



CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE
SHORE FACTS
TM

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Guide to Recycling on the Shore

by Sue Mastyl

Now that we have recycling locations dispersed conveniently around the Shore (five waste collection centers in Northampton County, seven convenience centers in Accomack County), it's important that we encourage everyone to recycle as much and as often as possible. Although information about what to recycle and where is available in several different places, we thought it would be important to gather that information into one central place. We'll also make an effort to update members when things change.

A lot of this information is thanks to the efforts of Wastewatchers of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, which was founded by CBES Board members and spun off as an autonomous organization. Wastewatchers' mission is to promote responsible disposal of waste on the Shore, with the dual focus of reducing roadside litter and encouraging recycling.

Why Recycle?

Although recycling programs have been around for years, nationally only about one third of all recyclable waste is recycled. Items such as aluminum cans, newspaper, plastic bags and plastic bottles, and glass are all highly recyclable and prevent significant damage to the environment.

The full mantra is "reduce, reuse, recycle" – it's worth noting that recycle is the third option, not the first. In reducing our overall waste stream, it's important for each of us to first reduce our use of a particular item, then if we must have it, reuse what we already have, and then if we have to buy new, at least recycle. One example is grocery or shopping bags – if it's a small item, don't get a bag at all, but throw it in a bag you already have, throw it in your purse, or carry it out to the car. If it's large or you've got multiple items, carry reusable canvas or plastic bags in your car and

bring them into the store with you. If you must use plastic grocery bags, be sure to recycle them. Plastic garbage, including plastic bags, in the ocean kill up to a million sea creatures each year, including sea turtles, marine mammals, and large predator fish.

Aluminum cans are one of the most recyclable items; a single can can be recycled and back on the shelf in just 60 days. And it's important to recycle – an aluminum can will stay intact in the environment for 500 years or more. Luckily, most aluminum cans are recycled; an EPA estimate shows that aluminum cans represent less than 1% of the waste stream in the U.S.

Paper is also important to recycle. Over 500,000 trees are cut down to produce the Sunday newspapers each week; recycling all our newspapers each year would save about 250 million trees. We use 85 million tons of paper a year, or 680 pounds each. With all the paper we use, we throw away 1 billion trees' worth of paper each year. A ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yard of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water. The 17 trees saved can absorb 250 pounds of carbon dioxide each year.

It's important to recycle plastic, since it stays in the environment for so long. Over 2.5 million plastic bottles are used every hour in this country, and most are thrown away. Over 25 billion styrofoam coffee cups are thrown away every year. Both plastic bottles and styrofoam cups can be replaced with reusable plastic or metal containers.

Glass also stays in the environment for a long time -- up to 4,000 years or more for a glass bottle. The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. And making a glass bottle from recycled glass generates 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than using raw materials.

Where to Recycle

Both counties offer single-stream recycling (meaning no separating is needed) with Tidewater Fibre Corporation (TFC). Tours of their facility in Chesapeake are available for interested groups or individuals.

Twelve recycling centers are conveniently located throughout the Shore at the following sites (listed north to south):

Accomack County

(open daily 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM; each site is closed one day a week, as noted below, plus Thanksgiving and Christmas)

- Horntown (closed Thursdays)
- Chincoteague (closed Tuesdays)
- Makemie Park (closed Wednesdays)
- Fishers Corner (closed Tuesdays)
- Tasley (closed Wednesdays)
- Painter (closed Thursdays)
- Grangeville (closed Tuesdays)

