

Glass Recycling at SCRaP



We do not recycle very well in Montana, and though we have made several attempts, we do not recycle glass.

SCRaP started doing research on glass recycling in October 2015 during a partnership program with Students from Rocky Mountain College/ENACTUS. As it turns out, glass is the most sustainable package on earth – it is made of natural, readily available ingredients. It can be reused over and over and is 100 percent, infinitely recyclable.

For example, from a 2014 sustainability report by Owens-Illinois, Inc., the leading global manufacturer of glass, stated they manufactured nearly 40 billion glass containers (beer, wine, spirits, food, nonalcoholic beverages, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals) that year alone.

The report also states they use up to 38 percent recycled glass instead of raw products and have proven they can reduce energy usage by 12 percent and reduce carbon emissions by 14 percent.

The glass manufacturing process produces very little waste. In fact, glass can be made in a closed-loop cycle, meaning the end-of-life materials from glass can be used to remake the exact same product – over and over again. Additionally, using recycled glass in the manufacturing process requires fewer raw materials and less energy, both of which result in lower carbon emissions.

The availability of recycled glass (cullet) primarily depends on a community and States waste collection infrastructure, which means manufacturers are hampered in many parts of the country by a lack of cullet that has been cleanly separated from other recyclables.

To address this, communities should embrace the opportunity to collaborate with other companies and engage directly with policy makers and trade associations to influence sustainability public policy.

These partnerships can then help educate government policymakers on the importance of recycling and glass collection, which would provide tremendous savings in expelled energy, reduce landfill growth, help reduce the carbon emissions, and finally increase long term labor pools.

In the fall of October 2017, we took in glass on a limited basis for a pilot project and placed two 30 second interviews on local TV. Since the release of those interviews we have had close to 1200 phone calls from people interested in glass recycling and have collected nearly 10000 pounds (5 tons).

We are pleased to announce a new Membership Glass Recycling Program in Billings! We will be starting in early fall 2018. If you are interested in joining our Glass Recycling Membership, visit www.ScrapInBillings.com/GlassRecycling/ to enter your name and email.

Membership details:

One-time fee of \$25, and \$5 drop off fee every time you bring your glass to us.

The \$25 dollars will allow SCRaP to purchase 2 blue recycle bins. You will receive one and when you bring your recyclable glass, we will exchange an empty tub with your full one.

The proceeds from the drop-off fee will be used to provide scholarships for local high school students that are in need of financial assistance.

Type of glass we take:

CLEAN food jars, beverage, wine, beer and alcohol bottles (please remove any plastic or aluminum bottle seals). Uncleaned jars and bottles will be refused. No need to remove labels.

We will also take the corks, metal and plastic lids.

Members will be notified of drop-off hours and location.