

Editorial

During my time as a volunteer journalist for *Cabbagetown Neighbor*, I wrote the article *Making New Things Out of Old Things*. The article was an effort to combat the neighborhood's significant amounts of improper recycling. Since its success, I was able to write *Treating Microorganisms Right* the following month.

MAKING NEW THINGS OUT OF OLD THINGS



**KATIE
MARQUELING**

Let's be honest: recycling is hard. A product's claim that it is recyclable does not necessarily mean that your recycling company will accept it. While you may be trying your best to follow all the rules you have learned, each recycling company has slightly different standards that you might be following incorrectly. Don't worry, though; we are here to (hopefully) help.

Who is my recycling company?

The first step to recycling properly is knowing who your provider is and what their rules are. Cabbagetown residents mainly use two different recycling companies. The Fulton Cotton Mill Lofts and The Stacks uses **Conex Recycling**, whereas the rest of Cabbagetown homes use the City of Atlanta Recycling. Keep in mind that some businesses may use alternative programs, so you should inquire about their programs and their rules before recycling.

What can you recycle?

There are two main recycling models. Conex follows the "paper-plastic-aluminum" model, whereas City of Atlanta uses "paper-plastic-aluminum-glass." While that seems straight-forward, there are surprisingly strict restrictions and weird rules for the categories.

Paper. Almost all forms of paper are accepted. This includes newspapers, magazines, office paper (including shredded), junk mail, catalogs, notebooks, cardboard packages, shoe boxes, and cereal boxes. Any large metal spirals need to be removed, but smaller materials, such as staples, paperclips, and binder clips, are able to be recycled. Glue and tape do not need to be removed as long as they are not excessive. Cardboard products must be disassembled into flat pieces. In simpler terms, any paper or cardboard that is clean and flat is good to go.

Plastic. Plastic containers 1–7 may be recycled. You can determine the type of plastic your container is made of by locating the recycling symbol. Typically, it is printed on the side of a label or embossed on the bottom. Plastic containers must be rinsed and their caps placed back on before being placed in the bin.

Aluminum. Much like plastic products, aluminum products may be recycled as long as they have no food or liquid residues. This includes, but is not limited to, tin cans, soda cans, and aluminum foil.

Glass. The Stacks residents cannot recycle glass. Cabbagetown residents who use the City of Atlanta Recycling can place glass into their bin that is empty, clean, and dry. Lids should be removed if made of a different material.

What can't you recycle?

Items that cannot be recycled with our local recyclers are styrofoam, plastic bags, hazardous materials (including chlorine, paint, motor oil, and cleaners), garbage, light bulbs, electronic devices, clothing, mirrors, photos, and diapers. Essentially, if it is

not an approved paper, plastic, or metal (and sometimes glass), you cannot recycle it in the home bins. When in doubt, throw it out.

What happens if you want to recycle something that your recycling company does not accept?

Just down the street, **The Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM)** takes styrofoam, mixed paper, cardboard, books, musical instruments, bikes, electronics, paint, chemicals, mattresses, cooking oil, tires, glass, appliances, metals, cigarette butts, and plastics. CHaRM is by appointment only, and some items cost a small fee to recycle. Items that are difficult to recycle should never be placed on the side of the curb or in the trash.

What are some general tips?

1. Make sure your containers are clean.
2. Break down (flatten) your boxes.
3. Reduce and reuse before recycling.
4. Take advantage of hard-to-recycle companies.
5. If you have any questions about recycling, contact your recycling provider.

The Games

Continued from previous page.

Flush with someone else's cabbage, Ishkabibble made it rain. Unfortunately, his ability to budget was on par with Epiglotia's voice: it sucked. He threw lavish parties, promoting the games by feeding guests unlimited amounts of Cabbagetown Steak and Yoo-hoo. And oh, sure, after being wine and dined, everybody was stoked to watch a bunch of sports, but hell no they weren't about to give Ishkabibble money.

On November 1st, when the Summer Games were set to begin, competitors arrived to find that Ishkabibble could only afford several burlap sacks, a box of rubber bands, and two hula hoops.

