

# NYC Recycling Updates

## Special Earth Day Edition



From the Office of Recycling Outreach and Education  
A program of Council on the Environment of New York City

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### WHY RECYCLE?

#### Save Energy

Recycling reduces energy use compared to producing items from raw materials. Recycling a single aluminum saves enough energy to power a television for three hours!

#### Conserve Natural Resources

Ever thought about where “stuff” comes from? Materials are mined and harvested from the Earth’s store of natural resources like forests and mountains. Recycling and reducing consumption helps keep natural places undisturbed.

#### Save Money

When we throw things “away” we are actually sending them to a final resting place in a landfill in another state. With nowhere in the 5 boroughs to dump our discards, NYC must pay other communities to handle our garbage. By wasting less and recycling everything we can we help to reduce taxpayer expenses.

#### FREE RECYCLING EVENTS

Visit [www.cenyc.org/recycling](http://www.cenyc.org/recycling)  
for more info

#### Spring Cleaning FreeMeet

**Saturday, April 18, 11am - 4pm**

Give and get at this annual trash to treasure hunt with Freecycle NYC.

At the Old Stone House in the park at 4<sup>th</sup> St and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Park Slope, Brooklyn

#### South Bronx Earth Fest

**Saturday, April 25, 12pm-4pm**

Green entertainment, e-waste recycling, document shredding and more. St. Mary’s Park, St. Ann’s Ave b/t E. 146<sup>th</sup> and E. 148<sup>th</sup> Streets

### What are you doing for Earth Day?

Though Earth Day is celebrated every April, most of us know the mantra “Every Day is Earth Day”. In honor of the celebrations taking place around NYC this month, we have produced this special edition of our electronic newsletter (printed on recycled paper) to show you how to help our city and our planet by recycling every day.



### Start Small, Aim High

Recycling is required by law in NYC and every week a recycling truck comes by your building to pick up recyclable materials. It couldn’t get any easier to do more for our environment than to start sorting out the good stuff. Once you have the hang of recycling, explore other ways to reduce the waste you create.

### Quick Guide to NYC’s Residential Recycling Rules for more information visit [www.nyc.gov/wasteless](http://www.nyc.gov/wasteless)

**Paper & Cardboard** – Recycling your clean pizza boxes, junk mail, newspapers, cereal boxes, magazines and other paper has big benefits for the environment. Not only do we avoid cutting down trees, but keeping paper out of landfills helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, keeping our planet cool.

NYC throws away enough paper every year to fill the Empire State Building.  
Are you doing all you can to recycle?



**Place all paper in one clear bag or labeled bin.  
Flatten cardboard and tie with twine if larger than 9”x11”.**

**Metal** - If you recycle metal cans and clean aluminum foil products you’re off to a good start. But many New Yorkers don’t realize that other metal items are recyclable too, including old frying pans, irons and anything 50% metal or more. Don’t forget the big stuff—metal shelving and metal appliances get picked up on your recycling day too. Be sure to call 311 to schedule Freon removal before putting out old refrigerators and air conditioners.

**Glass** – Recycle bottles and jars only, any color. Don’t recycle any other glass, including broken glass, ceramics, windows and mirrors. Rinse your glass and other containers to help keep away pests and avoid using harmful pesticides. Not sure about those metal lids? Since they’re made of metal you can recycle them—just place them separately in your recycling bin.

### **Electronics Recycling with the Lower East Side Ecology Center**

Recycle old computers, TVs and more. Visit [www.lesecologycenter.org](http://www.lesecologycenter.org) for more information.

### **Jackson Heights, Queens**

Saturday, April 18, 10am-4pm

### **Pelham Bay Park, Bronx**

Sunday, April 19, 10am-4pm

### **Central Park West @67<sup>th</sup> St**

Sunday, April 26, 10am-4pm

### **Chelsea**

Saturday, May 2, 10am-4pm

### **Electronics Recycling with Upper West Side Recycling Center**

**Saturday, April 25, 12pm-3pm**

Amsterdam b/t 112<sup>th</sup> & 113<sup>th</sup>  
More info: 212-316-7540

### **Recyclefest Block Party at Build It Green!**

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 11am-4pm**

Bring something or take something to reuse, enjoy free veggie BBQ and more!

