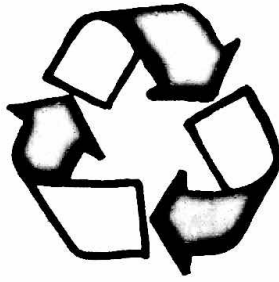
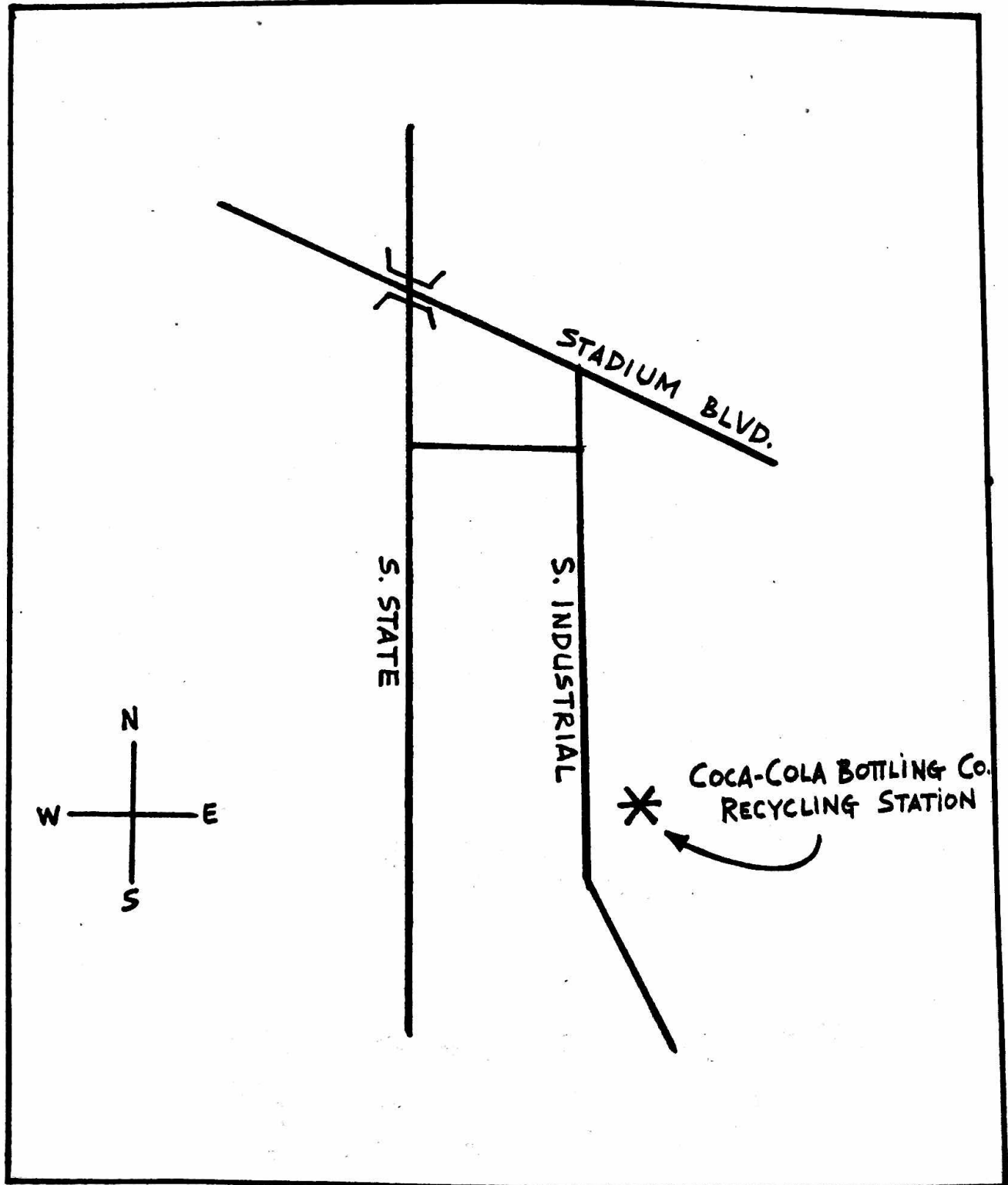


