

Recycling Q&A

Some are actual questions from employees at the Center

Q: Hey, what's going on...some guy with East Coast is going thru our office collecting our cardboard recycle boxes? He said they no longer have the contract and are repossessing their boxes. What will we get to replace those boxes and why didn't YOU let us know our boxes were going to be repossessed. Why didn't we receive notification of changes to the recycling program?

A: This notice was sent out via the KSC Bulletin, Daily News and also to the facility managers to inform employees of changes to the recycling program. It has been stated that no one reads electronic media anymore and more should have been done to contact employees. The other method considered but not used was to send each employee/mail code a printed flyer. As an initiative of the recycling program we will first make every effort to reduce the generation of wastes. Therefore in the future, we will make posters and display them within the facilities to further meet the needs of employees who prefer visual text as opposed to reading electronic messages.

Q: They took my desktop cardboard container, what do I do now?

A: Each employee is asked to be patient during the contract transition, and if need be use the lids from copier paper boxes in place of the cardboard desktop recycling container until new ones are received. Right now I don't have a definitive date for delivery of new desktop containers but hopefully within the next 3-4 weeks we should see the first shipment. When the new containers arrive, I will send out another email message instructing employees on how and where to obtain one.

Q: Can we get this info to everyone in other ways than the KSC news - (most don't read it and I did since I saw recycling) - maybe flyers?? I don't know?

A: Posters will be made and displayed around the Center for upcoming changes and for general educational purposes.

Q: I can not find any dedicated recycling trash cans in HQ. I understand that the large containers were removed--what a tragedy. I was thinking about recycling just the other day--I think the center does a dismal effort in this area. Conference room garbage cans are full of recyclable material--with no dedicated containers-what a shame.

A: Sorry you feel that the Center does a dismal effort in recycling. We do not have the resources to place a container in every conference room at the Center especially when the conference rooms are only utilized some of the time. It is the responsibility of every employee at KSC to take their recyclable materials to the closest blue bin within their facility.

I've requested information from the janitorial supervisors on the status of the blue bins in HQ's. I was told that NASA employees do not want these containers located within their work area and they will not be placed back into the corridors per the Fire Chief. If the employees don't take ownership of these containers, they will have to take them out of the facility and place them in storage until this issue is resolved.

Q: Can you please clarify for me what we are allowed to put in the blue/yellow recycling bins?

A: **Paper Products** -- White, Coated, Colored, Drafting, Construction, Computer and Fax; **Folders** – Manila file and Colored file; **Cards** – Index and Business; **All other items** – Envelopes, Stapled and Paper Clipped material, NCR Carbonless Forms, Post-it Notes, Cash Register/Adding Machine Tape (**NO NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES**)

Q: For the mixed paper recycle bins...do we need to remove staples from the paper that we put in these bins?

A: No, the material that you place in the recycled bins is accepted with staples and paper clips.

Q: Who empties the recycling containers inside of the facilities?

A: If the recycling container resides inside any of the larger buildings like the O&C, HQs, SSPF and OSB our recycling contractor does not empty them. Those containers are serviced by our custodial employees who work for Yang Enterprise. The blue roll around containers are taken outside the facility and the contents are emptied into the larger containers supplied by Progressive Recycling Inc.

Q: We do not have a green bin for cartridge recycling in our area. How do we go about getting one?

A: Printer/copier cartridges should be placed in the green bins located in hallways of all major facilities. Please do not place **ANY Lanier Copier** cartridges in these containers. Leave them adjacent to the copy machines for pickup by the Lanier Representatives. Call 267-7726 for delivery or pickup of a cartridge container for your facility.

Q: How is KSC handling the recycling of phonebooks this year?

A: Every year around late March or early April KSC sends out a phone book recycling campaign notice through various medias explaining how and where to recycle your phone books on Center. Once this campaign is over, you will either have to take these books offsite to recycle them or throw them away. The KSC phone books can be recycled by disposing of the front and back covers and placing the book in the locked sensitive material recycling containers located throughout the center.

Q: Why don't we recycle more? Please add more collection bins for "misc. paper" or set up a system that allows mixed use paper in one bin. I understand this is not the way your system is set up now, however many companies and even municipalities have the capability to solve the problems you are addressing easily with different types of bins and easier sorting requirements. We should not be in the mindset to simply recycle ONLY the white photo copier paper. Newspapers, junk mail and cardboard are all recyclable and should be at KSC/CCAFS. Please change the system.

A: KSC has sent out open bids for our white ledger paper, used mixed paper and corrugated cardboard for recycling in the past. We've only received a bid for white ledger paper until April 2004. We have discussed the issue many times with local companies but none are interested. The picking up of any recycled material from the Center is labor intensive and is not cost effective for these companies therefore; they are not able to accommodate us. Even if our office provided bins for different recycled material, it would still end up in the landfill as we do not have a contractor willing to come in and pick it up.

Thank you for your concern in our program, we will continue to search for ways to recycle more commodities at the Center.

Q: Since I didn't see any mention of magazines, I'm assuming there is no place for magazines. Am I correct?

A: Cardboard recycling bins will subsequently be added to KSC's recycling program after the mixed office paper recycling is fully functional. There is no official date on when we will kick this new cardboard/newspaper/magazine program off but look for articles in the near future. Below is an expanded list of items that will be placed in these bins:

Cardboard, Newspaper, Magazines, Catalogs, Notepads, Spiral Bound Notebooks, Booklets and Brochures.

Q: I also saw the info on the telephone books - I guess we're to put those out separately. Can next year, we put this info out earlier since various phone books come out at different times and last month I already saw many phone books in the trash. Maybe Progressive could take telephone books as well so there won't be different ways people have to worry about how to recycle them.

A: Progressive is the new recycling contractor and they are recycling our phone books this year. The containers that are delivered and picked up are funded through BellSouth therefore are only provided when their phonebooks are delivered.

As a side note...steel cans are being placed in your home recycling bins as of April 1, 2004. Not many people know about this one either. – Now they do!

FAQ

How can I get a desk side recycle container?

Blue desktop bins are located at Roads & Grounds Bldg #K6-2196; please talk to Evelyn Ott who can provide you directions to the storage location of these containers. All other recycle containers can be requested by calling 867-8454.

Where are the recycle bins located in my facility?

Please ask your janitorial staff since they empty them and place them in different areas throughout your facility they would be your best source for locating them.

Why don't we recycle aluminum cans or plastic bottles?

We have advertised several times for a contract bids world-wide but no one has come forth yet. Since we do not have a budget line item for recycling on the Center, we can't pay someone to remove these commodities either.

Can we donate our aluminum cans or plastic bottles to a non-profit organization?

Personally if you would like to collect your cans at work and donate them to a charity of your choice that is your choice but NASA/Environmental Program Branch cannot support this effort due to the legal ramifications we would face.

Why can't we put newspapers in the mixed office paper recycling bins?

Due to the paper content of the mixed office paper and newspapers these two commodities cannot be recycled together. Newspapers are printed on newsprint. Other uses for newsprint include advertising inserts, flyers, newspaper supplements and telephone directories. According to the Pulp and Paper Dictionary, newsprint is defined as "a grade of paper combining high percentages of groundwood and/or mechanical pulps made especially for the printing of newspapers".