

All Departments

Recycling in Philadelphia

Philadelphia was the first city in the country to enact mandatory curbside recycling, and is now the largest city on the East Coast to have single stream recycling, which mandates that all residents recycle the following:

- Paper, such as newspapers, cardboard, food boxes, magazines, junk mail, etc.
- Steel and aluminum cans
- Glass jars and bottles
- #1 and #2 plastics

Film and television production companies, theaters, etc. are considered commercial businesses with a construction component. Commercial recycling regulations require them to develop and follow a recycling plan. The plan must be filed with the Streets Department, distributed to all employees, and publicly posted on site premises. Businesses that fail to file a recycling plan can receive a visit from SWEEP (Streets and Walkways Education & Enforcement Program). SWEEP officers can issue daily fines for each violation. Your production must hire a private hauler to recycle the following:

MANDATORY

- High grade office paper
- Corrugated paper (i.e. cardboard)
- Aluminum, including cans
- Ferrous & non-ferrous metals
- Yard waste
- Motor oils

In addition to the recovery and recycling of the mandatory materials defined above, the City of Philadelphia also requires regulated businesses to choose **two** of the following “elective” items below as part of their programs:

ADDITIONAL (MUST PICK TWO)

- All grades of paper not recycled in the mandatory list
- Plastics
- Glass food and beverage containers
- Lumber and other wood
- Steel and bimetal cans
- Plaster, drywall and other gypsum products
- Concrete, sand and glass
- Textiles, Tires and other rubber
- Roofing material

Recycling these mandated materials will save money by lowering the cost of waste disposal, and is a great first step in lessening your production’s environmental impact. However, re-envisioning your production’s waste as valuable raw materials, rather than paying to send it to landfill, will also help to offset the costs associated with recycling some of our industry’s more difficult to recycle materials. Incorporating waste reduction techniques into the production’s purchasing decisions and day to day operations will also help to protect not just your production’s bottom line, but our community’s natural resources.

Recycling needs will differ depending on the department, and will need to be enforced on the set, on location, in the catering tents, and in the production office. In order for your recycling efforts to be successful, try to make it just as easy for the crew to recycle as it would be to throw things away:

- Make sure that any recycling bins, food waste containers, non-recyclable trash cans, etc. are clearly marked, with holes in the lids that are sized to match the material being recycled (i.e.. slots for paper, bottle size holes for beverage containers). This will reduce the risk of contamination.
- Place the recycling bins next to the non-recyclable trash cans in convenient locations in the production office, construction areas, breakroom, on the set, and on location.

To ensure that your production is in compliance with Philadelphia’s commercial recycling regulations, consult:

<p>The City of Philadelphia’s Recycling website: www.recyclingPAYS.phila.gov</p>	<p>The Greater Philadelphia Commercial Recycling Council www.gpcrc.com</p>
<p>The Philadelphia Streets Department Recycling Unit – Commercial Recycling 780 Municipal Services Building Philadelphia, PA 19102-1664 Phone: 215-686-5586 Fax: 215-686-545 www.phila.gov/streets Email: Robin.Geller@phila.gov</p> <p>See The Philadelphia Street Department's <i>Recycling: We Mean Business - A Guide to Turning Philadelphia's Commercial Recycling Regulations Into an Opportunity</i></p> <p>For a free copy of the Commercial Recycling Handbook, contact 215-686-5586.</p>	<p>Blue Mountain Recycling 2904 Ellsworth St Philadelphia, PA (215) 462-7372 www.bluemountainrecycling.com This is the facility that handles Philadelphia’s municipal recycling. They are not haulers, but their website has a lot of information about our single stream recycling program.</p> <p>Recycling Alliance of Philadelphia www.recyclenowphiladelphia.org</p> <p>Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania www.proprecycles.org</p>

Beyond Single Stream

Keeping single stream materials out of the waste stream is important, but reusing and recovering construction materials, recycling #1-#7 plastics, and separating organics from inorganics for composting are ultimately going to need to become the cultural norm if Philadelphia is going to become “the Next Great City”.

Philadelphia is working towards increasing their recycling capabilities, but until single stream collection is expanded to include more materials, recycling centers like **Recycling Services, Inc.** and some private haulers like **Institution Recycling Network** have the capability to recycle many pre-sorted plastics. The following page is a single sheet plastic recycling guide to post in your recycling area, to help with identifying and sorting plastics #1-#7. For more examples of cities that have moved beyond single stream recycling, see:

- www.sfreycling.com
- www.bouldercolorado.gov
- www.seattle.gov/util/Services/
- www.toronto.ca/greenbin
- www.portlandonline.com
- www.scarborough.me.us