

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Where Does Gainesville's Recycling Go?

After your recyclables are collected curbside and processed at the local sorting facility, they are compacted and shipped out to be remade into new products and materials. While the exact end markets are subject to change, below is a list of what commonly happens to your recyclables.

Cardboard: Recycled cardboard bales are sent to regional paper mills to make backing for new cardboard boxes.

Mixed Paper: Newspaper, pasteboard boxes, and other paper materials go to paper mills for reprocessing to be turned into protective packaging.

Aluminum Cans: Get sent to smelting mills to become new aluminum cans again.

Steel Cans: Are sent off to metal foundries to be melted to make new food cans and rebar for construction projects.

Plastic (PET): Recycled water bottles go to facilities that convert the material into plastic flakes used to make new products, such as carpeting and clothing.

Plastics (HDPE): Your natural and colored plastic containers end up getting remade into a variety of products, such as pipes, plastic lumber, paint containers, and plastic molds for making plastic toys and trash cans.

Glass: Glass bottles sent to facilities that reprocess the material into fiberglass, highway bead, paint filters, glass abrasives, and specialty glass for decorations.

For more information on the destination of locally collected recovered materials, visit gainesvillefl.gov/recycle.



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