



FAQs Commercial Recycling

Q: Is recycling required in the commercial sector?

A: Yes. All commercial sector entities in Delaware are required to actively participate in a comprehensive recycling program per [7 DE Admin. Code 1305](#) and [7 Del.C. §§6051- 6059](#). To accomplish this, all commercial sector persons shall identify recyclables, keep them separate from the solid waste stream and ensure the recyclables enter the marketplace or are collected for recycling. For more information see de.gov/recycling.

Q: How do I know what recyclables are in my waste stream?

A: A waste assessment will help you identify recycling and waste prevention opportunities. During a waste assessment, the waste is inspected, identified and sometimes weighed to determine the types of materials discarded.

Q: What must be recycled?

A: The type of materials that must be recycled is not specified; however, there must be a comprehensive recycling program. Waste identification is the first step to develop a comprehensive recycling program. After waste identification, the recyclable materials can be determined.

Examples of some materials accepted in Delaware's single-stream curbside recycling program are corrugated cardboard, office paper, aluminum cans and plastic containers. Materials such as scrap metals, scrap lumber and batteries may be recycled through third party vendors for the commercial sector. Visit de.gov/recyclopeda for guidance on what is acceptable to recycle in Delaware and how to properly dispose of other wastes.

Q: How do I implement and sustain a recycling program?

A: A variety of recycling toolkits are available at de.gov/recycling and technical assistance is available through DNREC. Please contact DNREC's Recycling Program at 302-739-9403 or recycle@delaware.gov for more information or waste assessment support.

Q: Who should I contact to collect my recyclables?

A: A recycling service provider can be one or more vendors that will pick up your recyclables for processing. While waste haulers offer recycling services, some companies specialize in providing strictly recycling services. If a business chooses not to use a collection service, recyclables can be self-hauled directly to a recycling processor.

Q: What if my hauler mixes the trash and recyclables together?

A: If your waste hauler/recycling service provider is mixing trash and recyclables together please contact DNREC at 302-739-9403 immediately to report this activity.

Q: Are there penalties for being out of compliance?

A: Yes. DNREC has the authority to assess penalties for non-compliance.

Q: Why is universal recycling in the best interest of Delawareans?

A: Increased recycling conserves valuable natural resources, energy and existing landfill space and reduces the cost of developing new landfill space in the future. Recycling also supports job creation through the collection and processing of recyclables and in the manufacturing of new products from the recycled materials.



DNREC DIVISION OF
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