

Recycling at Earlham

The information below describes the current recycling practices on campus. The Earlham College Environmental Responsibility Committee has reviewed the current recycling practices and has recommended improvements to the program. Earlham is awaiting receipt of grant money to implement several of the recommendations.

Currently we can recycle the following materials:

Commingled: steel, aluminum, plastics (1 or 2), glass

Paper: white paper, colored paper, envelopes (staples and tape need to be removed)

Newspaper: only in IndyStar stands in residence halls and academic buildings; or employees can place newspaper in the designated container located by the Grounds Building.

Cardboard: only in the designated dumpsters by the blue Cardboard Baler located by the Grounds Building.

Please note that there are currently two different kinds of blue recycling dumpsters:

- 1) There are four blue paper dumpsters (paper only--NOT for cardboard or newspaper). They are located outside these academic buildings: Carpenter/Lilly, Dennis, Runyan and LBC.
- 2) There are three blue commingled dumpsters. One is located on the south side of Bundy Hall, one on the west side of Olvey-Andis and one is near the Maintenance/Grounds barn.

Our primary challenge with the recycling program is **contamination**. A recycling container is "contaminated" if even one item is placed in the incorrect container. For example, a plastic bottle is considered a contaminant in paper containers; a piece of paper is a contaminant in a commingled container. If Housekeeping staff notice that a collection bin has been contaminated, they are expected to treat the materials as trash. The Richmond Sanitary District currently collects materials from the large blue recycling dumpsters. However, should the large blue recycling dumpsters be contaminated, Richmond Sanitary will take the contaminated waste directly to the landfill.

Recycling in Academic/Non-residential Buildings

- Paper is collected from the red collection bins on opposite days (usually Tuesday/Thursday) that trash is collected (usually Monday, Wednesday, Friday), by housekeeping. The small blue collectors on individual trashcans are provided to help employees separate their own materials, so that they can take their blue containers to the red bins each day. Any items remaining in the small blue caddies when housekeeping collects the trash, is considered trash. There should be a minimum of one red collection bin per floor in academic buildings.
- Work-study students collect commingled materials from the medium blue containers, "Richie Rollers", located in the hallways, twice per week during the academic year, including the bins in the Coffeeshop. During the summer, housekeeping collects the commingled as needed.
- Grant House and Brown House put out blue Richie Rollers like the residential houses.
- IndyStar stands will recycle Star newspapers left in the bottom of the newsstand each day. These non-residential newsstands are located only in Runyan, Wellness and LBC. Otherwise newspaper is not collected in non-residential buildings.

Recycling in Residential Buildings

Residence Halls

- Indy Star stands – The Star delivers newspapers each day during the academic year and will recycle any “used” Stars left in the bottom portion of the newsstand each day. The stands remain in the residence halls for the summer, but the newspaper delivery and collection is only during the academic year.
- Commingled is collected by housekeeping as needed (when collection containers are full). Uncontaminated commingled materials are delivered to blue dumpsters nearest each hall. If commingled materials are contaminated, the contents of the bin are considered trash.
- No paper collection, unless student workers initiate and maintain collection and removal (Housekeeping is not responsible for paper recycling).
- No cardboard, unless student workers initiate and maintain collection and removal (Housekeeping is not responsible for cardboard recycling).
- Composting in kitchens: only if and when students initiate and maintain collection and removal (Housekeeping is not responsible for composting, and if it begins to draw insects it is treated as trash).
- The commingled is collected from the large blue dumpsters by the Richmond Sanitary District, and removed from campus. If the blue commingled dumpsters have been contaminated, the Sanitary District will take it directly to the landfill.

Houses

- Students can recycle commingled and newspaper materials using the Richmond Sanitary District’s guidelines, using the blue “Richie Rollers” for collection every other week. The collection schedule is set by Sanitary District. The College pays for the service.
- College Avenue collection is Friday; National Road collection is split: for the houses between SW 5th and SW 11th, on the north side of the street, collection is Thursday. Other National Road properties are collected on Friday.
- No paper or cardboard collection in houses.
- Composting in kitchens: only if and when students initiate and maintain collection and removal.

Two more items of note

Cardboard

The College currently leases a cardboard baler (located by the Grounds Building). Cardboard is collected daily from two dumpsters located by the Dining Hall loading dock. The cardboard is baled and collected by Richmond Recycling which then rebates the College for the cardboard collected. In addition to the Dining Hall location, broken down cardboard can be left in a small dumpster by the baler. Cardboard placed in any large blue dumpster is considered contamination and will be sent to the landfill.

Employee recycling of personal materials

Employees are welcome to recycle personal materials including recyclable metal, (non-Star) newspapers and cardboard by delivering recyclable materials to the designated dumpsters at Maintenance.