



FACT SHEET: VOLUNTARY LAB RECYCLING PROGRAM



SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITY

Many items used in laboratories can be recycled, including cardboard, paper, metal, and certain uncontaminated glass and plastics. Each campus building has at least one set of recycling bins and most buildings have recycling bins on each floor. However, in most buildings there are no bins in or near the labs themselves. This makes it difficult for lab occupants to properly sort their trash. In response, the Cardinal Green Labs program has partnered with E&K Scientific to provide free ten-gallon bins to labs that would like to recycle and are willing to empty their bins themselves.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Recycling your lab trash is easy. Just follow these steps:

1. Determine what can be recycled in your lab. The following materials are good candidates:

- Printer paper
- Cardboard boxes
- Packaging materials
- Plastic pipette tip trays
- Non-contaminated #1 and #2 plastic containers
- Other non-contaminated polypropylene plastic materials
- Metal cans
- Brown glass bottles

2. Determine where each ten-gallon bin will be located.

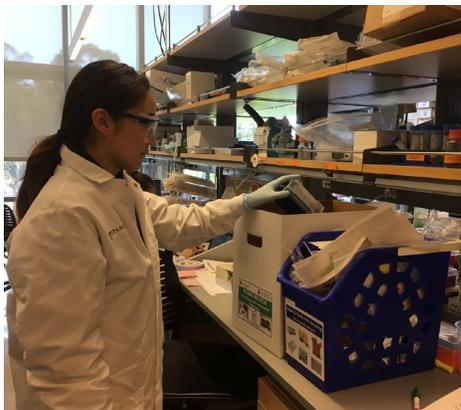
3. Determine who in your lab will empty the full bins into the central recycling.

4. Contact Rashmi Sahai (rsahai@stanford.edu) with how many bins you would like. Rashmi will come drop them off at your lab.

5. Share the new recycling opportunity with the rest of your lab.

6. Empty the bins when they fill up.

The voluntary lab recycling program is sponsored by E&K Scientific, a family-owned California Small Business that has been serving the Bay Area scientific community for over 40 years.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the custodial staff empty the lab recycling bins?

No, the custodial staff will not empty the recycling bins. This is a voluntary program and lab members are responsible for emptying the bins themselves.

Where do I recycle batteries and electronic waste?

Most buildings have battery and e-waste collection bins. The following websites lists all the campus locations of battery and e-waste recycling, respectively:

- <https://ehs.stanford.edu/reference/battery-recycling-locations-campus>
- <https://ehs.stanford.edu/reference/electronic-waste-locations-campus>

What are some common lab materials that cannot be recycled?

- Polystyrene plastic (such as petri dishes)
- Expanded polystyrene (i.e. Styrofoam)
- Autoclavable glass containers
- Anything that is contaminated with hazardous materials

MORE INFORMATION

CARDINAL GREEN LABS PROGRAM

sustainable.stanford.edu/cardinal-green/cardinal-green-labs/lab-waste

CONTACT

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For more resources and to take action, sign in to [My Cardinal Green](#)



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