions, but an extensive list of all of the options that municipal and state policymakers could consider to enhance sustainable materials management in Connecticut.

There is a wide variety of policies and programs that can be adopted to help reduce disposal tonnage, and provide environmental benefits and/or cost savings for Connecticut communities.

Each municipality has unique policy priorities and circumstances, and can embrace different solutions. In some cases, municipalities will find benefits from implementing solutions together, as regional groups, or on a statewide basis.

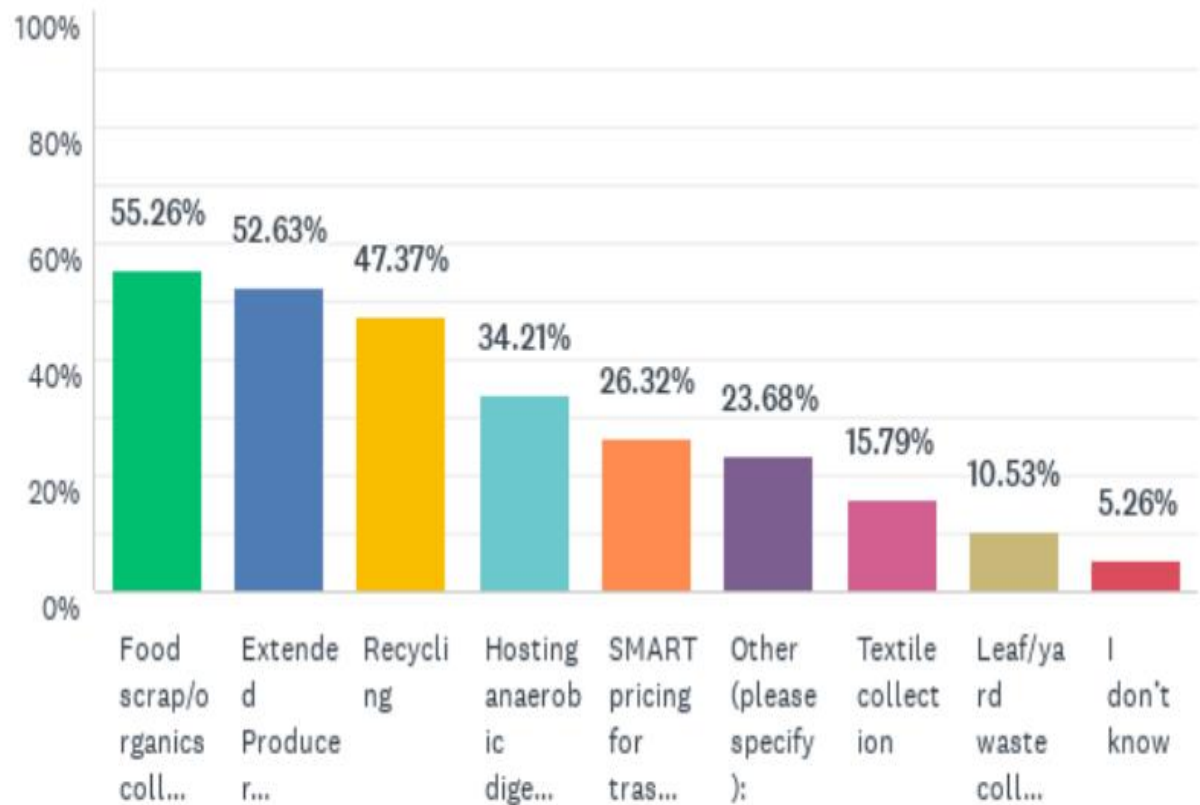
The key is that all of these actions— individual, regional, and state-level—can add up in the aggregate to a significant reduction in disposal of MSW, and real progress towards our shared goal of a more equitable, affordable, and sustainable waste system for Connecticut.



https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/waste_management_and_disposal/CCSMM/CCSMM-Options-Menu-Dec-2020-v-2.pdf

CCSMM Interest in Solutions

Responses to CCSMM Municipal Survey



What's **IN?**

What's **OUT?**

Learn about the new, universal
list for recycling.



