



NOVEMBER 2017

Recycling

Did you know that 37% of NIH non-hazardous solid waste was recycled (including composting) across all campuses in 2016? This is an astonishing achievement made possible by the dedication of the NIH solid waste team, and the participation of thousands of NIH staff and visitors. Anticipating America Recycles Day on November 15 provides a good opportunity to remind ourselves about the recycling programs at NIH, and to renew our individual pledge to support recycling. These programs are part of the NIH Waste Management Program, which incorporates many of the US Environmental Protection Agency's [sustainable waste management strategies](#). We know that the rules about recycling can sometimes seem complicated, so we are highlighting the basics of these programs to encourage your continued and increased support.

Non-hazardous Solid Waste Recycling: All NIH locations feature general recycling of non-hazardous solid waste recycling of paper, glass, plastic and metal items. Paper products are collected in "mixed paper" bins and includes newspapers, magazines, journals, envelopes, etc. (the range of products varies by location). Many NIH locations also have special containers or locations designated for collecting printer toner cartridges and cardboard. There are recycling bins (sometimes labeled "commingled") for collecting only glass, plastic, and metal items. Items contaminated with food residue, chemicals, biological agents, and laboratory or medical waste, are not permitted for disposal in the recycling bins. Contaminated collections are unmarketable, meaning they will be rejected from the recycling facility and will instead be placed into the trash.

Pipette tip racks are collected in the hallways of laboratory buildings at the Bethesda and Bayview campuses in Maryland. These tip racks are ground and then shipped to their recyclers.

Non-accountable electronic waste (e.g., video cases, CDs, diskettes, cell phones, pagers, computer cables, chips & boards, etc.) that do not have a government property tag are also collected at Research Triangle Park, Rocky Mountain Labs, Bayview and Bethesda.

Chemical Waste and Laboratory Waste Recycling items at various NIH locations are listed below:

NIEHS, Research Triangle Park – Batteries, Styrofoam coolers, X-ray films, ice packs, empty chemical reagent bottles, and packaging materials

NCI, Fort Detrick – Batteries, empty chemical reagent bottles, chemical redistribution program

IRF, Fort Detrick – Batteries, empty chemical reagent bottles, solvent recovery program

NIAID, Rocky Mountain Labs – Batteries, fluorescent bulbs, waste pesticides, chemical redistribution program

NIA, NIDA, NHGRI Bayview Campus, Baltimore – Batteries and empty chemical reagent bottles

NIH Bethesda – Batteries, X-ray films, empty chemical reagent bottles, solvent recovery program, chemical redistribution program

Composting: Currently, composting is available at the Research Triangle Park and Rocky Mountain Labs campuses. The ability to compost depends the availability of a local buyer and on the type of materials, such as lawn clippings, pre or post-consumer food waste, and animal bedding. The Bethesda campus is looking for local markets for composting.

For questions about recycling at NIH locations, please visit the [Recycling](#) page. For a list of staff to contact about recycling, please visit the [Recycling Contact List](#).

TAKE ACTION

#BERECYCLED



America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day at NIH

America Recycles Day is an annual event on November 15 that calls for Americans to make a recycling pledge. NIH has regularly participated in America Recycles Day and will be doing so again this year. Click the "Learn More" link below to find out when your NIH campus is hosting America Recycles Day activities and how you can contribute!

[LEARN MORE](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Bethesda Campus Recycling Coordinator Tierra Robinson

Tierra Robinson is the recycling coordinator for the Bethesda campus, where she has worked since interning in the summer of 2016.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEMS TRAINING

Did you know? All items placed into general recycling must be **clean and empty!** Contaminated items force entire loads of recyclables to become trash. To learn more about recycling at NIH, please visit the [NEMS Training webpage](#) to view a short (20 minute) NIH environmental awareness training.

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