



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Reduce, reuse and recycle more now for cleaner land, air, water, and a thriving economy.

Montgomery County, Maryland has a goal to reduce waste and recycle 70 percent of waste by 2020. All businesses, including grocery stores and supermarkets must recycle mixed paper, commingled materials (aluminum cans and foil products, bi-metal food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and containers), scrap metal, yard trim and Christmas trees. In addition, grocery stores generate other materials that can be recycled such as food scraps, plastic shrink wrap and plastic bags.

Grocery stores have many opportunities to reduce waste and recycle. Grocery stores generate significant amounts of cardboard and food scraps and may find that by recycling these two types of materials, they can save money on waste disposal fees.

Grocery stores can help manufacturers limit the amount of packaging they use, by packaging products in recyclable and recycled containers. By requesting less packaging, or even refusing to purchase over-packaged products or products in

non-recyclable containers, grocery stores can make a significant difference in the amount of waste generated.

To ensure the success of your waste reduction, reuse and recycling efforts, be sure to obtain support from top management. A designated employee who serves as the store's recycling coordinator, or a team of employees making up a recycling committee can be used to monitor the program, obtain feedback from employees, and make recommendations to management.

REDUCE

- Work with suppliers and producers to reduce packaging. You can communicate to suppliers and producers your desire to offer products that are packaged in materials that are recycled and recyclable.
- Provide foods in bulk. Bulk foods encourage customers to buy the exact quantity of food they want, thus reducing food waste generated and unnecessary packaging.

REUSE

- Avoid disposable aprons and hats for employees who handle food. Your store can purchase durable and washable cloth hats and aprons with the store's logo.
- Repair and reuse shipping pallets. Require your suppliers to take their pallets back for reuse.
- Reuse produce crates, boxes, baskets and pails. Wooden produce crates, wire baskets and plastic pails all may be reused by produce distributors.

RECYCLE

- Bale and recycle corrugated cardboard boxes and mixed paper. Check with your recycling contractor to see if coated-paper boxes can be recycled. Many recycling facilities now accept coated-paper items for recycling.
- Recycle aluminum and bi-metal cans and foil products, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars and mixed paper in your employee breakroom. Place recycling bins for mixed paper by each cash register. Also, place next to each vending machine, a recycling bin for commingled materials.
- In the office, recycle all office paper, including unwanted mail and extra or outdated circulars.
- Recycle scrap metal items.
- Donate unused and unexpired food to a food bank. Many grocery stores are able to set aside edible but unsalable food for collection by an organization that provides food for those in need.
- Recycle yard trim materials, by grasscycling and composting.
- Recycle food scraps. Be sure to separate compostable food scraps from the waste stream and keep it free of contaminants such as shrink wrap. Food scraps can be recycled into a valuable soil amendment for use in gardens, on lawns, or mixed with potting soil.
- Promote your recycling program to customers and employees. Many consumers make an effort to frequent businesses that practice sound environmental policies.

Tips to Reduce Waste:

- Encourage customers to reuse bags; offer a rebate for customers who choose to reuse.
- Offer durable cloth or mesh bags for sale to customers.
- Offer customers the opportunity to recycle plastic grocery and produce bags by returning them to the store for recycling. Make sure the recycling container used for recycling plastic bags, and other types of plastic film, is clearly labeled and is convenient for your customers to access.



BUY RECYCLED PRODUCTS

Close the recycling loop by purchasing recycled-content products. The most widely available recycled products that grocery stores use are recycled paper bags, office paper, hand towels and toilet tissue.

When ordering goods and products that are offered for sale to customers, choose items that are made from recycled materials. Highlight these products for consumers to educate them and make them aware that these recycled products are available. Make shelf tags, or even a display of products made from recycled materials.



GROCERY STORES



Montgomery County's Ban on Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Ware and Loose Fill Packaging Materials



The use and sale of expanded polystyrene food service ware, and expanded polystyrene loose fill packaging (packaging peanuts) is prohibited in Montgomery County, Maryland.

In addition, all food service establishments, including grocery stores and supermarkets, must use either recyclable or compostable food service ware.

Prohibiting the use and sale of expanded polystyrene food service products and loose fill packaging, will help protect our environment and reduce litter.

For more information about the law, as well as a list of vendors that offer recyclable or compostable food service ware, visit our website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE MORE NOW!

Take part in what Montgomery County is doing to reduce waste and recycle more now! We'd like to add your grocery store to our list of recyclers, so let us know how you are doing! If you have a concern or issue you wish to discuss, or a success story you want to share, contact the Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons (SORRT) Program.

3-1-1 or 240-777-0311

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid Waste Services
Waste Reduction and Recycling Section



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