

Where Does Our Recycling Go?

When we are out visiting sites and talking to staff, we often get the question, “What happens to the recycling once it leaves our site?” Well, this document answers that question!

Recycling is picked up from a site and taken to a recycling vendor. From here, materials are sorted and baled, which means compressed and wrapped up with thick wire. Bales of material are loaded into trucks and shipped off to recycling plants for processing. Markets for each of these materials dictate where they are sent and these markets are constantly changing. The information below is based on where the vendor has sent materials recently.

Item	Recycling Location	Detail Location	Recycled Items
Aluminum cans	North America	Kentucky	Aluminum cans ¹
Glass Bottles	North America	Delta	Glass bottles, sand blasting material, fiberglass insulation and aggregate fill for construction or roads ²
Tetra paks/Milk cartons	North America	Delta/Calgary	Paper, cardboard, high quality tissue paper ³ , drink boxes and fabric
Rigid plastic 1&2	80% North America, 20% overseas	Delta/Calgary	Sweatshirts, pillow stuffing, carpet backing, plastic lumber, blue boxes, compost bins, drink bottles, milk jugs and buckets
All other rigid plastic	Overseas	China	Drainage pipes, cable insulation, industrial packaging cases, CD cases, picnic tables, outdoor signs ⁴ , motor vehicle components, toys and fabrics
Soft plastic	Overseas	China	Plastic lumber (playgrounds), compost bins ⁴ and fabrics
Mixed paper	50% North America, 50% Overseas	United States	Newspaper, cardboard, packaging, tissue paper, drink trays, paper plates and paper towel
Batteries	North America	Ontario	New batteries, stainless steel products ⁵
Cardboard	Overseas	China	New boxes, boxboard, wallboard liner, roofing felt, kraft paper, tubes, core board and packaging material ⁶

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Date: April 11, 2012

¹ GVRD - http://rcbc.bc.ca/files/u3/add_facts-aluminum.pdf

² GVRD - http://rcbc.bc.ca/files/u3/add_facts-glass.pdf

³ Encorp - <http://www.return-it.ca/beverage/faqs/general/>

⁴ GVRD - http://rcbc.bc.ca/files/u3/add_facts-plastics.pdf

⁵ Call2Recycle - <http://www.call2recycle.ca/how-the-call2recycle-sup-sup-program-works.php?c=149&d=385&e=386&w=2&r=Y>

⁶ GVRD - <http://www.lumby.ca/services/recycling/docs/cardboard.pdf>