



# CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE

# SHORE FACTS

TM

April 2024

## Your Guide to Recycling on the Shore

by Sue Mastyl

In the 8 years since we published our first *ShoreFacts* on recycling on the Shore, a few things have changed, but remarkably much remains the same. With recycling locations dispersed conveniently around the shore (6 waste collection centers in Northampton County, 7 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, this flyer provides a way to gather that information into 1 central place. We continue to update members when things change, primarily through the monthly “Recycling Corner” in *ShoreLine*.

This information was gathered from many resources, including Waste Watchers of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, which was founded by CBES Board members and spun off as an autonomous organization. Waste Watchers' 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 some plastic bottles, and glass are all highly recyclable, and keeping them out of our fields and ditches prevents significant damage to the environment.

The original mantra of “reduce, reuse, recycle” has been expanded to “refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink” (as well as “repurpose,” “repair,” “refill,” “reinvent”). Rather than mindlessly accepting products and packaging, and assuming that recycling will solve the problem, we need to stop and think about each material we're using as consumers. 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, make sure we recycle when we're finished with it.

- One example is grocery or shopping bags – if it's just one item, don't get a bag at all, but throw it in your purse or carry it out to the car. With multiple items, make sure to keep 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 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, 3 cubic yards 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, and we're learning more about its environmental and health effects. Only 9% of all plastics produced have ever been recycled. Over 2.5 million plas-

Stay Informed! JOIN CBES: [www.cbes.org](http://www.cbes.org); [info@cbes.org](mailto:info@cbes.org); 757-678-7157

## 2 - ShoreFacts

tic bottles are used every hour in this country; although they can be recycled, most are thrown away. Over 25 billion styrofoam coffee cups (which can't be recycled) are thrown away every year. Both plastic bottles and styrofoam cups can be replaced with reusable plastic or metal containers. Metal is better, since we're learning more about plastic leaching into liquids and food, and bioaccumulating in our bodies.

- 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 1 glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours. And making a glass bottle from recycled glass generates 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than using raw materials.