That being said, he had made friends with a musical bootlegger, who was happy to provide free concessions. Well, a funny thing happens when lots of ornery folks guzzle gallons of white lightning: they go freaking nuts. And, oh Lordy Lordy, on top of that, Epiglotia had started to sing...

So, rather than ushering in a new era of Olympic competition, Ishkabibble instead caused the Strike of 1885, which fortunately ended as soon as the moonshine wore off. As for Ishkabibble and Epiglotia...? Some say they swam to Tahiti. Others swear they fell into the Yellow River and are now living deep in the Okefenokee. Regardless, many locals still muse – in only the hushiest of whispers – that one day the two will return to finish what they started...

The Cabbagetown Winter Olympic Games. Street vs. Street. May 20th, 2023. Opening Ceremony at 10a. Team Captains, email us at info@thepatchworks.org. All booze is welcome to attend.

TREAT YO' MICROORGANISMS RIGHT



**KATIE
MARQUELING**

Excess or decaying organic material is typically put in the trash and then taken to a landfill. There, the material begins to break down to its simplest form by microorganisms that need oxygen to survive. When additional garbage enters the landfill and buries organic waste, the microorganisms suffocate and are unable to digest the organic material. As a result, greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are released into the

atmosphere. In order to prevent these toxic gases from entering our atmosphere, we must keep microorganisms alive during the decomposition process.

What is composting?

Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic waste that promotes healthy microorganisms. By focusing on providing oxygen to the decomposition process, soil structure and nutrient content are improved, and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

What can I compost?

Much like regular recycling, what you can compost comes down to who your provider is. The Stacks and many members of C'town partner with **CompostNow**. Fruits and vegetables, meat, bones, dairy, eggshells, paper egg cartons, fats and oils, bread, pasta, cereal, coffee grounds, teabags, shrimp and lobster shells, paper towels, rolls, napkins, paper baking bags, bpi biodegradable plastics, pizza boxes, house plants, and pet food are all accepted by CompostNow.

As a general rule, any organic waste is permitted. It is important to note that "organic waste" in the context of composting refers to anything that contains carbon compounds created by living creatures, not material produced without the assistance of artificial agents. So, regardless of your shopping habits, you can compost!

What can I not compost?

Contrary to what can be composted, anything that is not made of organic material cannot be composted. Metal, plastic, glass, styrofoam, rubber, oyster, clam and mussel shells, candles, cigarette butts, diapers (even if they're labeled compostable),

dryer/lint sheets, fireplace or grill ashes, rubber bands, gloves, and pet waste are therefore not permitted.

Just as with traditional recycling, the claim that a product is compostable does not necessarily mean that your local provider will accept it.

Where can I compost?

Good news! You have a wide variety of choices when it comes to determining what composting service best fits your needs. Your first choice is the **Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM)**. Not only do they take your organic waste, but they also accept almost all hard-to-recycle materials. You can quickly book an appointment at this one-stop shop online.



CompostNow offers composting options that do not require you to leave your home. They provide you with a compost bin that they pick up and exchange for compost for your garden. They have weekly and biweekly plans that start at \$19 per month.

If none of these programs appeal to you, additional options include **Terra Nova Compost**, **Goodr**, **the Urban Food Forest at Brown Mill**, and the **Wylde Center**. If you're feeling ambitious, you can even start your own compost in your garden!

How do I compost?

Determine who you want to partner with on your composting journey and learn their laws and restrictions. Set up a dedicated bin and storage area for your compost. Personally, I store my organic waste in a bowl in the freezer. Mix your organic waste every few days to introduce oxygen and keep the microorganisms happy.

Finally, as with all forms of waste, always try to reduce the amount of organic waste that you produce in the first place.

Editor's note: Big thanks to Christoph for the flavourful headline.

4.37" OF RAIN IN APRIL

Cabbagetown received 4.37 inches of rain in April 2023.

That's .56 inches above the thirty year average.

For 2023, we are 1.73" above the annual thirty year average.