



# By the Way

Helping people make a difference in Westmoreland County

Spring 2018 Special

## Recycling Evolves —What Can I Recycle and How?

Recycling has evolved tremendously in the 25 years since it became law in Pennsylvania. Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling has been at the forefront of educating residents and businesses about what to recycle and how for much of that time. New challenges continue to present themselves as the waste stream, product packaging, and recycling technology improves. Education remains the single most important factor in ensuring a successful recycling process.

### Source Separated Recycling

In the early days of Act 101, Pennsylvania's recycling law, knowing what to recycle was easy. The law stated that municipalities could collect any three of eight types of recyclables: Plastic #1, Plastic #2, Clear glass, Green glass, Brown glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, or newspaper. That was it. Early recycling trucks came with three compartments, one for each type of recyclable collected in a particular municipality. Residents often received a set of three curbside recycling bins with the type of recycling imprinted on it. Recycling companies and manufacturers loved this "source-separated" material because it was, by its very nature, clean and uncontaminated. Everyone knew exactly what to recycle and how to prepare it, and manufacturers got a nice clean load of yellow plastic milk jugs or clear glass jars or black and white newspaper. The problem was on the collection end. The compartmentalized trucks often had the same size compartments for each material, some of which filled up more quickly than others. Once one compartment was filled, the truck had to go to the recycling plant to empty its load, then go back to the municipality to pick up where it left off. Additionally, since each municipality potentially chose different materials to collect, a recycling hauler couldn't easily drive from one municipality to the next if the type of recyclable being collected was different. Despite the different programs, that system worked for a number of years.

### Dual Stream Recycling

As recycling caught on, people wanted to recycle more items. Manufacturing technology was also evolving to make it easier to recycle different types of material. The push was on to collect more types of recyclables to feed the manufacturing plants; the recycling plants had to adapt to handle more types of recyclables, as well. The problem came back to transportation; i.e. how to collect all of the recyclables people wanted to recycle most economically.

Thus, the concept of "dual stream" recycling made its debut. Dual stream recycling meant that recyclables were divided into two main categories: plastics, cans and glass in one category, and paper products (newsprint, cardboard, office paper, magazines and catalogs) in another. Those materials could be collected together in the same single-compartment recycling truck and hauled to the recycling plant. Recycling plants employed sorters (people) to manually separate the different types of plastic, cans and glass bottles, into separate bays. Paper and cardboard were collected separately. More material could be collected, but the result was that the material wasn't always as "clean" coming in as the "source-separated" material was. Processing cost also increased because of the people employed to separate the material. Overall, though, recyclers and manufacturers were getting more material to meet their needs, and the overall volume of material being kept out of the landfills was greatly increased. But, dual-stream collection created confusion with residents who were trained to separate everything. People thought that if the material wasn't separated, it was probably being thrown away. Residents were not being educated about the changes taking place. Education became increasingly important.

### Single Stream Recycling

In 2006, another major shift in recycling and manufacturing technology occurred with the advent of single stream recycling, the process whereby all recyclables could be mixed together (plastics, cans, glass AND paper), with the sorting being done mechanically at one huge recycling plant. Theoretically, it made sense. Residents didn't have to think any more about how to sort their recyclables; everything went into one container. Haulers only had to send one recycling truck to collect everything and make one trip to the recycling plant. The recycling plants were built to handle huge volumes of material.

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**Westmoreland Cleanways and  
Recycling**

***By the Way* is published throughout the year  
by Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling.  
Copies may also be found on our web site:  
[www.westmorelandcleanways.org](http://www.westmorelandcleanways.org)**

**Recycling Evolves —What Can I Recycle and How? - con't.**

In addition to the sorting technology, manufacturers were developing ways to recycle more types of plastic in addition to the #1 PET plastic and #2 HDPE plastic most commonly collected. Other types of plastic (#3 PVC, #4 LDPE, #6 PS, etc.) are not as easily recycled into new products; more importantly, different types of plastic can't be mixed together during the manufacturing process. Despite the technological advances, sorting various plastics into quantities pure enough to be recycled proved very difficult and costly.

