



Earth Keepers Challenge #2

Recycling to the Max



This challenge is designed to help increase your awareness of your recycling habits and challenging us all to “up our game!” Some things to know...

- There is no landfill in Branford. All of our trash is shipped to a processing plant and burned.
- Food waste accounts for 22% of Branford’s trash
- Recycling earns revenue for Branford from materials sold to various markets. The more you recycle, the more our community benefits.

Step #1 Know what goes where

- The Blue Bin



- All rigid plastics – can go in your blue bin. Please make sure they are clean! Flatten them as best you can.
- Glass bottles and jars – also cleaned.
- Milk cartons and juice boxes – rinsed and flattened.
- Metal food or beverage cans and containers – don’t forget to wash them!
- In Brown Paper Bags – then in the Blue Bin
 - Bundled newspapers, office paper and mail (magazines, etc)
 - Flattened cardboard – cereal boxes, TP rolls, etc.
- Packages tied up with string
 - Corrugated cardboard, broken down to pieces no more than 3’x3’. Put next to the Blue Bin. This is valuable recycling material, be sure to keep it separate!

For your copy of the Branford Recycling Guidelines - https://www.branford-ct.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/s15797_recycling2020_r2_hr_final.pdf

Step #2 Know the No-Nos for the Blue Bin

- No plastic bags or film – it gums up the sorting equipment.
- Grease or food residue – if it can’t be clean, don’t recycle it, please.
- No Styrofoam, bubble wrap or packing peanuts
- Nothing that held poisonous chemicals
- No aerosol or paint cans. (see the Resource List for other options)

Step #3 Going above and beyond

You’ll find lots of ideas and resources for adopting new recycling habit on the “Recycling to the Max Resource Sheet. “ Here are a few ideas to start your thinking;

- Remember that 22% food waste number – there are ways to help.
 - Compost if you have the room – your garden will love you for it.
 - Invest in **Blue Earth Composting** – they will pick up your food waste bin every week. They take the food scraps to Quantum Biopower where it is processed to create electricity. And you get 3 bags of compost each year! Check it out at <https://www.blueearthcompost.com>
- If you aren't already doing so, start recycling your Plastic Film. Over 89 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps are used every year. Learn what qualifies as plastic film at <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-film-education-individuals/> If you cut off the labels, you can even include those plastic mailing bags! Big Y, Walmart and Kohls are all listed as Branford stores that receive plastic film items.
- **Terracycle** is an initiative that works with companies to take on previously unrecyclable products and packaging, like razors, toothpaste tubes, and the diabolical plastic packaging that so much stuff comes in. <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>. This is not inexpensive but we could have a Trinity box or two for certain things. Coffee pods anyone?
- **Loop** is an old idea whose time has come again – reusable containers. This new initiative will deliver name brand products to your door in containers that are sent back when empty, cleaned and refilled – just like the old Coke bottles! Check out the options here: <https://loopstore.com/>

Your challenge, should you decide to accept it, is to stop and think before you throw something away. What are your options? Is “this fragile earth, our island home” worth any extra trouble?