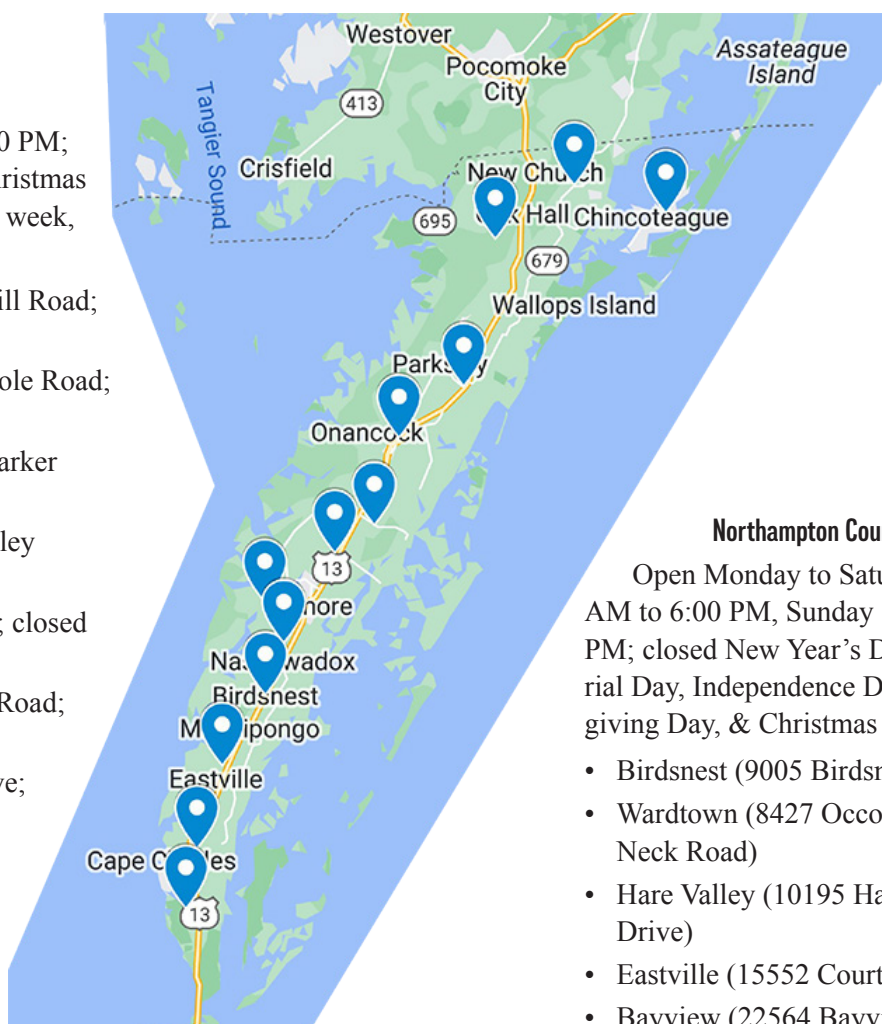
### Where to Recycle

Both counties offer single-stream recycling, meaning no separating is needed (except for glass). Thirteen 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; closed Thanksgiving Day & Christmas Day; each site is closed 1 day a week, as noted below:

- Horntown (5536 Fleming Mill Road; closed Thursdays)
- Chincoteague (5073 Deep Hole Road; closed Tuesdays)
- Makemie Park (9312 Neal Parker Road; closed Wednesdays)
- Fishers Corner (26213 Parksley Road; closed Tuesdays)
- Tasley (24574 Coastal Blvd.; closed Wednesdays)
- Grangeville (31138 Seaside Road; closed Tuesdays)
- Painter (16490 Wayside Drive; closed Thursdays)



#### Northampton County

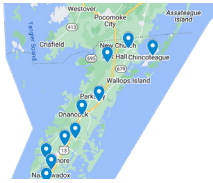
Open Monday to Saturday 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 to 6:00 PM; closed New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, & Christmas Day:

- Birdsnest (9005 Birdsnest Drive)
- Wardtown (8427 Occohannock Neck Road)
- Hare Valley (10195 Hare Valley Drive)
- Eastville (15552 Courthouse Road)
- Bayview (22564 Bayview Circle)
- Cheapside (26371 Arlington Road)

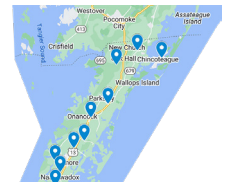
It can be confusing to figure out what is recyclable, and which facilities will take which items; hopefully, the table on page 3 will help to clarify the issue. All items should be dry and clean. If you can't remember what to recycle, get back to basics – paper, bottles, and cans. And don't throw in what you "wish" could be recycled – when in doubt, throw it out!

