

# START NOW WITH THE BIG 4

The current China restrictions on certain recycled commodities has brought to light a crisis within the U.S. recycling industry. Contamination is the recycling crisis, which has been occurring for several years. Confusion is the norm that led to contamination in the bin. People are often unsure as to what they can recycle; so they recycle “everything”. The result is upwards of 20% of what is placed in the recycling bin is trash—and in some instances, contamination is even higher. Compounded with China’s ban on mixed paper and mixed plastics (along with some other commodities), this crisis has necessitated an overhaul to recycling across the country.

Over the last few months, LCSWMA has been on the forefront of working toward a solution for Lancaster County that includes: 1) simplifying the recycling process, 2) standardizing the recycling message, and 3) educating people through a campaign called “Recycle Right!” To help make recycling sustainable in Lancaster County for the long term **we need your help.**

**THE CURBSIDE RECYCLING LIST REVISED TO THE “BIG 4”:** The list of acceptable materials for placement in the curbside recycling bin has changed for Lancaster County only the following materials (the “Big 4”) should be placed in the curbside recycling bin:

- (1) Corrugated Cardboard (clean, flattened)
- (2) Plastic Bottles & Jugs (with a neck)
- (3) Metal Food & Beverage Cans
- (4) Glass Bottles & Jars

Please disregard any other materials, and remember “when in doubt, throw it out”. LCSWMA will turn these materials into renewable energy!

**QUESTIONS?** The recycling crisis has been a widely covered issue in the news recently, and we realize you may have questions. Please visit LCSWMA’s website ([www.lcswma.org/recycling](http://www.lcswma.org/recycling)) on what can be recycled and how, and we encourage you to follow LCSWMA’s social media pages for helpful information and tips.

## What Goes in the Bin?

1



### CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

Includes packing and shipping boxes with fluted sheet

2



### PLASTIC BOTTLES & JUGS

Includes plastic with a neck

3



### METAL FOOD & BEVERAGE CANS

Includes food and beverage cans made from aluminum or tin.

4



### GLASS

Includes clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars.

**TIPS TO RECYCLE RIGHT:** Remove lids  
Items must be empty and rinsed out  
NO plastic bags

No other materials than listed  
Flatten cardboard

For more information visit [lcswma.org/recycling](http://lcswma.org/recycling)