

CLOSING THE RECYCLING LOOP, TOGETHER

The WHAT and WHERE of Recycled Products

Products and packaging made from recycled materials are easy to find.

Recycled-content paper products and packaging (including glass/plastic bottles, aluminum/metal cans, and paperboard boxes) can be found in grocery and drug stores.

Many office and school supplies (such as folders, notebooks, envelopes, stationery, pens, and re-manufactured toner cartridges) are available with recycled-content.

Automotive parts are often made with recycled materials, and re-refined oil performs just fine while conserving valuable resources.

Anyone remodeling a home or planting a garden can **buy recycled** with products such as, plastic lumber and planting pots, steel framing, insulation, wall-board, paint, carpet, and flooring.

By examining labels for recycled-content information, just as one would for ingredients in food items, shoppers will discover a wide assortment of available recycled-content products and packaging.

Closing The loop, Together

As consumers, we can make an environmental difference with our purchasing power. When we **buy recycled** we:

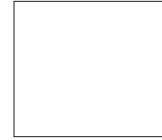
- conserve resources;
- decrease dependence on landfills;
- support markets for recycled-content products;
- conserve energy; and,
- maintain demand made for collected recyclable materials.

Consider recycled-content when deciding on purchases. Seek out and ask for recycled-content products and packaging while shopping. Contact manufacturers to ask that post-consumer recycled materials be used in the manufacture of their products.

Together, we can bring our resources full circle, and close the recycling loop, if we **buy recycled!**

Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division (SRCRD)
433 S. Spring Street, 5th Floor,
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 471-8228 Fax: (213) 473-8232
E-Mail: SRCRD@san.lacity.org
<http://www.lacity.org/SAN/solidres.htm>

City of Los Angeles
Bureau of Sanitation
Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division
433 S. Spring St., 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90013
www.lacity.org/san/solidres.htm



City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Sanitation



How to Buy Recycled

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disability Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Printed on Recycled Paper



Solid Resources Citywide
Recycling Division

Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle, and Buy
Recycled



"Don't just
stand there;
recycle
something!"
-Recycle Robot

www.lacity.org/san/solidres.htm

SAVE OUR SOLID RESOURCES — BUY RECYCLED PRODUCTS AND CLOSE THE LOOP ON RECYCLING

Everyday more and more people are becoming active recyclers. Whether placing recyclables in containers for collection at curbside, or bringing materials to a recycling center, the amount of recyclable materials collected is increasing.

Materials previously discarded as trash are now recognized as valuable resources. When recycled, these commodities become resources used for manufacturing new consumer products and packaging.

The collection of recyclables is only one step of recycling.



Collection can be considered the first step, or the last, as the recycling process is really a continuous circle or loop.

For technical assistance, call the Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division at (213) 473-8228, or send e-mail to: srcrd@san.lacity.org

What we buy as consumers is just as important a step in the recycling loop as saving resources through collection.

This brochure focuses on that important component of the recycling loop: **buying recycled.**

Collection, Manufacturing & Buying Makes the Recycling Loop Go Round

Three steps are necessary for the recycling process to succeed. It is only after these steps are completed that the recycling loop becomes complete.

These steps are:

- 1** Consumers save recyclables and take them to recycling centers, or place them at curbside for collection. Processors sort, clean, and prepare the collected materials for sale and use by manufacturers.
- 2** Manufacturers make new products and/or packaging from the recycled resources.
- 3** Consumers buy recycled-content products and/or packaging, and instead of discarding these materials after use, put them back into the recycling process.

Thus, **buying recycled** is an important contribution each consumer can make toward closing the recycling loop.

If you're not BUYING recycled, you're not really recycling.

Read product labels and look for products made from recycled materials.

100% recyclable.
Made from 50% post-consumer recycled content.

Although many products are recyclable, not all have been made with recycled materials. The recycling-arrow logo signifies that a product is recyclable or has recycled-content. By looking for information on product labels and packaging, consumers can determine if products and packaging are actually made with recycled materials.



Buy PC (Post-Consumer)

Post-consumer materials come from items that have already been used by consumers for their intended purpose and then collected for recycling. Instead of being discarded, ending up in landfills or as litter, these materials can be used to manufacture new products.

Pre-consumer materials are materials such as magazine over-runs that not been purchased or used by consumers, but are recycled at the manufacturing plant.

Manufacturing waste includes scraps, trimmings and over-runs from the manufacturing process that is recycled.

By purchasing products and packaging with a high **post-consumer** recycled content, consumers are helping to support the manufacturing of recycled-content products, strengthen demand for recyclable materials and assure the ongoing success of recycling.

There are hundreds of high-quality products made with recycled-content.