3-17 26<sup>th</sup> Ave, Astoria

### **Weekly Clothing Recycling at CENYC's Greenmarkets**

Fridays 8a-2p, 97<sup>th</sup> St/Columbus  
Saturdays 8a-4p Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn

Saturdays 8a-6p Union Square

Sundays 8a-4p Tompkins Sq

Mondays 8a-6p Union Square

More info at

[www.cenyc.org/clothing](http://www.cenyc.org/clothing)

### **Shred Fest**

**Sunday, May 3, 10am-4pm**

Bring confidential documents to shred and recycle.

Locations in all 5 boros! More at [www.nyc.gov/consumer](http://www.nyc.gov/consumer)

**Plastic** – Many New Yorkers are puzzled when it comes to plastic. With the variety of shapes, colors and plastic products and multitude of numbers stamped on them, how can one sort out what's recyclable? The answer is quite simple, actually: If it's a bottle or jug, recycle it. What's a bottle or jug? If it has a neck that is smaller than the body—if you would call it a "bottle" or "jug", recycle it. Reduce your use of non-bottle plastics where possible and explore other plastic recycling programs (see [cenyc.org/recycling](http://cenyc.org/recycling) for ideas).

**Beverage Cartons** – Orange juice containers, milk cartons, soy milk boxes and other shelf-stable boxed soup and drink packages are recyclable in NYC. Can you guess where? If you said they go with glass, metal and plastic you are correct! Though largely constructed of paper, these cartons must be stripped of their waterproof coatings before recycling. They also contain liquid residue that can contaminate the rest of our paper materials.

**Place designated metal, glass, plastic and beverage cartons in the same clear bag or labeled bin. Put bulk metal next to your recyclables on the same day. Call 311 first for CFC removal from refrigerators and ACs.**

## **How to Recycle Even More**

Opportunities exist beyond NYC's extensive curbside recycling program. Check out the free event listings in the sidebar. Visit [www.cenyc.org](http://www.cenyc.org) for more information and to sign up for our monthly NYC Recycling Updates e-newsletter.

## **Spread the word, set the trend**

It may feel awkward at first to use your own mug at work or just say "no" to a plastic bag at the store, but every effort helps. The more people that take positive steps, the more will be encouraged to step up and do the right thing too. Some stores even offer discounts for bringing your own bag or mug!

Carry your own tote bag with pride, talk to your neighbors about recycling and don't be afraid to be the first on your block to "go green".



THE COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF NYC (CENYC) is a hands-on non-profit that has been improving New York City's environment for over thirty years. CENYC's dedicated staff green our neighborhoods, create the environmental leaders of the future, reinvigorate New Yorkers' understanding of, and participation in, NYC's recycling program, and run the largest farmers market program in the country. For more information: [www.cenyc.org](http://www.cenyc.org).



THE OFFICE OF RECYCLING OUTREACH & EDUCATION (OROE) works to improve the City's recycling rate by educating residents about recycling and waste prevention, and working with landlords to make sure building recycling programs are adequate. Our free services include apartment building recycling audits, trainings for tenants and supers, community events centered on education and special collection programs for textiles, electronics, and compost. Our five borough-wide coordinators work on a community-by-community basis to identify and address the specific challenges to recycling within a Community District.

OROE's current intensive efforts target one-quarter of New York City's residents in the neighborhoods of Washington Heights, Inwood, East Harlem, Central Harlem and Manhattan Public Housing; Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick; Astoria, Long Island City, Jackson Heights, Corona, Jamaica; South Bronx; and all of Staten Island. For more information visit [www.cenyc.org](http://www.cenyc.org) or call 212-788-7964.