

RESTAURANT RECYCLING GUIDE

BEST PRACTICES FOR RESTAURANTS TO REDUCE THEIR WASTE AND KEEP VALUABLE MATERIALS OUT OF THE LANDFILL



In addition to the "Commercial Recycling Guide", this guide will help you delve deeper in your industry specifics and help you set up your waste reduction program for success at YOUR business. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with questions or for advice.

Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division
Commercial Recycling Specialist
706-613-3512
recycle@accgov.com
accgov.com/recycle



STATION LOCATIONS

THESE ARE RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS TO BE COMPLIANT WITH THE COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE. DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SOME LOCATIONS CAN BE ELIMINATED. YOUR COMMERCIAL RECYCLING SPECIALIST WILL VERIFY ADEQUATE COLLECTION.



Bar

The bar is often one of the biggest opportunities for recycling. Other than fruit, straws, ice and napkins, most of the waste should be recyclable, such as bottles and cans.



Kitchen
And
Shipping
Area

The kitchen is going to create the most waste and therefore have the most opportunity for recycling. Be sure all recyclables are empty, rinsed and free of any food and break down boxes. Remove any plastic wrapping.



Break Room

This site will include collection for staff meal waste. This is another good spot for CHaRM collection, if you decide to collect those items.

RESTAURANT ITEMIZED LIST

WASTE STREAMS FROM RESTAURANTS CAN VARY SLIGHTLY FROM OTHER INDUSTRIES. THINK THROUGH YOUR CUSTOMER FACING, OFFICE, AND KITCHEN WASTE. REFER TO THE ACC "RECYCLABLE ITEMS" FOR MORE ITEMS.



Mixed Recycling

- Clean plastic containers (butter, sour cream, condiment containers)
- Cereal, rice, pasta cardboard boxes
- Clean aluminum foil
- Milk and juice cartons
- Clean aluminum pans or trays
- Aluminum and steel food and beverage cans (including #10)
- Clean 5-gallon buckets
- Glass containers
- Rinsed plastic food trays and cups
- Empty cleaning supply bottles
- Cleaning supply bottles (including dish detergent)
- Paper including receipts, old menus, envelopes and junk mail
- Cardboard boxes
- Empty aerosol cans (lids removed)

KEEP IT OUT OF THE RECYCLING BIN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF YOUR MIXED RECYCLING.



**NO
FOOD**



**NO
PLASTIC BAGS
OR
SHRINK WRAP**



**NO
STYROFOAM**

KEEP RECYCLING LOOSE, DON'T BAG IT.

If you have to bag your recycling due to collection methods you MUST use a clear bag. If possible, please empty bags into the recycling dumpster.

REDUCE MORE WASTE

ARE YOU READY TO DO MORE? HERE ARE SOME GREAT SUGGESTIONS ON HOW YOU CAN REDUCE EVEN MORE WASTE FROM YOUR BUSINESS.



PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY MIXED RECYCLING IS REQUIRED UNDER THE COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE.



Go to www.accgov.com/CHaRM for more information about this resource.

- Plastic packaging wrap and bags
- Broken electronics
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- Styrofoam
- Ink cartridges
- Old linens



Thrift Stores

- Furniture or decorations
- Old marketing signage
- Old product displays
- Old uniforms
- Old pots, pans, or dishes

- Purchase products with recycled content. By purchasing products containing recycled content, you are completing the loop that began with, for example, tossing a water bottle in your recycling bin. Remember this with your marketing too and requested recycled-content paper.
- Consider composting. Even just kitchen prep scraps can divert a lot of very heavy material.
- Print double-sided.
- Identify the sources of excess waste. Not only will source reduction help eliminate the need to recycle or divert waste before it even begins, but it will eliminate error and get your team on track to more thoughtful actions that contribute to your overall business practices.
- Consider having your store's own reusable utensils, plates and cups that staff or customers can use instead of using disposable ones.
- TerraCycle.com offers special programs for additional hard-to-recycle items such as make-up, toys, guitar strings, candy wrappers, and more. They will even provide bins for collection.
- Can you ditch plastic shopping bags? Or have your staff ask if they would like a bag instead of automatically bagging it.
- Consider having a conversation with your suppliers or vendors about the way they package their shipments. Maybe they could cut out or cut down on their plastic film wrapping around pallets, or replace packaging peanuts with recyclable paper.
- Serve beverages by fountain or draft in recyclable cups or reusable glasses.
- Call Athens-Clarke County Recycling to learn if you are eligible for the Glass Bottle Reduction Program.
- Develop a Sustainable Purchasing Protocol as a requirement for doing business such as buying recycled. At a minimum, you can use this protocol to assess new suppliers and materials going forward.
- Share with your customers, business partners, and community that your efforts have been put in motion. This can help maintain the morale to remain responsible and empowered by your environmentally-conscious actions while serving as a tool to educate other on improving their own business practices.

Did you know that Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division offers used bins, signage and stickers and professional advice from our staff at no cost to help you start or improve your recycling program?



Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division
Commercial Recycling Specialist
706-613-3512
recycle@accgov.com