

How does the recycling program work?

The recycling staff collects paper, cans, plastic, cardboard and other recyclable items which go to a recycler for processing. Afterwards, the materials are sent to various recycling locations to create new recycled products.

Test site locations around campus show that around 30 percent of the solid waste stream is still recyclable. It is the goal of the College to reduce that amount.

Why do we separate our recyclable materials into different bins?

We separate our materials so that each commodity can go directly to a recycler that can process each type. Separating brings in revenue for the college as well as making it easier for the recycling location to accept and process the materials.

How does recycling benefit the College?

The recycling rate on campus is expected to increase to over 50 percent. Recycling reduces disposal volumes in landfills and conserves natural resources. As an example for others, Salt Lake Community College provides leadership in the community for our continuing sustainability efforts.

What are the downsides to single stream recycling?

A big risk is that the recycling stream may become contaminated with inappropriate items. This can cause items to be rejected by the recycler and end up in the landfill, despite our best efforts.

Processing costs go up as it requires more effort to separate the materials.

It is critically important that everyone place only the approved materials in the various containers so that all of the items can be recycled.

If you could give one message to everyone on campus regarding recycling, what would it be?

The success of the recycling program depends on each of us sorting recyclables at the source by placing them in the proper containers and trash in trash containers. If people contaminate the recycling stream, the recycler has no other recourse but to reject the recyclables and send them to the landfill. If we commit ourselves to this endeavor, we will have a successful recycling program. Sustainability continues to be a focus at the College. We encourage everyone to get involved because it's the right thing to do.

How do I become more involved?

Join our Recycling Team to help gather and sort recyclables on your floor, building, or over at the Facilities Complex. You may also join the SLCC Sustainability Committee or become a member or advisor to the Environmental Club.

How do I arrange for a special event or office clean-up?

Contact Recycling at (801) 957-4242 to discuss your options.

What is currently being recycled at the college?

Currently we are recycling all clean paper products, clean cardboard, empty plastic bottles, empty aluminum cans, assorted scrap metals, toner cartridges, batteries, motor oils, paint, computer and other electronic items, pallets, and much more. See more at this [link](#).

Aluminum

Acceptable - Aluminum cans and other aluminum products.

Unacceptable - Aluminum that has food or other products taped or glued to the aluminum.

Question - Why do metal lids have to be removed from glass bottles and jars?

Both materials are recyclable and should be placed in the same recycling cart, unattached. At the recycling facility, a magnetic "belt" is used to separate the ferrous metals (jar lids, bottle caps, steel cans, etc.), from other materials. If the metal lids are left on the jar, they cannot be separated. In the glass handling process at the recycling facility, the lid becomes a contaminant and is not recycled but is discarded as waste.

Metal

Ferrous, non-ferrous, and steel products are acceptable. Contact SLCC Recycling for questions on metal recycling at 801-957-4242. The metal bin is located on the Taylorsville-Redwood Campus at the Facilities Complex; Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Paper and cardboard products

Acceptable:

- All paper products: white, color, bright colors
- Copy paper wrappers
- Cardboard boxes and other cardboard items

Unacceptable:

- Laminated paper or wax coated paper
- Frozen dinner containers
- Paper plates, cups and napkins because of contact with food waste and because the paper fibers are too soft to be recycled.
- Disposable dishware is just that, disposable.
- Cardboard that has been in water or is wax coated or has an aluminum foil lining.

How many times can paper be recycled?








The paper industry generally says paper can be recycled eight (8) times, but this does not mean that you have to keep track of it. When wastepaper is recycled at a mill, it is first pulped with water in a machine very much like a large blender. Each time paper is pulped its fibers get shorter and shorter. The pulp is then run through very fine mesh screens. Shorter fibers pass through the screen and do not get incorporated into new paper. The longer, stronger fibers do get incorporated into new paper.

Plastic

We are currently recycling plastics 1 through 7.

Remember all plastic containers need to be emptied and free of any liquids, food or other residue.

How do you determine what type of plastic?

	No. 1 PET: Polyethylene terephthalate—Soda pop bottles and oven-ready meal trays.
	No. 2 HDPE: High-density polyethylene—Milk, juice, soap containers.
	No. 3 PVC: Polyvinyl chloride--Food trays, cling film, bottles for squash, mineral water and shampoo.
	No. 4 LDPE: Low density polyethylene--Carrier bags and bin liners
	No. 5 PP: Polypropylene--Margarine tubs, microwaveable meal trays.
	No. 6 PS: Polystyrene--Yogurt containers, foam meat or fish trays, hamburger boxes, egg cartons, vending cups, plastic cutlery, protective packaging for electronic goods and toys, packing peanuts , white styrofoam.
	No. 7 Other: Any other plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories. An example is melamine, which is often used in plastic plates and cups.

Miscellaneous:

- Engine fluids, oil, transmission oil, anti-freeze
- Batteries
- Light tubes and bulbs
- Pallets
- Old books
- Paint
- Electronics
- Yard waste
- Toner containers from printers, faxes, and copiers

And much more

What is a carbon footprint?

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact our activities have on the environment and, in particular, climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases produced in our day-to-day lives through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating, transportation, etc. Most carbon footprints are measurements of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide. However, it is also the amount of impact you have on your environment.