Emory University's goal is to divert 95% of waste from landfills by 2025.

Landfills have negative social, economic, and environmental impacts on the communities around them.

Rollins Labs have the first opportunity to recycle and compost waste in the lab.
In 2017, expert consultants studied our landfill trash waste and found:

- >67% compostable
- >20% recyclable
- <10% landfill
2018 Waste Policy: Goodbye, old system!
2018 Waste Policy: Hello, new system!
2018 Waste Policy in Labs

- Implementation begins in RSPH
- Lab members sort waste into new waste stations inside labs
- BRS services new waste stations

All other landfill bins around labs will not be serviced by BRS. This is just like the new policy in offices.
In this session, we will go through lab waste disposal in each stream.

**Proper Disposal of Laboratory Waste**

- Recycling in the lab
  - White paper
  - Mixed paper
  - Plastics and Metals
  - Glass
- Hard to Recycle
- Compost
- Landfill
- Cold Packs
- Regulated Materials
  - Stericycle box
  - Broken glass box
  - Sharps container

Follow the Leaf!
Plastics and Metals

- Deface and triple rinse containers
- No hazardous materials
- Pipette trays, scoops, jars, bottles, tips, tip racks
- All plastic film packaging
- Office supplies
- BRS will service bins
White Paper

- BRS will service bins
- Printer paper, envelopes (windows ok!), notebook paper, white paper with colored ink
- Valuable stream; do not contaminate
Mixed Paper

- BRS will service bins
- Break down cardboard to loading docks
- Newspaper, magazines, small cardboard boxes, paper packaging, folders, colored paper
Glass

- No hazardous materials
- No broken glass
- No Pyrex or borosilicate glass
- Deface and triple rinse
- Glass bottles, vessels, and instruments of any color
- BRS will service daily

Optional, if needed
Compost

*Organic materials used to create soil.*

Emory’s compost program collects food waste, wood waste, wax products, and animal bedding that is not contaminated by chemicals.

Dispose of: non-contaminated paper towels and lab wipes in Compost bin next to the sink.

No plastics, metals, or chemicals go in the Compost bin.
Hard-to-Recycle

Foam coolers, clean foam packaging, batteries, aerosols, and bulbs go to building's Hard-to-Recycle Station:

CNR Loading Dock & GCR Loading Dock
Landfill Stream

Dispose of: Pyrex and borosilicate glass, cold packs

Cold Packs
These go in the landfill. Please reuse in cold storage units, or ask supplier to take back cold packs.

All landfill bins outside of the standard waste station will no longer be serviced.
Broken Glass Box

- Broken glass, broken slides, and broken empty chemical bottles
- When ready to dispose, tape and close lid, mark “LANDFILL” and place in hallway for BRS to pick up.
Stericycle Box

- Process does not change with Waste Policy
- Direct questions to EHSO
- Solid or liquid biohazard, biomedical lab waste
Sharps Container

- Process does not change with Waste Policy
- Direct questions to EHSO
Chemical and Radioactive Materials via EHSO

- Process does not change with Waste Policy
- Direct questions to EHSO
- Chemically contaminated solid wastes, liquid chemical waste, radioactive material waste, scrap film, lead bricks/aprons, used mercury-containing equipment, used EPA-registered pesticide containers (Virkon & Sevin-5), and any other item in which disposal methods are unclear
Reference Materials: Lab Waste Process Map
1. **Purpose**

This SOP has been generated to provide guidance on how to recycle non-hazardous and non-regulated waste from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health research and teaching laboratories as a companion to the [Emory University 2018 waste management policy](#).

2. **Scope**

Rollins School of Public Health wet labs, dry labs, and clinical laboratory spaces used for teaching and research are within the scope of this SOP. University labs used for patient care are included, but Emory Healthcare labs are not.

Disposal of regulated and hazardous materials does not change with this SOP. Please note that some materials previously placed in landfill bins might now be recyclable. Please consult the detailed [Lab Recycling Process Map](#) for more information on how to sort laboratory waste.

3. **Background**

In January 2018, Emory University implemented a new waste policy to help Emory achieve our goal of 55% diversion of waste from landfills by 2025. Please take a moment to [view the video overview of the policy](#), and refer to the [website for more information and FAQs](#).
Laboratory Landfill Diversion
Standardized recycling and composting in Emory labs

LAB RECYCLING HIGHLIGHTS

As a nationally recognized leader in scientific education and research, Emory University has hundreds of teaching and research labs throughout its campuses.

This program is the University's first standardization of recycling and composting non-hazardous and non-regulated waste in research and teaching labs. Launching in the Rollins School of Public Health in Summer 2019, more labs will join the program over time, with the goal for all Emory labs to join the movement toward a post-landfill future by the end of 2019.

Emory University's goal is to divert 95% of waste from landfills by 2025.

60% of purchases made by Emory University are for scientific equipment and supplies, much of which is disposable and ends up in Emory's waste streams.

LEARN MORE

Get Assistance

Contact greenlabs@emory.edu for help with lab recycling, to get training, to become Green Lab certified, and for assistance implementing sustainable actions in your lab.

Resources

Consult the Laboratory Waste Policy Standard of Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Rollins School of Public Health.

Review the Lab Recycling Process Map for detailed information on how to sort regulated and hazardous lab materials as well as recyclable and compostable lab materials.

LAB RECYCLING BENEFITS

Inclusion of Emory labs into the standard Waste Policy means that labs benefit from the same

HOW IT WORKS

The Laboratory Waste Policy Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines how Emory labs are
Next Steps

- Tell your lab team and colleagues
- Look over materials and ask questions
- Lab equipment placement: May 29, 2-5pm
- Launch program!

Get Green Lab certified!
- Apply for funding – up to $5,000 for sustainability innovations
- Applications due September 29
- sustainability.emory.edu/greenlabs
- Join your colleagues!
  - Barry Ryan & Dana Boyd Barr
  - Karen Levy
  - Brad Pearce
  - Thomas Gillespie