<http://www.recyclect.com>

Harmonization across Connecticut

Met with Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Operators

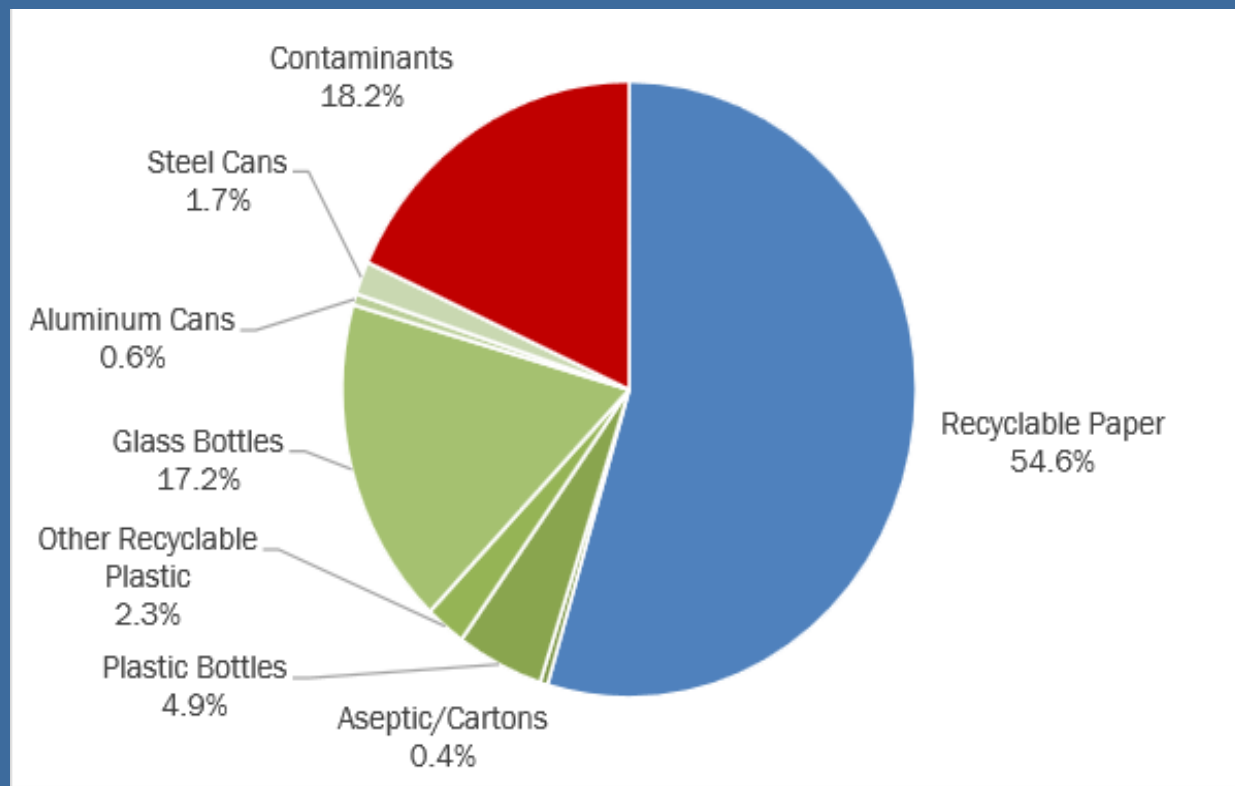
- What is Detrimental?
 - Item, material or product that:
 1. could be harmful to employees or safety concern; and/or
 2. can shut down or harm equipment; and/or
 3. reduces the value of commodities.



Characterization of CT's Single Stream aka Mixed Recycling

#1 Contaminant Found

= Plastic bags and bagged material



Bagged Recyclables vs. Bag of Trash



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Top 5 Contaminants

1. Plastic Bags
2. Shredded Paper
3. Bagged recyclables or waste
4. Tanglers (garden hoses, hangers, clothes)
5. Bottle caps





NO PLASTIC BAGS IN THE CART

DO NOT BAG Recyclables

Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.

Return plastic bags to retailers.



Plastic Bags & Other Film at CT MRFs



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Plastic Bags & Other Film at CT MRFs



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Let's Break Some Myths...

- **IN:** Pizza boxes (no food, no liners)
- **OUT:** No loose bottle caps
- **OUT:** No shredded paper
- **OUT:** No plastic bags, plastic wrap/film
- **OUT:** No expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam)
- **OUT:** Black plastic containers, black plastic nursery pots



Some things are just trash

- Single-use coffee cups/lids
- Single-use straws
- Moldy/mildew textiles
- Used pens/pencils/toothbrushes
- Used/broken garden hoses
- Used/popped balloons
- Used polystyrene foam (Styrofoam™) products
- Insulating foam (packaging)



Why Does Quality Matter?