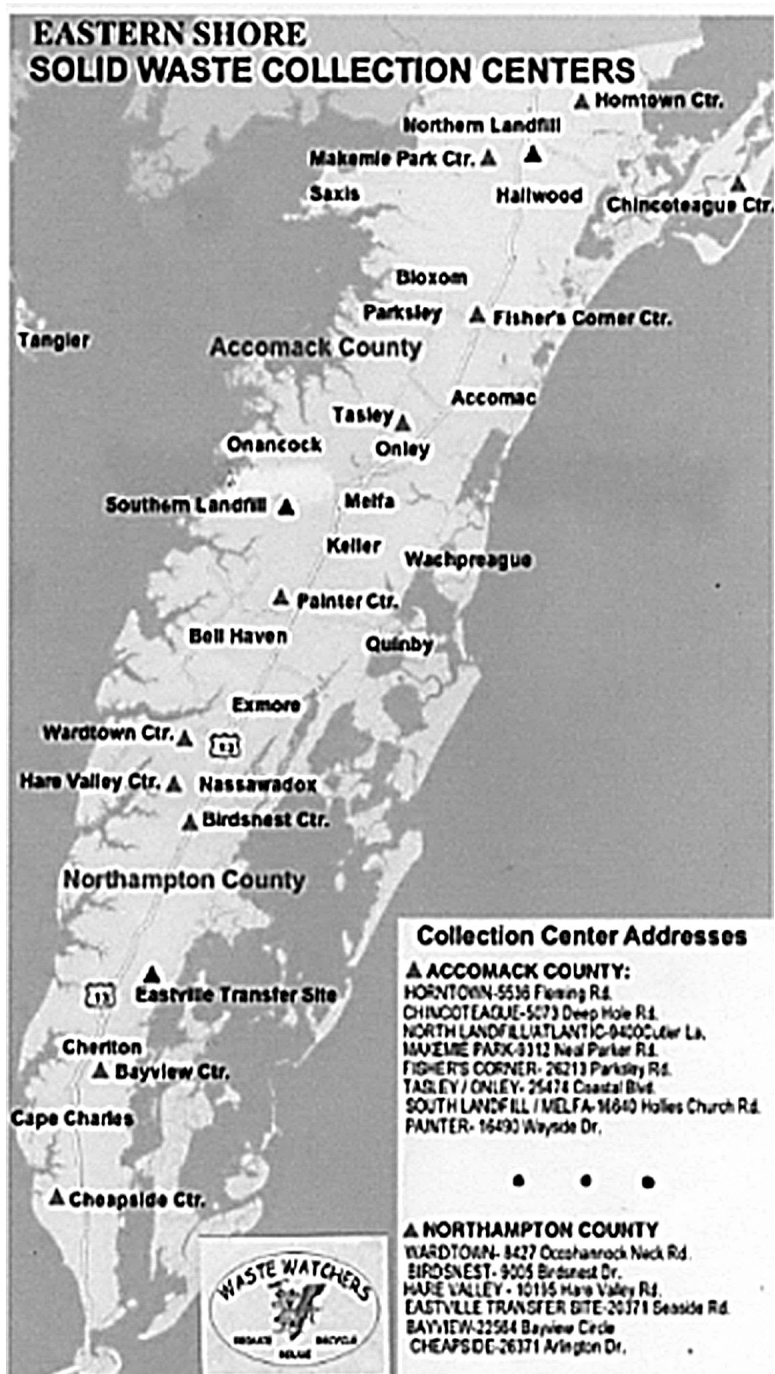
Northampton County

Open Monday to Saturday 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM (Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon, Sunday 1:00 to 6:00 PM from November to February, closed New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day)

- Hare Valley
- Wardtown
- Birdsnest
- Bayview
- Cheapside

What Can be Recycled and Where

It can be confusing to figure out what is recyclable, and which facilities will take which items; hopefully, this will help to clarify the issue. All items should be dry and clean. (Please see chart on page 3.)



