

# How to Recycle at Bard (Yes, it Works!)

By Manar Hashmi '25 from the BardE3 team.

**Does our recycling actually get recycled?**

**YES! Bard recycling ACTUALLY works.**

We are very lucky that our recycling goes to a small facility which sorts our recycling and sends it to be ACTUALLY recycled. That is why we ask you to recycle thoughtfully and with optimism.

**Where does our recycling go after Bard?**

**The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) is located 8 miles away in Kingston.**

Our paper recycling, cardboard recycling, scrap metal, container recycling and trash are trucked there and consolidated with material from nearby communities.



**Why should I take the time to recycle properly?**



**If everybody puts the correct things into the recycling bins, the recycling process isn't as costly. And then...it works!**

If recycling is contaminated with non-recyclable things, it is at risk of being thrown out. The recycling system does not work if there are plastic bags clogging the machines and halting work.

**At Bard we are lucky: as a community, we have a chance to get all of our recycling recycled.**

**How cool is that??**



# So...what is actually recyclable around here?



Good question!

Let's start with **cardboard**. Cardboard boxes can be flattened and set behind the recycling bins in any building! You don't even have to remove the staples or tape! This is because when cardboard and paper are recycled, they are submerged in water; the tape and staples will float or sink, and can be mechanically removed.

Fun Fact: pizza boxes are not recyclable! They are coated with PFAS (a toxic chemical) so that the pizza grease doesn't leak.

Now, what about **paper**? Once again, you don't need to remove tiny things like staples and envelope windows from your paper recycling. The important thing is to remove things like spirals, hardcover book bindings, and **any** paper that is contaminated with food or oil. Paper towels and tissues are trash, not paper.

The third big recycling category on campus is **containers**. At Bard, we recycle **tubs, jugs, bottles, cans, and jars**. Single-use food containers like clear plastic clamshells are NOT recyclable. Soft plastic packaging, toothpaste tubes, and random plastic objects that are not containers are not recyclable at Bard.

Keep in mind that real people help sort containers, so make sure there are no toxins or biohazards in the recycling stream! Also, Objects must be larger than a tennis ball so that they don't fall through the sorting machines.



## Some other things you can recycle:

Scrap Metal can be set outside the Free-Use store CLEARLY labeled.

Non-alkaline batteries can be recycled by emailing [husted@bard.edu](mailto:husted@bard.edu)



CFL and LED light-bulbs, ink cartridges/toner and e-waste can be boxed and set outside the Free-Use store CLEARLY labeled.

Fabric/linens can be recycled in the Helpsy bin outside the Free-Use store!

*If your dorm or academic building is missing a recycling bin, email: [husted@bard.edu](mailto:husted@bard.edu)*

## Things that are surprisingly...TRASH! 🤯

Incandescent lightbulbs are TRASH. Please wrap them in something so that if they break nobody gets hurt!



Alkaline batteries are TRASH. Tell your friends.



Pill bottles are TRASH!

Plastic bags are TRASH because they clog up the sorting machines.

Coat hangers and long wiry things are TRASH!! because they also clog up the sorting machines.

Single-use coffee cups from Dunkin or Starbucks or DTR are TRASH!

Also, Pepsi cups and plastic utensils and straws are TRASH!

**Please put these items in the bins marked LANDFILL.**

**Thank you very much. 😊**

Important Message: milk cartons and “paper” cups and all those paper-looking things that \*miraculously\* can hold water are made from a combination of paper and plastic that cannot be recycled in either category and are therefore TRASH. I’m sorry to have to tell you this.



## What about composting?

Glad you asked! Composting is very important and is essentially nutrient recycling. Here are some tips for composting at Bard:



### What you can compost at Kline:

All food scraps, tea bags (minus the paper tag), all brown paper napkins, and those Clean Plate compostable plates.

(The bins with the green bags are the compost bins!)

**Everything else goes in the LANDFILL bin!**

### What you can compost in your dorm:

All food scraps (except animal products) and tea bags (minus the paper tag). Coffee grounds and vegetable peelings are great!



What happens next:

Bard compost spends several months decomposing at the Bard Recycle Yard until it is ready to be used at the Bard Farm!

Compost provides the nutrients plants and vegetables need to grow! It's a lot easier for this to happen when there isn't trash and plastic in the compost.



### Where does our trash go?

Trash gets trucked from UCRRA to Seneca Landfill - about 400 miles from Bard. It is an enormous fuel expenditure and the landfill will eventually fill up. That is why we need to recycle correctly... 😊





## Last but not least....the Free-Use store!



A hub for all things circular economy, Free-Use is where you can find textbooks, clothes, kitchenware and many other items...all for free!



### What is the circular economy?



If you're done with an item, you don't have to put it in the trash; someone else can give it a new life. The circular economy allows items to be loved over and over again and stay out of landfills.

**The Free-Use store is open during the academic year from 1pm-6pm.**

### How to donate to Free-Use?

#### Meet Barry - our donation manager extraordinaire...

The blue Barry bins outside Free-Use are for donations.

- Clothes/Shoes
- Clean Linens
- Accessories
- Books (especially FYSEM books or textbooks)
- Office/School Supplies
- Kitchenware (utensils, cups/plates, pots with lids)
- Small Functional Appliances (lamps, fans, coffee-makers)



We ask you **not** to donate anything that is broken or unusable, underwear, used personal care products or food.

We can only accept donations to Free-Use from on-campus students. However, we frequently hold winter coat drives and various specific collection events, which all community members are invited to contribute to.

**Thank you for reading, and happy recycling!!**