Made into
New Product
(Recycled)



Collection

Cycle of Recycling (Reclamation)



Sorting/
Processing



Baled to
Specification



Sold to End-
Market
(Reclaimed)



Glass Recovered at CT MRFs (2015)



Glass Recovered at CT MRFs



Toothbrushes

Rx Bottles

Tampon
Applicator

Razor

Lip Balm

Toothpaste

Pens

Batteries

Bottle Caps

Other items to keep OUT of recycling bin

- No batteries
- No syringes
- No propane tanks
- No ammunition
- No lawnmower blades
- No knives or other utensils
- No diapers – baby/adult
- No tampon applicators
- Keep things dry



CAN I RECYCLE IT?

Something Missing? Share

Type the name of a waste item and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

Privacy | Terms of Service | Cookie Policy

List of Materials

Powered by ReCollect and RecycleCT



THERE'S A NEW WAY TO RECYCLE RIGHT

Just ask the RecycleCT Wizard

Plastic Bags



Pizza Boxes



Shredded Paper

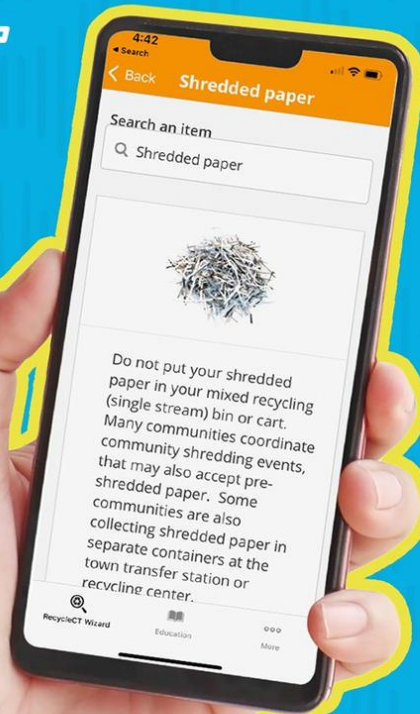


Loose Bottle Caps



IN OR OUT

*Did you say yes?
Sorry. It's a no
for shredded
paper.*



RecycleCT

RecycleCT Wizard APP

Apple
or
Google Play

<http://www.recyclect.com/resources.html>

Flyer
Bill Insert
Postcard
Tipcard
Magnet
Poster

<http://www.recyclect.com/resources.html>

RECYCLE RIGHT. EVERY TIME.

Use this guide to learn **What's IN** and **What's OUT** of your bin.

What's IN?

Follow these steps before placing acceptable items into your recycling bin.

DO: empty, clean, rinse, and repeat for each item. | **DON'T:** shred, box, or bag items.



PAPER & CARDBOARD



Newspapers & magazines, food and beverage cartons, mixed paper and flattened boxes



GLASS



Bottles and jars



METAL



Food and beverage cans, aluminum foil and foil containers



PLASTIC



Jugs, tubs and lids

What's OUT?



No plastic bags or plastic wrap
(Return to retailer)



No food or liquid
(Empty all containers)



No clothing or linens
(use donation programs)



No tangles
(No hoses, wires, chains or electronics)



No combustibles
(No propane tanks, batteries, and non-food grade aerosol cans like spray paint and pesticides)

To learn more about What's In and What's Out of your bin, ask the **RecycleCT Wizard** at RecycleCT.com or download our new app.



logo here



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Trash Talk Videos

RecycleCT YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/recyclect>

Facebook Videos

www.facebook.com/ctrecycles/videos



Compost In a Bag: Rotten Fun for Home or Classroom

6 weeks ago · 239 Views



Carton Recycling! Including school resources.

7 weeks ago · 467 Views



Reducing, Reusing and Recycling Textiles

8 weeks ago · 656 Views



Lids, caps and corks.

9 weeks ago · 399 Views



Is it Compostable?

10 weeks ago · 486 Views



Who's Responsible? Introduction to Product Stewardship.

11 weeks ago · 312 Views



Tanglers are OUT! Learn how to keep essential recycling workers safe.

12 weeks ago · 447 Views



Sweating the Small Stuff: Why Small Things Are Not Acceptable In CT's...

14 weeks ago · 3.2K Views



Take-out and Curbside Pick-up Food Packaging

15 weeks ago · 878 Views



How Can I Recycle My Electronics?

16 weeks ago · 176 Views



Can We Grow Vegetables From Food Scraps? Part 2

17 weeks ago · 394 Views



I Got My Package, Can I Recycle It? Part 2.

18 weeks ago · 570 Views



Acceptable

vs.

Recyclable

QUIZ!