What Can be Recycled and Where

<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Where Accepted</i>
Plastic	#1 and #2 plastic containers – all colors	Both counties
Metal cans	Aluminum, steel, and tin cans	Both counties
Foil	Aluminum foil	Accomack County
Glass	Glass bottles and jars	Both counties
Paper	Magazines, newspapers, junk mail, phone books, brown paper bags, office paper	Both counties Also at most post offices
Cardboard	Cardboard, empty food boxes, paperboard, cereal boxes, toilet paper/paper towel inner tubes, flattened	Both counties
Plastic bags	Plastic grocery/shopping bags, plastic overwrap (eg, for toilet paper, paper towels, water bottles), dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, produce bags, Ziploc® bags, cereal liners – all colors accepted	Separate containers at both counties' convenience centers Also at most WalMart stores and Lowe's stores
Tires	Small truck or car tires, no rims, 32" maximum (four per visit)	Accomack County convenience centers except Chincoteague
Used oil	Any petroleum-based product, including motor oil, gasoline, engine oil, hydraulic oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, gear lube, diesel fuel, kerosene, heating oil, aviation fuel, antifreeze – no cooking oils	Both counties
Batteries	Lead acid batteries, rechargeable batteries	Both counties
Cell phones	Used cell phones	Accomack County Also at Verizon Wireless stores, Best Buy stores, and some Lowe's stores
Yard waste	Small to medium sized branches and brush	Accomack County (Painter facility only) – converted to mulch for citizens' use Northampton County (landfill only) – burned on site
Scrap metal	Scrap metal (including appliances)	Accomack County (Horntown, Chincoteague, Makemie Park, Fishers Corner, Painter facilities only) Northampton County (all locations) – sold to third-party vendor Also Eastern Shore Recycling LLC
Electronic waste	Electronic household items	Accomack County (Fishers Corner facility only) Also Best Buy stores
Hazardous waste	Household hazardous waste (e.g., paint, lawn chemicals, cleaning chemicals)	Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program sponsored by the Bi-County Groundwater Committee Paint, thinner, and varnishes at some Lowe's stores
Used household items	Gently used household items in working condition	Put and Take location (both counties)

Other Recycling Outlets

In addition to the recycling services offered by the two counties, some businesses on and off the Shore offer recycling of certain items. While this is not meant to be a comprehensive list, we hope it helps everyone to recycle as much as possible.

Batteries:

Batteries + Bulbs recycles lead acid batteries, nickel cadmium batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, and lithium ion and lithium polymer batteries.

Best Buy recycles rechargeable batteries

Lowe's recycles rechargeable batteries

Light bulbs:

Batteries + Bulbs recycles compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), fluorescent tubes, circular fluorescent bulbs, U bend fluorescent bulbs, plastic coated and shatter shield bulbs, spot/flood lamps, UV and germicidal lamps, incandescent bulbs, halogen bulbs, cold cathode bulbs, and metal halide bulbs

Lowe's recycles CFLs

Home Depot recycles unbroken CFLs

Ink and toner cartridges:

BB&T Bank (Onley)

Best Buy (\$2.00 coupon for each cartridge recycled, good toward purchase of \$40.00 or more of ink or toner)

Staples (recycle up to 10 cartridges a month; \$2.00 coupon for each cartridge if you spend at least \$30.00 on ink or toner within 180 days prior to recycling)

We regret that it is no longer feasible for CBES to accept ink cartridges. We thank all our members and citizens who contributed to this recycling effort over the years.

Used clothing, household items, books:

Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Exmore; household and construction items)

Lighthouse Ministries Thrift Shop (Onley)

Hospice Thrift Shop (Onley and Exmore)

Opportunity Shop

Coalition Against Domestic Violence (household and personal items)

Leftover medicines:

H&H Pharmacy

Nonperishable food items:

Food Bank of the Eastern Shore

Beverage cans:

ESO Art Center

SPCA

Plastic planting pots and trays:

Hortco

Lowe's



Want to save money on fertilizer and further reduce your waste stream? Consider starting a compost pile or compost bin – every year, Americans throw out 1,200 pounds each of compostable organic material. It makes wonderful, rich fertilizer – it's organic, and it's free!



Sources:

Wastewatchers of the Eastern Shore of Virginia (www.wastewatchers.esva.net)

Accomack County Department of Public Works (www.co.accomack.va.us)

Northampton County Solid Waste Program (www.co.northampton.va.us)

TFC Recycling (www.tfcrecycling.com)

Batteries + Bulbs (www.batteriesplus.com)

Best Buy (www.bestbuy.com)

Staples (www.staples.com)

Lowe's (www.lowes.com/cd/Recycling_368967519)

Home Depot (www.homedepot.com/ecoptions)

This guide courtesy of Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, PO Box 882, Eastville, Virginia 23347.