Glass containers have become a real burden on the recycling process. Like plastic, glass must be cleanly sorted in order to have re-manufacturing value. Imagine your clear glass pickle jar having flecks of green or brown floating in it. Or a green Rolling Rock beer bottle contaminated with shards of blue. Now imagine thousands of curbside recycling bins containing glass jars of all colors. When the recyclables get dumped into a compacting recycling truck, there aren't too many intact bottles coming out at the recycling plant. Glass shards get ground into the newspaper and cardboard. The material coming out the other end of the recycling plant is often too contaminated to be of use to anyone. Continue to recycle your glass curbside while recycling processors work to find a better way to handle it.

**Wish-Cyclers and No-Nos in the Recycling Bin**

Dedicated recyclers want to recycle everything. What about plastic bags? They're plastic, right? What about my garden hose, or metal coat hangers? Add long, stringy items to a mechanical sorting system with lots of moving gears, and you end up with a huge bound-up clog. Think of long hair tangled around a hairbrush. Single stream plant operators find themselves continually shutting down sort lines trying to untangle the bags and ropey stuff from pulleys and conveyor belts. Such rampant contamination costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to the recycling facility and community, and the irony is that, when that happens, even the good recyclables get trashed!

Thoughtful people must accept the fact that not everything is recyclable: used cat litter, dirty diapers, cigarette butts, cellophane wrappers, wax-coated freezer cartons, old garden hoses...the list goes on. Things that can be recycled, like metal coat hangers and plastic grocery bags, can be recycled, but not in a curbside collection program. Generally speaking, people who say they generate no trash either are very, very careful, or are putting things into a recycling bin that shouldn't be there. The unfortunate truth is that the stuff that wish-cyclers put into a recycling bin that don't belong there gets thrown away at the recycling plant, after potentially causing a great deal of damage along the way.

**What Do We Do?**

Take the time to educate yourself:

- \* Subscribe to "Wish-cycler Wednesday" on our FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/westmorelandcleanways/>); spotlights myths and no-nos that fool well-intentioned recyclers into believing they're doing the right thing.
- \* Contact your recycling hauler to find out EXACTLY what they will collect and how it must be prepared. Share the news with your neighbors.
- \* Investigate other options to recycle metal coat hangers, plastic bags, black plastic plant pots, and other household items. Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling's Recycling Guide, available for download from our website, contains hundreds of listings to recycle everything from computer discs to cooking oil.
- \* Accept the fact that NOT EVERYTHING IS RECYCLABLE!. Believe it when you're told that non-recyclable items put into a recycling bin do not make them recyclable, and may result in EVERYTHING being trashed.



# WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?



## TOP 10 IN THE BIN

1. CARDBOARD
2. PAPER
3. FOOD BOXES
4. MAIL
5. BEVERAGE CANS
6. FOOD CANS
7. GLASS BOTTLES
8. JARS (GLASS & PLASTIC)
9. JUGS
10. PLASTIC BOTTLES AND CAPS

### ALSO RECYCLABLE BUT NOT IN CURBSIDE BIN

PLASTIC BAGS  
AND WRAPS



ELECTRONICS



TEXTILES



Find out about your local recycling options here:  
[www.iwanttoberecycled.org](http://www.iwanttoberecycled.org)



**KEEP AMERICA  
BEAUTIFUL**



## Chemical Hazards Found in E-Waste:

E-waste component	Potential hazard	Potential health effects from long-term exposure
Cathode ray tube (CRT) glass, batteries, solder, older printed circuit boards	Lead dust	Anemia, kidney damage, high blood pressure, nerve and brain damage, miscarriage, birth defects
Batteries, switches, thermostats, fluorescent tubes	Mercury vapor	Nerve and brain damage, birth defects
Nickel-cadmium batteries, printed circuit boards, phosphor coating on CRT glass	Cadmium dust	Kidney disease, bone problems, lung cancer
Older printed circuit boards	Beryllium dust	Lung disease, probably lung cancer
Plastic cases and parts	Flame retardant dust	Possible thyroid hormone problems

