

Going Green in Londonderry

What? You Can Recycle That?!

By Gary Stewart

Well over half our household waste stream can be recycled. Here are some things you might not realize you can recycle **at the curb**:

- Blister packs – remove and discard the bubble and place the cardboard in with paper
- Deodorant containers (deodorant stick removed). **Note:** plastic items such as flower pots and plastic toys cannot be recycle **curbside**, but you can bring them free to the **Drop-Off Center**.
- Cardboard or plastic egg cartons, berry boxes (no styrofoam)
- The bags your dry pet food comes in.
- In fact, pet owners in Londonderry can take tons of metal out of our waste stream by rinsing / recycling their pets' canned food – that's about 1,000,000 cans every year!

Don't forget your bag of "to go" food. Much of fast food packaging can be recycled:

- Plastic cups: if it's clean of liquid and ice, then it's fully recyclable.
- Sandwich container – like the box your pizza comes in (but smaller), it's recyclable paper if it's clean of food and grease.
- The bag it all comes in (free of food grease or residue).

Paper recycling has always been easy: *if you can tear it, you can recycle it*. And with today's demand for most rigid kinds of plastic, residents have even less garbage to throw out. (Large plastic items can be taken to the **Drop-Off Center** in season.) Think of all that stuff going to the landfill--now it doesn't need to!

And at your favorite grocery store, you can recycle plastic bags and wrap:

- All retail, grocery, dry cleaning, and newspaper bags
- The plastic bags holding your bread or containing bulk purchases of apples, oranges, bananas
- Plastic wrap from purchases of paper towels, toilet paper, water bottles, diapers, or pet food bought in bulk

One trick to easy recycling is to keep a small waste basket in your kitchen just for plastic bags and wrap, and periodically take the contents to the store on shopping day.

Lastly, you can recycle bubble wrap and even styrofoam if it's flat or in "peanut" form – just take it down to a postal supplies shop or FedEx.

For more information on what to recycle, check out the Public Works homepage at the town's website: **LondonderryNH.org**.

Courtesy of the Solid Waste and Environment Committee