

Recycling Plastics

Why we care

Dealing with plastic waste is a conundrum. Some of it is recyclable curbside; some can be transported to a depot; and some must go into the trash.

- Recyclable curbside: bottles, tubs, rigid plant pots (at least 4”), buckets (no more than 5 gallons)
- Recyclable at depots: bags, clamshells, boxes, trays, lids, and styrofoam
- Trash: Plastic packaging #3 or #7 (inside chasing arrows) or no number.

Simple, positive change

1. Prevent waste in the first place:
 - Avoid buying products that come in plastic that you cannot recycle. Frequent farmers markets and produce stands, and purchase meat at a meat counter,
 - When you can't, leave packaging in the store and tell the salesclerk why you are doing so.
 - Choose restaurants and cafeterias that use durable dishes. Take your own containers for take-out food.
2. If plastic packaging is not acceptable curbside, you may be able to deliver it to a depot. According to experts, for every five pounds of plastic recycled, you could **drive eight miles (round trip) to a depot and still save energy.**
 - Plastic bags can be taken to Safeway, Albertsons, Fred Meyer, New Seasons, Walmart, and Target.
 - [James Recycling](#) accepts #1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 plastics during limited hours at its depot near Hillsdale and also at popup events.
 - [P3 Distributing](#) in Milwaukie accepts #5 plastic containers.
 - [Green Century Recycling](#) in NW 29th accepts block styrofoam.
3. For specific items, call Metro at 503-234-3000, or check [Find a Recycler](#).

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org.