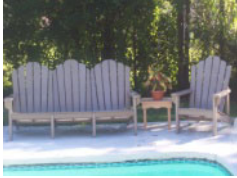


Where Does My Recycling Go?

In some cases, it depends on where you do your recycling. If you live in Charlottesville and use curbside recycling, your recycling first goes to a material recovery facility (MRF, basically a big sorting facility) owned by Tidewater Fiber in Chester, VA, which in turn contracts with various vendors. Other recycling systems that require people to sort their recyclables contract directly with the vendors. Some things wind up in pretty much the same place regardless:

- Aluminum goes to Anheuser-Busch.
- Office paper and boxboard will be recycled at any of a number of paper plants in the Southeast.
- Plastic will probably be recycled domestically. Plastic #1 (PETE) is popular for making fiberfill and carpeting. The plastic bottles that



the average household generates in a year can stuff nearly 10 sleeping bags or make about 60 ft² of carpeting! Plastic #2 (HDPE) is more popular for making plastic lumber, which is in turn used for furniture and TREX decking. Even plastics 3-7, which UVA recycles, generally have a domestic market, with only 5% going to China.

- Steel is also recycled domestically. UVA's, for example, goes to U.S. Steel.



Glass is one thing that varies. Glass collected at the McIntire Recycling Center goes to make roadbed at the Ivy Landfill. Glass from Charlottesville's curbside recycling is sold within Virginia to a variety of vendors, and may become flooring, countertops, or more containers. Glass from UVA goes to a plant in Harrisonburg.



Newsprint and corrugated cardboard also vary. When placed in the curbside recycling bins in Charlottesville, they will probably be exported to China to be used to make packaging for items that China will, in turn, export to us. (This is economical because otherwise, the ships that deliver the goods would return empty.) The newsprint and corrugated cardboard at McIntire, on the other hand, will be recycled domestically.

If you use the McIntire Recycling Facility, your:

- Phone books go to make particle board.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) go to Richmond, where the mercury and phosphor are reused to make more CFLs.
- Batteries go to Metal Conversion Technology in Georgia, where they're used to make a steel alloy.

Is It Worth It to Recycle?

From an energy-saving standpoint, the answer is usually YES! Recycling is another way to combat climate change and the world's finite supply of petroleum resources. To save the energy equivalent of one gallon of gasoline, you can recycle:

- 1.2 lbs of aluminum cans
- 4.7 lbs of plastic bottles
- 25 lbs of paper (half a box of standard office paper)