RECYCLE

RECYCLING STATION
1965 S. Industrial Hwy.
Wed. - Sat., 10AM-4:30PM



ECOLOGY CENTER
417 Detroit St.
Mon. - Fri., 9:30AM-5PM
761-3186



1. Where is the recycling station of the Ecology Center?

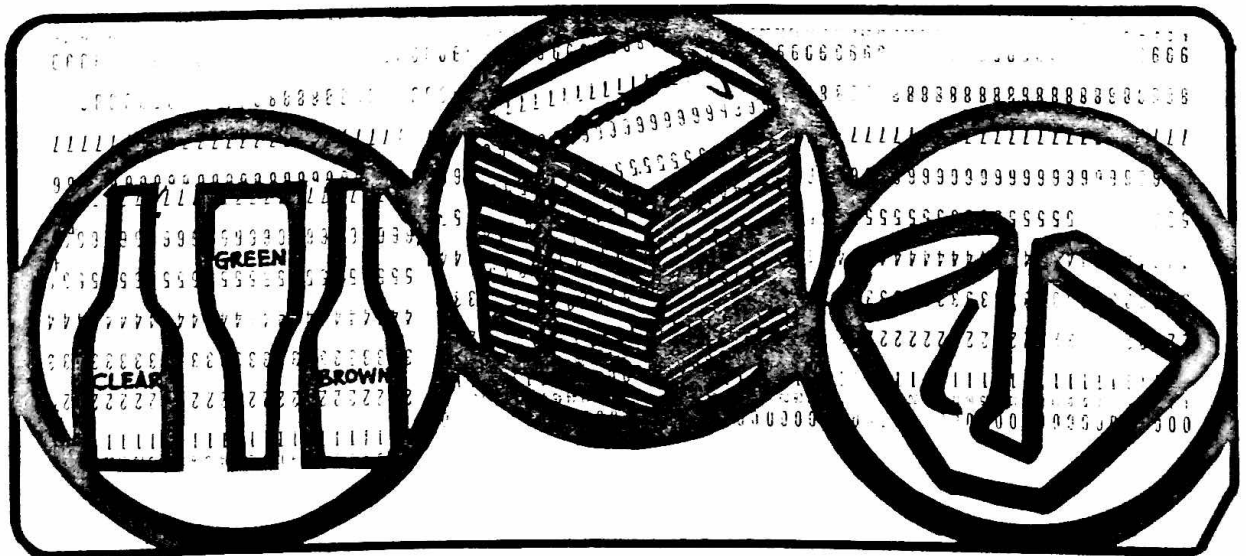
The station is located at 1965 South Industrial Highway, just beyond the Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

2. What are the hours of the station?

Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

3. What materials does the station accept and how should they be prepared?

The station accepts NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, COM-PUTER CARDS, COMPUTER PAPER, GLASS, METAL CANS, AND USED MOTOR OIL. Occasionally cardboard, paper bags, and other paper articles are accepted. Paper articles should be separated and bundled with string. Newspaper must be bundled separately from all other paper matter such as brown paper bags. Staples and other bits of metal should be removed. Glass should be cleaned, sorted by color (green, brown, & clear) and all metal rings etc. removed. We cannot accept pyrex, window pane glass, opaque glass, or colored glass other than brown and green. Metal cans should be cleaned, have labels removed, and be crushed. Aluminum cans should be separated - they have no seams, rounded bottoms, and are much lighter and easier to crush than regular steel and bi-metal cans. Any metal as long as it is crushed and all metal will be accepted.