Substance	Occurrence in e-waste
<b>Halogenated compounds:</b>	
PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls)	Condensers, Transformers, Capacitors, Light Ballasts
<b>Fire Retardants:</b> • TBBA (tetrabromo-bisphenol-A) • PBB (polybrominated biphenyls) • PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers)	Fire retardants for plastics (thermoplastic components, cable insulation)
<b>Fluorocarbons</b> • Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)	Cooling unit, Insulation foam (refrigerators, air conditioners, etc.)
PVC (polyvinyl chloride)	Cable insulation



Substance	Occurrence in e-waste
<b>Heavy metals and other metals:</b>	
Arsenic	Small quantities in the form of gallium arsenide within light emitting diodes, printer/copier drums
Barium	CRT Getters, Plasma TVs
Beryllium	Power supply boxes which contain silicon controlled rectifiers, x-ray lenses, and some microwave oven magnetrons with ceramic insulators
Cadmium	Rechargeable NiCd-batteries, fluorescent layer (CRT screen phosphor powder), printer inks and toners, photocopying-machines (printer drums)
Chromium VI	Data tapes, floppy-disks, Plasma TVs
Cobalt	Plasma TVs and batteries

Substance	Occurrence in e-waste
<b>Heavy metals and other metals:</b>	
Copper	Wire, ribbons, CRT yokes, plasma TVs
Indium	LCD panels, flat panel displays, touch screens
Lead	CRT funnel, CRT frit, some plasma TVs, batteries, printed wiring/circuit boards
Lithium	Lithium batteries
Manganese	Batteries
Mercury	Fluorescent lamps - backlighting in LCDs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), other lamps (metal halide, high pressure sodium, high intensity discharge (HID), mercury vapor, neon, ultraviolet, and others, digital light processing TVs (DLPs), some alkaline batteries, mercury wetted switches/relays, thermometers, thermostats, barometers, medical equipment, pressure or vacuum gauges, electronic games and toys



Substance	Occurrence in e-waste
<b>Heavy metals and other metals:</b>	
Nickel	Rechargeable Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) batteries, Nickel Metal Halide (NiMH) batteries, CRT electron guns, Plasma TVs
Rare Earth elements (Yttrium, Europium)	Fluorescent layer (CRT-screen)
Selenium	Older photocopying-machines (photo drums)
Silver	Plasma TVs and other equipment
Zinc	Batteries, plasma TVs
Zinc sulphide	Interior of CRT screens, mixed with rare earth metals



Substance	Occurrence in e-waste
<b>Acids and Caustics:</b>	
Sulfuric acid	Lead acid batteries
Potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide	Batteries: Alkaline, nickel cadmium, nickel metal halide
<b>Coolants:</b>	
Ethylene glycol and propylene glycol	Projection tubes
Silicon oils	Transformers
Aliphatic Polyalphaolefin (PAO) fluids	Transformers and other electronics



Substance	Occurrence in e-waste
<b>Particulates (Dusts, powders, etc.):</b>	
Toner Dust	Toner cartridges for laser printers / copiers
Phosphor Coatings	CRTs and Lamps
Inks	Printers, copiers, All-in-One scanners
<b>Radioactive Substances:</b>	
Americium	Medical equipment, fire detectors, smoke detectors
Radium	Medical equipment, smoke detectors
Tritium, Krypton-85, Promethium-147, Natural Thorium	High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lamps
<b>And Many More</b>	





# Westmoreland Cleanways Recycling Center



GPS Address:  
 113 Innovative Lane Building F  
 Latrobe, PA 15650  
[info@westmorelandcleanways.org](mailto:info@westmorelandcleanways.org)  
 724-879-4020