## What Can Be Recycled at County Facilities

<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Where Accepted</i>
Plastic	#1 and #2 plastic bottles/jugs; #4, #5, and #7 plastics; no clamshells/cups	Both counties
Metal cans	Aluminum, steel, and tin cans	Both counties
Foil	Aluminum foil, pie plates	Both counties
Glass	Glass bottles and jars	Northampton County (all 6 centers); Accomack County (Fishers Corner only) (separate containers)
Paper	Magazines, newspapers, junk mail, phone books, brown paper bags, office paper, paper egg cartons; shredded paper <u>only</u> in a paper bag, stapled shut, & marked "shredded paper"	Both counties Also at most post offices
Cardboard	Cardboard, empty food boxes, <u>clean</u> pizza boxes, paperboard, cereal boxes, toilet paper/paper towel inner tubes, flattened	Both counties
Cartons	Milk cartons, juice cartons, broth/soup cartons	Both counties
Plastic bags	Plastic grocery/shopping bags, plastic overwrap (eg, for toilet paper, paper towels, water bottles), bread bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, produce bags, Ziploc® bags, cereal liners – all colors accepted	Separate containers at Accomack County convenience centers Also at Food Lion, WalMart, and most Lowe's and Home Depot stores
Tires	Small truck or car tires, no rims, 32" maximum (4 per visit)	Accomack County
Used motor oil	Motor oil	Both counties
Antifreeze	Antifreeze	Accomack County (Northern Landfill and Southern Transfer Station)
Batteries	Lead acid batteries and used car batteries; rechargeable batteries are collected by the attendants	Both counties
Cell phones	Used cell phones	Accomack County Also at Verizon Wireless, Best Buy, Staples, and Lowe's stores
Yard waste	Small to medium-sized branches and brush (up to 6" in diameter) and grass clippings	Accomack County (Painter and Grangeville) – converted to mulch for citizens' use Northampton County (landfill only) – burned on site
Scrap metal	Scrap metal (including appliances)	Accomack County Northampton County (landfill) Also Eastern Shore Recycling LLC, Bowser & Sons Salvage Yard LLC, & A&B Salvage Inc.
Electronic waste	Electronic household items	Accomack County (Fishers Corner only) Also Best Buy and Staples stores
Hazardous waste	Aerosols, cleaners, disinfectants, fire extinguishers, kerosene, mercury thermometers, solvents, varnishes, thinners, stains, oil-based paints, pesticides, poison, pool chemicals, brake fluid, gasoline, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, antifreeze, batteries, and unbroken fluorescent and LED bulbs	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, Painter Convenience Center (Sat., 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM)
Used household items	Gently used household items in working condition (no furniture or electronics)	Put and Take location (both counties)



# Other Recycling Outlets



In addition to the recycling services offered by the 2 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:

- BatteriesPlus recycles lead acid batteries, nickel cadmium batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion and lithium polymer batteries, and household batteries.
- Home Depot, Lowe's, and Staples recycle rechargeable batteries.
- Staples recycles single-use alkaline and non-rechargeable lithium batteries.

### Fire extinguishers:

- These are better dropped off at any local Fire Department, where they can be recycled, or reconditioned and refilled for resale.

### Light bulbs:

- BatteriesPlus recycles LEDs, 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 and Home Depot recycle CFLs.

### Ink and toner cartridges:

- Best Buy
- Staples (recycle up to 20 cartridges a month; \$2.00 coupon for each cartridge if you spend at least \$50.00 on ink or toner within 180 days prior to recycling)

### Packing material:

- Eastern Shore Printers accepts Styrofoam peanuts, bubble wrap, and other packing materials.

### Potato chip bags and snack wrappers:

- Subaru accepts for TerraCycle program, plus disposable cups, lids, and straws, and coffee and creamer capsules.

### Used household items:

- Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Exmore; household and construction items)
- Lighthouse Ministries Thrift Shop (Onley; clothing, shoes, coats, socks, and underwear in good condition)
- Coalition Against Domestic Violence (household and personal items, clothing, shoes, coats, in good condition)

- Special Olympics boxes at each convenience center in both counties, at the Moose Lodge in Belle Haven, and the Lighthouse Ministries Thrift Shop in Onley; clothes, shoes, belts, purses, stuffed animals, towels, bedding, blankets, curtains, and ties, regardless of condition (used for rags and upholstery stuffing)

### Used medicines:

- H&H Pharmacy and CVS Pharmacy

### Nonperishable food items:

- Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia

### Beverage cans:

- SPCA

### Plastic planting pots and trays:

- Hortco
- Lowe's
- Home Depot

### Used books:

- Little Free Library boxes
- Eastern Shore Public Library
- Local bookstores
- Put & Take locations (in good weather, in boxes)
- Local nursing homes and rehabilitation centers
- YMCA in Onley (children's books only)
- Search for "book donations" online

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:

Waste Watchers of the Eastern Shore of Virginia  
<https://wastewatchersva.org/>

Accomack County Department of Public Works  
<https://www.co.accomack.va.us/departments/public-works>

Northampton County Solid Waste Program  
[https://www.co.northampton.va.us/government/departments\\_elected\\_offices/solid\\_waste](https://www.co.northampton.va.us/government/departments_elected_offices/solid_waste)