ZERO LANDFILL WASTE: RECYCLING & COMPOSTING AT EMORY UNIVERSITY

Emory Sustainability Vision goal:
Divert 95% of waste from landfills by 2025

Did you know?
There is no away when you throw away.

• Landfills have negative social, economic, and environmental impacts on neighboring lower-income, historically disadvantaged communities.

• Landfills contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and can leak harmful toxins into the surrounding environment.

How can we help?

• Sort with care.

• Composting food waste enhances carbon sequestration and puts nutrients back into soils to grow more food and for landscaping.

• Recycling turns waste into new materials and grows the American economy.

For questions about bins and operational issues such as collection, contact Emory Auxiliary Services at 404.727.9275 or deena.keeler@emory.edu.

For questions regarding the waste policy, sustainability goals, or if you want to certify your event, office or lab for sustainability, visit sustainability.emory.edu or contact Emory’s Office of Sustainability Initiatives at 404.727.9916 or emorysustainability@emory.edu.

Research laboratories should follow recycling guidance published at sustainability.emory.edu/greenlabs.

Electronic waste should be recycled following the protocols published at it.emory.edu/electronicwaste

In 2016, consultants found that about 67% of Emory’s landfill bin contents were compostable material.

They found that over 20% of Emory’s landfill bin contents were recyclable.

Less than 10% of Emory’s landfill bin contents actually belong in the landfill.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE A POST-LANDFILL FUTURE
**KNOW WHERE TO THROW**

All university buildings have bins to collect 5 standard streams.

Outside, landfill bins were removed and replaced with green compost and blue recycle bins.

Stations for hard-to-recycle items are placed inside many buildings on campus.

**COMPOST**

- All food.
- Compost bin contents are taken to a facility and broken down into soil amendments.
  - Meat & dairy products
  - Cooked food and all food leftovers
  - Soiled paper products like coffee and drink cups, paper-to-go containers, and napkins
  - Wood coffee stirrers
  - Used tissues
  - Natural/cotton fiber
  - Fur/hair/feathers and other animal products
- Don’t contaminate with anything plastic, metal or Styrofoam even if there is still food on or in the package.

**PLASTICS & METALS**

- Contents of Plastics/Metals bins are taken to a recycling facility and turned into more plastic bottles, metal cans, or new plastic products.
- Any paper that is NOT white paper. Default to this stream for all paper when uncertain.
- Take large cardboard to the nearest hard-to-recycle collection station. No need to remove tape, labels, or staples.
- Don’t contaminate with colored paper, cardboard, newsprint or other mixed paper.

**MIXED PAPER**

- Any paper that is NOT white paper. Default to this stream for all paper when uncertain.
- Take large cardboard to the nearest hard-to-recycle collection station. No need to remove tape, labels, or staples.
- Don’t contaminate with colored paper, cardboard, newsprint or other mixed paper.

**WHITE PAPER**

- A valuable commodity, therefore important to keep only white paper:
  - Printer paper
  - Notebook paper
  - Envelopes with or without windows

**HARD TO RECYCLE**

- Many Emory buildings have collection stations. Your nearest station is listed on an orange label at an interior recycle and compost station.
- Don’t contaminate with colored paper, cardboard, newsprint or other mixed paper.

**LANDFILL**

Emory can recycle or compost most items. Please only place the following in landfill bins:

- Soiled Styrofoam food containers
- Used baby diapers
- Cat litter and dog waste
- Used sharps in a rigid cardboard container
- Clean Styrofoam from packaging is collected in the nearest hard-to-recycle station.

**DEFAULT to this stream**

- All university buildings have bins to collect 5 standard streams.