

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the UT Recycling Program

1.27.01

WHAT:

S.P.E.A.K., the SGA, and the Physical Plant are in the process of revamping the recycling program at UT. In previous years, material collected in the large outside bins behind Greve/Massey Halls and Reese Hall in Presidential often became contaminated with trash and non-recyclable material. When contamination occurs, the entire bin of recycling is simply taken to a landfill. Beginning in September 2001 locks were placed on the bins, with the bins being open for limited times during the day. Volunteers staff the bins while they are open to prevent contamination. All materials placed in the bins have been recycled since the revamping of the program.

WHEN:

The bins are open **Sunday thru Thursday from 5:00pm until dusk (around 6pm)** After day light savings time, the bin hours will be extended from 5:00- 7:00pm. The remainder of the time the bins will remain locked. **School holiday and rainy days the bins remain closed.**

WHERE:

The Greve/Massy bins are located between the backside of Greve Hall and Staff lot 12. The Presidential bins are located behind Reese Hall on Caledonia Ave. The easiest way to reach the Presidential bins from Presidential Court is to take the handicap ramp down from the park (on your left if you are walking from the library to presidential court, beside the Presbyterian Center on Melrose Ave). When you reach the bottom of the ramp, walk to your left and you will see the bins.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

Plastic: Plastic bottles, jugs, and other types of plastic that has **PETE #1 or HDPE #2** stamped into the bottom

-PLEASE NO PLASTIC BAGS!!!

Mixed Paper: Anything 100% paper including: white paper, junk mail, colored paper, magazines, phone books, cereal boxes, paperback books, posters (please remove tape)...

-items with staples are allowed

-dirty food wrappers and bags, paper towels, and tissues are not accepted

-**corrugated paper/cardboard needs to be placed with the corrugated cardboard. To determine whether a material is corrugated look at its composition. If it is made by putting together two layers of flat paper/cardboard with a third layer in the middle that is not flat (it is squiggly, is bent in a tent shape...) the material is corrugated and needs to be placed with the corrugated cardboard.

Newspaper: All newsprint should be placed into the large white newspaper container (not in the mixed paper bin!!). It is preferred that supplements printed on glossy paper are placed into the mixed paper bin

Corrugated Cardboard: Cardboard should be broken down (boxes should be flattened) and placed on the ground at Greve/Massey between the paper and plastic bin, and at Presidential between the newspaper and plastic bin

-pizza boxes are corrugated cardboard but will only be accepted if they are clean (no food

stains)

Aluminum: drink cans only

Steel: food, juice, etc... cans only (may be changed to plastic or mixed paper due to the lack of materials being gathered)

**bottles/cans are not required to be rinsed out but it is preferred

THE DAY YOU VOLUNTEER:

Please arrive at the bins on time or contact the person you signed up with ahead of time if you will be a few minutes late. At 5pm a SPEAK member will unlock the both bins. Please wait around until at least 5:20, the person who unlocks the bins has to unlock the bins in both areas. When people bring materials to recycle simply help them place the materials in the correct bins following the guidelines listed above. At 6pm (after Day Light Savings Time the bins will be open until 7pm) you can lock the bins up with the padlocks and you are finished. The volunteer who unlocked the bins will check the bins later that night to make sure they have been properly locked.

IF YOU CAN'T VOLUNTEER THE DAY YOU SIGNED UP FOR:

Please email ssurak@utk.edu or call Sarah at 742-0372 and leave a message ASAP!!!

WHY:

Volunteers are needed to help make sure that only recyclable materials are placed in the bins. Monitoring the bins is extremely easy. Most of the time recycling drop off is slow and the volunteer(s) can study, bring a friend, etc...

INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS:

Email speak@utk.edu or ssurak@utk.edu with the dates and at which bins you would like to volunteer. Sign up sheets are also passed around at weekly SPEAK meetings (Wednesday at 8pm in the UC).

INTERESTED CLUB INFORMATION:

This program can only work with help from students and organizations across campus. If your organization would like to help with this project, please contact SPEAK at speak@utk.edu or Sarah Surak at ssurak@utk.edu. Our goal is to have different student organizations sign up for two days a month to provide people to monitor the bins. For example, if an organization chooses the first two Monday's of every month to volunteer at the Greve bins, they will need provide volunteers for these two days every month until May. We hope to promote your club by advertising that it played an important role in the development of the UT recycling program. This is also a great way to rack up some service hours!

QUESTIONS?

Email speak@utk.edu, ssurak@utk.edu, or call 742-0372 (Sarah)

Thank you!