

# The Recycle Reader



FALL 2017

## WHAT IS A TRANSFER STATION?

What you might consider trash, Recology calls resources – just a simple change in perspective. This is why we describe what we do at our transfer station as resource recovery.

To put it really simply, our transfer stations are a temporary holding and sorting place for the materials brought in by our trucks and public dumping customers.

Recology implements recycling programs and builds infrastructure at our transfer stations to recover recyclables and reduce land-fill-bound materials. By seeking out

and utilizing new technology systems to sort and extract materials, we're able to return organic materials to farms as compost and provide recycled raw materials (such as plastic or aluminum) to manufacturers.

From there they can be made into new products, like jackets made from recycled plastic bottles. You might even see your old furniture as part of an art installation one day. This recovery process is crucial in reducing the impact of waste on our environment.

## SO, THEN WHAT IS A LANDFILL?

True trash (waste)? Well that includes all of the materials that cannot be recycled or recovered at our transfer stations. Those materials, unfortunately, end up in landfills.

**Landfill** - carefully designed structure built into or on top of the ground in which trash is isolated from the surrounding environment (groundwater, air, rain). This isolation is accomplished with a bottom liner and daily covering of soil. A sanitary landfill uses a clay liner to isolate the trash from the environment. A municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill uses a synthetic (plastic) liner to isolate the trash from the environment.

The purpose of a landfill is to bury the trash in such a way that it will be

isolated from groundwater, will be kept dry and will not be in contact with air. Under these conditions, trash will not decompose much. A landfill is not like a compost pile, where the purpose is to pile organic materials in such a way that it will decompose quickly.

Our landfills are meant to be used as a last resort for solid waste disposal. This means that any waste that is dropped off at a Recology landfill cannot be recyclable or compostable. Items such as thin plastics, broken glass, ceramics, and contaminated soils are among these items that are taken to a landfill.



COUPONS are now available for the FREE DISPOSAL of up to 20 auto or light truck tires (with or without rims).

Residents of Yuba and Sutter County can receive one coupon per address by calling the Regional Waste Management Authority weekdays between 8:00AM and 12:00PM and 1:00PM and 5:00PM at 634-6890.

FOR YUBA AND SUTTER COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY. ABSOLUTELY NO BUSINESSES.

Coupons are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Coupons expire one month from the date of issuance. Please count the number of tires you have before you call. This program is funded by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

\*If hauling more than 9 tires at a time, the Local Enforcement Agency conditions on the reverse side of the coupon must be completed.

PROPER MAINTENANCE KEEPS TIRES GOING

For general information regarding tire care visit [JustCheckIt.info](http://JustCheckIt.info)



# STYROFOAM ISN'T RECYCLABLE!!!

And this won't be the last time we tell you.

Why isn't it recyclable? It's all the same stuff, isn't it? Sort of.

Now Styrofoam isn't really the right word, even though we all use it. Styrofoam is a Dow Chemical Company trademark for a specific type of extruded polystyrene (EPS) foam used only for art supplies and insulation. Since "extruded polystyrene foam" is a little wordy, we'll call it EPS or polystyrene in this article.

## Why Can't You Recycle Polystyrene?

There are two reasons EPS isn't allowed in recycle bins: density and contamination. Polystyrene foam is 95% air so it is not cost-effective to store or ship. It is often contaminated with food or drink, and it is difficult to clean because it is so porous. Remember that recycling uses energy for transport and processing. There is no point in recycling if you use more energy than you save. Instead of looking to your recycle bins, consider these alternatives.



## Don't Use It

Polystyrene foam is a cheap material for insulation and packing material. It's also just awful for the environment in pretty much every way. Alternate packaging made from other plastics, cardboard, paper and other materials are a better option than EPS. Instead of polystyrene coffee cups, use a washable ceramic mug. Avoid vendors such as restaurants and shippers that still use polystyrene.

## Reuse It

If you receive a package full of foam packing peanuts, take them to your local packing and shipping store and they'll reuse them.

For More Information About The Yuba-Sutter Curbside Recycling Program Call Public Relations Manager, Jackie Sillman At 749-4220

Polystyrene, for all its flaws, is probably never going to go away--and not just because it's not biodegradable! It's cheap and versatile so some organizations will always use it. However rather than trying to find ways to allow it into recycle bins, you are better off looking to minimize or avoid its use. The short-term cost of polystyrene may be low but the long-term damage is enormous.



## Flip the Switch

Technologies We Leverage for **WASTE ZERO**

### Negative Aerated Static Pile (ASP) Composting

Good compost needs added air and water. With a Negative ASP System, organic material sits on perforated pipes in open air, which pulls air down from the compost piles, making it easier to control moisture, oxygen, and microbial levels. The air that is pulled from the compost pile is processed through a bio-filter, which absorbs odors and volatile organic compounds.

## Gas from Landfills Becomes Energy

In 2013, Recology teamed up with G2 Energy to install a landfill gas-capture system at Recology Hay Road in Vacaville, CA. This system pulls the methane gas generated by the landfill and turns it into electricity to power homes and businesses nearby. The methane gas that is pumped from the landfill is sent to an energy conversion facility operated by G2 Energy.

As a result, the methane captured from the landfill is now providing 1.6 megawatts of electricity – enough to power up to 1,600 homes. This is equivalent to taking about 13,000 cars off the road, planting 14,500 acres of forest or otherwise offsetting consumption of approximately 7.6 million gallons of gasoline.



# whatbin

Recology's answer to what goes in what bin  
[RECOLOGY.COM](http://RECOLOGY.COM)