HOURS: Mondays Noon—5 p.m.  
 Wednesdays 8 a.m.—1 p.m.  
 Fridays 8 a.m.—1 p.m.  
 2nd Sat. of each Month, 8:30 a.m.—Noon

Electronics listed in column to right  
 Televisions, Monitors—whole, intact, complete unit  
 Hazardous waste handling fee for disassembled CRT TVs

Paper as listed (please separate):  
 Cardboard (*corrugated, chip board, cereal boxes*)  
 Sorted Office Paper (*white, staples and paperclips OK*)  
 Mixed paper (*file folders, junk mail, magazines, phone books*)  
 Newspaper (*black and white, color inserts*)

Passenger/Light Truck Tires: \$3.00 Off Rim/\$4.00 On Rim\*  
 Tractor Trailer: \$12.00 Off Rim/ \$15.00 On Rim\*  
 Agricultural/farm tractor: \$20.00\*  
 Highway/construction/heavy equipment: \$30.00\*

\*members received discount on tire disposal  
 Freon Appliances (frig, freezers, A/C, dehumidifiers, etc.) \$20.00/ unit  
 Scrap Metal (non-Freon appliances, propane tanks, misc.) NO CHARGE  
 Batteries (lead acid only) NO CHARGE  
 Used Motor Oil NO CHARGE

Bulbs and fixtures:  
 Ballasts (PCB or non-PCB) \$5.00/each  
 CFL (compact fluorescent) NO CHARGE  
 Fluorescent tubes 4ft or smaller, u-bend, halogen, HID, high pressure sodium, LED, etc. \$1.00/tube  
 Fluorescent tubes 8ft or longer \$2.00/tube

Shoes (must be reusable, no flip flops, slippers, singles, ski/winter boots, or skates) NO CHARGE

\*\*\*\*Cash Or Check Only\*\*\*\*  
 updated 03/19/18

**ALL DEVICES LISTED BELOW ARE ACCEPTED:**  
**Must be Recycled by Law:** *anything directly connected to a computer system):*

- ◇ CPUs/Towers
- ◇ Laptops
- ◇ Computer monitors—CRT and LED/LCD
- ◇ Peripherals (mice, keyboards, speakers)
- ◇ Printers and All-in-One Printers
- ◇ TVs—all types, including consoles
- ◇ NO LIMIT ON SIZE OF TVs

- Not required by law** to be recycled but can be:
- ◇ Answering Machines Telephone systems
  - ◇ Camcorders Cell phones
  - ◇ Cameras Docking Stations
  - ◇ Electric typewriters Pagers
  - ◇ Radios Remote Controls
  - ◇ Stereos/tape/CD players Microwaves
  - ◇ VCR/DVD players Medical equipment
  - ◇ Rechargeable batteries Toner/ink cartridges
  - ◇ Testing equipment Electrical Cords
  - ◇ Fax/copy machines/duplicators
  - ◇ Christmas lights
  - ◇ Gaming consoles/controllers
  - ◇ Video games/cartridges

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE is NOT accepted.**  
**NEXT HHW COLLECTION:**  
 Call for details

## WHAT TO DO WHEN WITNESSING ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping and littering are **ILLEGAL** under Pennsylvania law. If you've ever bothered to read your entire PA Driver's License Renewal Form, you may have seen the following:

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### PROVISIONS OF SECTION 3709 OF THE VEHICLE CODE

Section 3709 provides for a fine of up to \$300 for dropping, throwing, or depositing, upon any highway, or upon any other public or private property without the consent of the owner thereof, or into or on the waters of this Commonwealth, from a vehicle, any waste paper, sweepings, ashes, household waste, glass, metal, refuse or rubbish or any dangerous or detrimental substance, or permitting any of the preceding without immediately removing such items or causing their removal.

For any violation of section 3709, I may be subject to a fine of up to \$300 upon conviction, including any violation resulting from the conduct of any other persons presently within any vehicle of which I am the driver.