4. Why do the materials have to be prepared?

Newspaper and other paper must be bundled to facilitate unloading and sorting of the paper truck. (This rule, as well as most preparation rules, are imposed upon us by the people who buy the materials.) Rings left on bottles often go undetected and can ruin up to 100 new bottles when the glass is melted down. Sorting the glass by color helps in unloading more efficiently. Cans must be crushed because they are light and do not pay for trucking costs unless greatly compressed. Cleaning glass and cans is a courtesy to the people working at the station.

5. What should I do when I come to the Recycling Station?

Please pull up as far as you can. Traffic is often heavy and it is important for cars to pull up all the way so traffic doesn't back into the street. Shut off your engine. The station workers must stand in back of as many as several hundred cars a day. Please do not dump any glass yourself. All materials must be checked before going into the bins. If something wrong goes into one of the bins (such as a brown bottle into the clear bin) someone must go into the bin to get it out. Flying glass is a hazard, therefore as few people as possible should be exposed to it. If you wish, unload your materials, feel free to bring your newspaper and magazines to the paper truck. Wait for all your bags and boxes to be returned. The station must pay for garbage removal. By taking your containers, you help cut overhead. Feel free to ask any questions. The station workers are there to help you and always have time to listen to a complaint, comment, or suggestion.

6. What happens to the materials?

Paper matter is sold to Pioneer Paper Co. in Detroit. They supply two semi-trailers and pick them up when full. The trucks are then brought into Pioneer's facility in Detroit where the paper is separated by grade, shredded in a hydropulper, baled and shipped to mills where it is reprocessed. The newspaper usually goes to either a board mill (a paper mill for making cardboard and cardboard boxes) where it is used in making the bottom liner of cardboard boxes, or to insulation, roofing or gypsum mills. There is only one large paper manufacturer (FSC Corporation) that reprocesses old newspaper into newsprint. Recycled newsprint isn't quite as strong as new newsprint. Consequently it cannot be used on many high-speed presses. Magazines all go to insulation, roofing, and gypsum mills. Higher grades of paper, such as computer ledger, go to board mills or book mills. At board mills, paper is used either in the middle liner of the cardboard for strength or the top liner where it is printed on. At book mills, the paper is de-inked and often dyed, then made into bonded paper. IBM cards are unusually useful material. They can be used as a direct pulp substitute and made into almost any paper product.

Glass is trucked by Contractors Container Corporation to an Owens-Illinois plant in Charlotte, Michigan (the only glass recycling plant in Michigan). There it is melted down and made into new containers at a ratio of 70% new glass to 30% old glass.

Metal is trucked to a scrapyard in Belleville, Michigan where it is separated and shipped to Ecorse where Great Lakes Steel melts it and uses it to make auto parts. (The scrapyard does not pay anything for the metal, they merely accept it. The station is paid a subsidy by National Can Corporation). Aluminum is sold to the Black Label distributor and is made into new aluminum cans.

7. Who works at the Recycling Station?

Most labor at the station is volunteer or subsidized through various city, county, and federal programs. During the summer, youths from the Summer Youth Employment Program of Model Cities work at the station. Their salaries are paid by Model Cities. County Vocational Services also places kids with the station. The work usually is the first job experience for these kids. Labor is also received through Operation Misdemeanor, a local court program through which people can have misdemeanors removed from their records by working for community agencies. During the school year, the station also has several work/study students which is a federal aid program to college students. The government pays 80% of their salaries and the Ecology Center pays 20%. There is also a full time manager who is paid by the center. Finally, there are volunteers who donate their time and effort and who are always welcome!

8. Does the Station make money? Where does it go?

The recycling station is a heavily subsidized operation and consequently generates some income. Most labor is free. The rates paid for trucking are reduced. Money received for metal is a subsidy. Use of the land the station is on is generously donated rent free by the Detroit Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Revenue remaining after paying the station overhead goes to the Ecology Center and is used for various other Ecology Center projects.

