

Lesson 2 of 3

Recycle it Right, Rutherford County! (demo)

 Andrew RosburyImage Credit: <https://solidwaste.rutherfordcountyn.gov/>

Can I Recycle That?

Did you know that most Americans believe strongly in the importance of recycling?

According to the National Institutes of Health, recycling acceptable household items saves non-renewable resources. For example, by not recycling paper, 80% more wood will need to be harvested to meet growing paper consumption demands. However, through active paper recycling, only 20% more wood will need to be harvested.

It takes **95% less energy** to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials.

Making products from recyclables results in energy savings. Recycled steel saves **60% production energy**, recycled newspaper **40% production energy**, recycled plastics **70% production energy**, and recycled glass **40% production energy**.

Using scrap steel instead of virgin ore to make new steel takes **40% less water** and creates **97% less mining waste**. (NIH citation)

This is all good news!

However, out of 37.4 million tons of materials that could be picked up in curbside recycling from American homes, 20 million tons are thrown in the trash.

That's not good news.

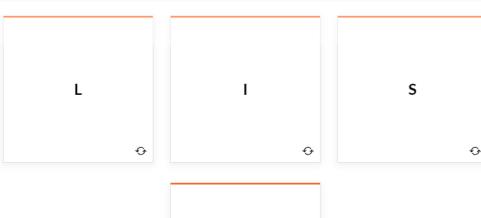
We know we can do better! And Rutherford County is committed to doing better by utilizing single-stream recycling initiatives across the entire county.

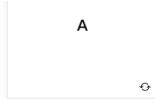
There are many reasons why recycling is a good idea for your community and the environment, and you can join your community and fellow citizens in becoming an informed and effective participant in single-stream recycling.

It's really easy to get started and we even have a name for the four key steps you can take to become an effective recycler:

LISA

Click the flashcards below to learn the four key steps of LISA:





Why Recycling Matters...

All trash is not the same and should not be treated the same.

Recycling acceptable items matters. It matters for the health of our county, it matters for the health of our state and it matters for the health of our planet.

It's all about **LISA**.

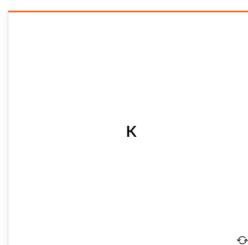
Just four simple steps can make a difference in the amount of trash going to landfills.

Just four simple steps can make a difference by protecting the environment, conserving natural resources, and sustaining the planet for future generations.

That is good news for us and good news for the planet!

But wait, there's one more step to take and it is the most important step of all!

Even better, it's another letter from the alphabet that is easy to remember, just like **LISA**:



Let's take another step forward and learn about how to identify items which are acceptable single-stream recycling in Rutherford County.

If you are familiar with single-stream recycling and would like to access the Visual Reference Guide or Interactive Map, click the orange button to the right.

[JUMP!](#)

LISA says: follow the arrow below to the next section.



white arrow on asphalt pointing.