Tacoma Community College Recycling Guidelines

General Information: Anything contained within a plastic bag/liner is thrown in landfill. Plastic

bags are no longer accepted at Tacoma’s materials recovery facility (MRF),

located at Tacoma Tideflats. The MRF is operated by JMK Fibers, and

owned by Waste Management, Inc.

Custodial Services has taken on the extra work of discarding plastic liners

from recyclable material, to ensure the contents actually get recycled.

For this reason, recycling needs to be dry. No liquid in recycling.

Tacoma Recycling Center (TRC) at 3510 S. Mullen Street, is a public service

run by the City of Tacoma. The TRC has the resources to hand-sort

recyclables, such as plastic bags, Styrofoam blocks, shredded paper,

and batteries.

This list will be updated as needed, and is current as of November 2019.

Any questions, contact cturner@tacomacc.edu

Aerosol Cans: If empty, write “empty” on the can, or puncture, and throw in the garbage.

If not empty, the can is considered hazardous waste, as it is pressurized,

and may explode in a fire. Do not throw out, instead contact Facilities

at x5152.

Aluminum Foil: TRC will accept clean foil. Otherwise, throw out.

Aluminum cans: Liquid-free cans may be recycled.

Bags: Plastic bags/liners are not accepted as recyclable material on campus.

If you have a plastic bag, do not throw it in the garbage.

You can take your plastic bags to a number of participating stores.

You can also take your plastic bags to the TRC.

Batteries: Do not throw in the garbage. Continue to contact Rich Langhorn, x4363.

Batteries can also be recycled, free of charge. Please take your batteries to the

TRC. You can also recycle your batteries at Budget Batteries, Best Buy,

Target, and other stores.

If you live in Tacoma, you can place your household batteries in a plastic bag,

and set out with your curbside glass recycle.

Books: Books can be donated in our Discover Books drop-off box, located at the

north of campus, between buildings two and three.

Bubble wrap: Do not recycle at TCC, please take to TRC.

Cardboard: Break-down boxes, and place next to the large, wheeled, blue bins.

If you have a large amount of cardboard, break-down the boxes, and then call

Facilities at x5152 for a pick-up.

Cartons: Throw in garbage. The moisture in cartons contaminates the rest of the

paper. Cartons are also made of layers of different materials, including

plastic, paper and sometimes metal. This makes them difficult to recycle.

Coffee cups: Throw in garbage. Paper coffee cups are made of layered material with

low quality fibers. Paper can only be recycled so many times before its

quality degrades. Cardboard thermal sleeves can, however, be recycled.

Coffee pods: Keurig-type single-use pods are to be thrown in the garbage. Each pod

contains four types of material, and it isn’t practical to separate the material.

Condiment packets: Ketchup, mustard, mayo, soy sauce etc…, are to be thrown in the garbage.

Crinkly plastic: Throw out lightweight plastic such as clamshell food containers and plastic

food-wrap.

Fluorescent tubes: Burned-out tubes can be recycled. Contact Facilities for a pick-up at x5152.

Broken fluorescent tubes, are considered hazardous due to the risk of

mercury contamination. Contact Campus Public Safety at x5111.

Foil packaging: Items such as potato-chip bags, pouch drinks and candy wrappers, cannot

be recycled. Throw in garbage.

Food; The college is currently exploring an option to compost food waste from

the cafeteria. Information will be update when possible. For now, food

has to be tossed in the garbage.

Frozen food boxes: Multi-layered material is difficult to recycle. Throw in garbage.

Glass: We recycle glass at Tacoma Community College. Green containers

for glass, are located in all high-volume buildings, by the entrances.

Take care not to break the glass. Broken glass, need to be boxed and labelled,

in order to avoid injury. Never put broken glass in any type of bin.

Lids: Metal and plastic lids should be thrown in the garbage. The small size of the

lids result in machinery getting jammed at the MRF.

Napkins: Soiled napkins are not to be recycled; throw in the trash. Clean ones OK.

Paper: Magazines, file folders, envelopes, sticky notes, hanging file folders,

card stock, soft-back books, and newspaper are all acceptable. Be sure to

remove all large paper-clips and binder-clips.

Throw out transparencies, three-ring binders, label-backing sheets,

photographs, and paper with plastic coating

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Paper plates: Throw out.

Paper towels: Throw out if used.

Pizza boxes: Throw out. If you can tear off any non-greasy section of cardboard, recycle.

Shredded paper: Accepted if placed in a paper bag, not plastic, and stapled or taped closed.

For large-volume needs, contact Shred-It.

Shrink-wrap: Shipping plastic wrap cannot be recycled at TCC. Please take to TRC.

Styrofoam: Do not throw in recycle. Styrofoam blocks are accepted at TRC, but loose

peanuts are not, unless they are boxed, or in a sealed paper bag.

Syringes: We have sharps containers in all restrooms. Never throw in any other bin.

Utensils and straws: Plastic utensils and straws are to be thrown in the garbage.