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Even if you, yourself do not litter or dump, what do you do when you see someone else do it? If you observe someone littering or dumping, **DO NOT APPROACH THE SUSPECTED DUMPER**. Get details and descriptions of the incident and turn them over to an enforcement agency as soon as possible. Helpful information would be:

- \* License plate number and description of vehicle involved (such as make, model, year, condition of vehicle)
- \* Number of persons involved, with descriptions
- \* Date and time of incident
- \* Traveling direction if you have witnessed a littering incident
- \* Type of litter thrown from vehicle
- \* Location and/or directions to site of an illegal dumping problem
- \* Ownership of the site, and whether public or private, if known
- \* Your name and telephone number



If a vehicle is involved, the owner of the vehicle is responsible for trash dropped, thrown, or deposited from the vehicle, regardless of who committed the offense. The vehicle license number may be all that you need to report; however, the more information you provide to an agent the stronger the case will be.

Always start on the **Local Level**. Local officials are familiar with properties and residents and should be able to respond quickly. See if any of the following exists where the violation occurred: Local Police; Code Enforcement Officer (local or county); County Solid Waste Authority; County Health Department.

**PA State Police - 724-832-3288** The State Police will have jurisdiction if the violation takes place on public land or a state road right-of-way, or if the dumping is on public or private land that does not fall under local police jurisdiction.

**PA Department of Environmental Protection Hotline - 800-346-4242** - Call if you witness illegal dumping on public or private property. They do not respond to litter complaints.

**PA Fish and Boat Commission - 814-445-8974** - Report littering or dumping of trash that lies on or near surface waters, particularly trout streams.

**PA Game Commission - 724-238-5639** - Report littering or dumping on State Game Lands and on private property that is open to hunting.

**PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry - 724-238-1200**- Report littering or dumping in State Forests or State Parks.



#### Other Sources of Support:

**Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful On-line Report Form:** <http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/IllegalDumpSurveys/ReportLitterandDumping.aspx>

**Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling- 724-879-4020**

**Please Note:** Neither **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful** nor **Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling** have enforcement authority. They can only recommend an appropriate course of action.

# By the Way - Spring 2018



WESTMORELAND CLEANWAYS AND RECYCLING  
128 INNOVATIVE LANE SUITE 200  
LATROBE, PA 15650-5462

If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please call 724-879-4020 and ask to have your name removed from our mailing list.

## What We're All About

Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to protect, restore and maintain the environmental qualities of our county for the benefit of all who live, work, and visit herein. Westmoreland Cleanways accomplishes its mission by sponsoring and promoting programs that address the proper disposal of solid waste through recycling, special collections, and the cleanup of illegal dumpsites and littered areas. We educate the public through presentations, print media and the web.

Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling operates a recycling center for hard-to-dispose material, initiates and facilitates programs by bringing together a network of volunteers, industry leaders, and state and local government representatives to provide services in the most efficient and economical manner. We are funded by the county commissioners, member fees, private donations, sponsorships and grants. Volunteers donate time, energy and expertise to carry out our mission.

Volunteers and new members are always welcome. Won't you call our office, visit us on the web, or attend a meeting to learn more about how you can be a part of Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling?

### ~ MEETING NOTICE ~

Regular meetings are held at 6:30 PM at Westmoreland Cleanways' office, 128 Innovative Lane Suite 200, Latrobe, PA 15650, on the second Thursday of March, June, September and December. Call 724-879-4020 for information. Everyone is welcome.



We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. To support our activities, please become a member. Return this coupon and your payment to Westmoreland Cleanways, 128 Innovative Lane Suite 200, Latrobe, PA 15650-5462

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ H / W / Cell

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual \$5       Lifetime Individual \$100
- Family \$15       Lifetime Family \$300
- Organization/Business \$25
- Municipal \$25
- Corporation \$100       Lifetime Corporate \$500

\_\_\_\_ Additional contributions are greatly appreciated.

Memberships and contributions are tax deductible, as defined by law

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