

RECYCLE

Glossary

BALER: a hydraulic machine used to compress and bind recyclable materials into bundles making the materials easier to handle, store and transport.

BENEFICIATION: the process through which contamination is extracted from glass.

BLUE BOX: a blue plastic container distributed to households. It is used to store recyclable material and is placed at the curbside for collection. Most Blue Boxes are made of recycled plastic and can be recycled.

BOXBOARD: the third highest grade of paper used in the making of cereal boxes and similar packaging. It is often called cardboard but should not be confused with corrugated cardboard.

BRIQUETTE: a small densely compacted bundle used to make the transportation of recyclable material, especially metals, more efficient.

CAUSTIC SODA: another name for sodium hydroxide. Caustic soda is a brittle white solid with a soapy feel. When dissolved in water, it forms a strong alkaline solution useful for cleaning metals and other recyclables.

CLOSED LOOP RECYCLING: the conversion of used material into products the same as or similar to the original. This type of recycling allows materials to be re-manufactured over and over.

COMMERCIAL COMPOSTER: a machine specially designed to reproduce the ideal conditions in which organic matter will break down. Most do so at a pace much faster than natural composting.

COMMINGLED: recyclable materials that have been separated from other garbage but not from one another.

COMMODITY: an article of trade desired by purchasers, possessing utility and availability in limited supply.

CONTAMINANT/CONTAMINATION: any material that has a harmful effect on a product or the usability of a waste material, e.g. paper contaminants include inks, dirt and plastics. The presence of said unwanted material.

CULLET: glass that has been intentionally crushed prior to being mixed with other raw materials in the making of new glass.

"C" RATIONS: pre-packaged, self contained meals designed to be easily transported and consumed by military personnel in situations where mess halls or other catering cannot be used.

DENSIFY/DENSIFICATION: the compacting of materials especially metals into small conveniently sized bundles.

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Glossary (cont.)

DEPOT CART: a container placed at a depot and designed to store a large volume (normally 235 to 430 litres) of recyclable goods.

DROSS: scum that rises to the top of molten metal. Reprocessing the dross produced during metal recycling can significantly improve the metal recovery rate.

ECOLOGO: an Environment Canada symbol licensed for use on products that have passed a set of criteria designed to test the product's environmental friendliness.

ELECTROMAGNETIC: a magnetic force produced when an electrical current is passed through a coil wrapped around another coil of magnetic material. Electromagnetic devices are useful when a constant magnetic force is not desirable.

FERROUS: of or containing iron. Through the use of magnets, ferrous products can be separated from other metals or items.

FLATTENER: a device used to compress aluminium and other metal cans.

FLUFFER: a machine that agitates paper before it is baled. Fluffed bales tend to hold together better than flat-baled paper.

FROSTED GLASS: decorative glass, produced by sand blasting or similar treatment.

GEOTEXTILE: any permeable textile used with foundation, soil, rock, earth or any other geotechnical engineering-related material as an integral part of a human made project, structure or system.

GRAVITY SORTING: a method that uses the principal of gravity and the weights of different products to separate said products from one another.

HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE: (HDPE) a plastic used to make milk jugs and fabric softener containers. This type of plastic is represented by the Number 2 under The Plastic Container Code System.

ION(S): an atom or group of atoms which has either an excess or deficiency of electrons and is thus electrically charged.

KRAFT PAPER: a paper made predominantly from wood pulp produced by a modified sulphate pulping process. Its fibre length or grade is similar to that found in boxboard. A type of kraft paper item is paper grocery bags.

MARKET DEMANDS: the demand for a product created by people desiring the product, having the buying power to purchase it and the money to do so.

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Glossary (cont.)

METAL RECOVERY: the percentage of metal recovered from the total material, after a recycling process. For example, if one tonne of aluminium was placed in a blast furnace and 800 kg was recovered after the remelting, then the recovery would be 80%.

MOBIUS LOOP: a figure designed by German mathematician August Mobius. The loop has no beginning or end. Three arrows were added to represent the three phases of recycling: collection, re-manufacturing, consumer recognition and purchasing of recyclable materials.

NATURAL RESOURCES: timber, water, minerals, fossil fuels and any other naturally occurring resources that can be used by humans. Because these materials are either fixed in quantity or require a long period of time to regenerate it is critical that they are carefully harvested and nurtured.

OPEN LOOP RECYCLING: a method of recycling where the end product is different from one collected. This includes the production of recycled products that cannot be recycled again (e.g. mixed plastic products).

ORGANIC GARBAGE: waste originating from living things and containing carbon (e.g. vegetables and meats).

PAPERBOARD: a grade of paper used to make containers. Paperboard is of a lower grade than boxboard and is used to make corrugated packages, food containers and other boxes. In general, paperboard is brown in colour.

PLASTIC CONTAINER CODE SYSTEM: a series of symbols comprised of a Mobius loop encircling a number between 1 and 7. The symbols help differentiate plastic resins and aid in all aspects of recycling.

POLYETHYLENE TEREPHALATE: (PET) a resin used in the manufacturing of soft drink containers. This material is represented by the number 1 under The Plastic Container Code System.

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE: (PVC) a plastic commonly used to produce vegetable oil containers. The number 3 is used to identify this plastic under The Plastic Container Code System.

POST-CONSUMER MATERIAL: materials previously used by consumers at locations such as homes, offices, stores and institutions that has been collected for recycling.

PRE-CONSUMER MATERIAL: excess material and defective material from manufacturing processes. It is suitable for recycling at either the place of generation or other facility but has never been in public circulation. In the steel industry it is called home scrap.

PULPER: a device that turns paper back into pulp.

RECYCLE

Glossary (cont.)

RECYCLABLE: a term used to describe material or products that can be recycled. Technically most materials are recyclable, however the term is relatively meaningless unless programs to collect, separate and process the material exist.

RECYCLED: used as an adjective or verb; the term describes material or products that have been through the recycling process.

RECYCLED CONTENT: a ratio expressing the amount of recycled material in a product. It is normally given as a percentage of the product's total weight.

RECYCLING DEPOT: a central drop-off area for temporary storage of recyclable materials. Depots can range from fully staffed buildings to large unmanned containers.

SCRAP: another term for recyclable materials. There are three types of scrap: home scrap produced at mills or foundries, industrial scrap formed during manufacturing, obsolete scrap generated by discarded consumer goods.

SOURCE SEPARATION: the separation of material into specific categories at the point of generation or where the waste was created. Putting recyclables into a blue box is an example.

T.V. DINNER: a packaged, precooked, usually quick frozen, dish, requiring only heating before serving.

WASTE STREAM: a general term used to denote the waste material output of a household, area, location or facility.

WET/DRY SEPARATION: the diversion of waste into two waste categories: 1. organic waste called wet, 2. recyclable material labelled dry.