9. What is the history of the Recycling Station?

Recycling was begun in June of 1970 with a large, two-day glass drive. As a result, a glass recycling station was established on Felch St. in the yard of the Ann Arbor Construction Co. as a pilot program sponsored by Owens-Illinois. Computer cards and paper recycling was begun in 1970. In May 1971 the station was expanded and moved to the Arborland Shopping Center. At this time, the Ecology Center took over total financial and administrative responsibility for the operation. Soon after the opening of the Arborland station, another facility was opened at Westgate Shopping Center to handle newspapers and cans. In December 1971, the two operations consolidated and moved to their present location on South Industrial Highway.

10. How much material is recycled in a month?

Presently (11/75), between 60 and 100 tons of paper matter, 50 to 100 tons of glass, 6 to 14 tons of metal, and several hundred pounds of aluminum are recycled monthly. The station has averaged in 1973 about 80 tons of paper, 65 tons of glass, and 10 tons of metal a month.

11. Where else can material be recycled in the area?

Lansky's Junkyard on N. Main St. accepts paper & cardboard and sometimes pays for it but should be called first. Meijer's Thrifty Acres has a bin in their parking lot for glass. However, they have no means of controlling what goes into their bin and occasionally the glass must be dumped in the landfill because of low quality. By bringing your materials to the Recycling Station you are helping support Ecology Center projects.

12. Is recycling the answer to solid waste problems?

No. It is an important interim method but not a solution. It is a potential solution to paper waste (and consequent destruction of trees and virgin forests) but not just on a consumer scale. The largest single use of paper is to make cardboard and most cardboard is used on a retail and industrial level. Therefore the burden lies mainly with industry and stores. The next largest use is for newsprint. Curbside pickup of newspaper is a more practical and economical alternative. The technology is there to recycle all kinds of paper but there is little incentive for the paper industry to sell recycled products. There is little demand for such products and the government gives large tax credits and depletion allowances for cutting timber. There are no such tax breaks for the recycling industry.

Glass recycling is no answer either. A returnable system is a far more effective solution to glass disposal problems. In comparing a returnable versus throw away can and glass beverage container system, the University of Illinois found that, "The energy required to deliver a unit of soft drink to the consumer is 4.4 times more in throw away glass containers than in 15 trip returnables. (national average)" Returnable containers are cheaper to the consumer and eliminate many solid waste and litter problems. Oregon, which has banned nonreturnable beverage containers, has had an 81% reduction in litter in the first 6 months the law has been in effect. There has not been an increase in prices of beverages or a decrease in sales. However, returnable containers don't allow as large a profit as non-returnable containers, consequently glass manufacturers push recycling, which in effect puts the burden and cost of disposal of their containers on the consumer.

Metal recycling is again a case where the technology to recycle is there but not the monetary incentive. For example, federally set rail shipping rates for scrap metal are 3 times higher than for virgin ore.

13. What can the average consumer do?

Continue to recycle because it does help reduce solid waste. Educate your friends but keep in mind the more important long range goals of improved environmental quality. Buy recycled products whenever possible and put pressure on merchants to stock such products. (Lists of wholesale distributors of recycled paper products are available at the Ecology Center.) Buy returnables whenever you can. Write members of Congress and express your concern about solid waste problems. Call the city and ask about curbside pick-up service for newspaper. Volunteer your time at the Recycling Station or Ecology Center.

ECOLOGY CENTER PROGRAMS

Educational:

- Environmental Education Coordinator
- Organic Garden
- Recycling Station
- Speakers Bureau
- Library
- Newsletter
- Referral Service

Action:

- Downtown Park
- Returnable Ordinance
- Teltran - campaign and follow-up
- Huron River tree planting
- Green and Clean Days

Fund-Raising:

- Bike-a-thon
- Walk-a-thon
- Sale of Christmas Cards

Community Participation:

- Citizen volunteers
- Operation Misdemeanor
- Veteran's Hospital patients
- Summer youth Corps
- University work-study students
- Students from Sullivan School and Lakewood School

The Ecology Center is a non-profit community organization. We are supported to a great extent by donation and strongly encourage volunteer input and participation. Thank you for taking your time with this pamphlet. If you have any further questions or comments, we are located at:

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
313-761-3186

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