

Stark State College – Campus Recycling

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why can we only recycle #1 and #2 plastics?

A: At this point in time, our recycling service does not accept plastic grades #3-#7. Numbers in triangles indicate the grade of plastic and are often stamped on the bottom of containers.

#1 grade plastic is 'PET' or 'PETE' (Polyethylene Terephthalate) and is often used for soft drink and juice bottles, and some shampoos. When liquids are carbonated, they are contained in #1 bottles. Frozen entrees are often packed in #1 trays.

#2 grade plastic is 'HDPE' (High Density Polyethylene) and is often used for milk bottles and household cleaners.

These grades (#1 and #2) can be recycled into fabrics, carpeting, plastic lumber, containers, etc... The other plastic grades are much more difficult and energy-intensive to recycle, therefore not currently 'worth it' for businesses who buy these bales of plastic from the recycling centers.

Q: Why should we rinse the plastic and glass items before putting them in the bins?

A: The bins will be emptied into outdoor receptacles, and if there are food and drink residues, bees and hornets will be attracted to the bin.

Q: Do the plastic rings on water bottles need to be removed?

A: No; however, caps do need to be removed since they are a different grade of plastic.

Q: Can paper clips be recycled?

A: No.

Q: Can pen, marker, file folder boxes, etc... be recycled?

A: Yes; as long as they don't have a waxy finish (for example: a 1 cup, small milk carton cannot be recycled.) Egg carton holders that come in the toner cartridge boxes can be recycled. The paper wrapping on the copy paper reams can be recycled.

Q: Can paper towels be recycled?

A: No.

Q: Do I have to remove all the packing tape from cardboard boxes before recycling them?

A: No; the packing tape can remain on the boxes. Please be sure to break the boxes down flat.

Q: Why don't we collect recyclable materials at our satellite locations?

A: Stark State College does not clean or maintain the satellite facilities. Recycling at the satellite locations is important and an issue Stark State College will address in the future.