

## Transcript: Green Leek: Recycling at UNCG – Commingled Paper

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Beth: ...if you want to also speak to the chipboard and paperboard recycling, too.

So, I guess talk about some other types of recycling, oh and, pizza boxes.

Ben: OK, well that's, um, first I'll talk about pizza boxes. Pizza boxes, um, are

not recyclable. That's a, City of Greensboro's taken that, made that, decision.

Um, the reason why it's not recyclable is because a lot of times that pizza box has

leftover grease on the box, and um, whenever you introduce grease into the fiber

recycling system, it, um, makes the recycling process ineffective. Basically

what happens is, is paper or cardboard is chipped up into little fibers, and then

mixed into a slurry with an adhesive, and then put onto a felt screen, and when you

have a lipid on the fibers it won't adhere to the screen in order to make new paper.

So it makes that paper far less valuable. And it ends up being down-cycled into less

valuable things, like toilet paper, which is a good thing, but not the ideal thing.

Um, so even if you tear off a portion of that pizza box that's clean cardboard, the

recycling facility staff is trained to  
remove any kind of pizza box, because they

don't want to take the risk of introducing  
those lipids into the cardboard recycling.

So, um, no matter what you do to a pizza  
box you need to keep it out of the

recycling, and put them in the trash.  
That's a very common problem here on campus,

um, and maybe one day the recycling facility  
will be flexible enough to accept it, um,

but as of now our recycling facility does  
not want that.

And, keep in mind, too, that any kind of  
cardboard, except pizza boxes, is recyclable,

so, please do so.  
So, we're moving on to other things with our

commingled program. This time it's good news -  
these are 'Yeses.' the city of Greensboro

wants to include chipboard along with cardboard.  
Chipboard - they used to only take the brown kind,

which is like your cereal boxes; they've expanded  
that and they now take the white chipboard, so

all those beer cases, soda cases, that has  
like the 12-packs in them, all those paperboard-

chipboard materials, those are good. All these  
toilet paper rolls are good, as long as the

toilet paper is off of them. Wrapping paper tubes  
are good to go in there. In addition, they also

are now accepting - and it's not on their website,  
this is fresh news - that they now accept those

juice containers, like those where you get

your orange juice in those, I think

they're 1/2 gallon containers. They're a paperboard, they have a waxy part on there, and before that was

a 'No' and now that's 'Yes.' So, if you buy like your milk in those little paperboard, waxy,

containers, along with those juice containers, those are ok to put in with our commingled program.

Alright, moving on to more paper, as you know, magazines and catalogs and newspaper are ok

to go in the commingled program. Plastic, I mean, paper bags are fine. Plastic bags - No;

paper bags - Yes. This is a low grade paper; they are fine with taking it, along with, you

got these prescription bags. Those are fine to go in there - that's perfectly good paper

for them. However, this paper right here is fine to go into the commingled program, this little

white brochure. Sometimes you'll get this with, like, computer equipment and other things.

You don't need to remove the staples, they're fine to stay in there. But one of these things

that makes it really neat is, since this is like a white paper, like comes out of your

copy machine, we can include this, in addition to the commingled program, with our office

paper program, and I would prefer you put it with the office paper program because the

university makes revenue on that. So, when you see these, comes in with your computer

stuff - that's all this nice white paper, please include that with your office paper.

Alright, moving on to more paper, we're hitting the holidays, we're going to be

getting lots of gifts. I recommend using gift bags - you can reuse those multiple

times, and after you're done using them, those gift bags can go in the recycling.

However, the tissue paper that is inside the bags, this is trash. This is not

recyclable, sadly, this is a very low quality type of paper that's in the same

family as toilet paper. We do not want that in our commingled bins. However, going

back, if you had some wrapping paper, this is in the same class of material as magazines,

so this will be accepted with our program. All those little strings, and bows, those

are not recyclable, any kind of metal [decoration] is not recyclable. If it has

a little foil on it, that's fine, a little bit of tape, that's fine. That's again,

the same class as magazines, so this will be a 'Yes.' So, I hope I haven't confused

you too much, if you have any more questions, you can always give my office call. On every

single recycling bin inside your building is my phone number, and you can feel free

to give me a call, or you can email me at [recycle@uncg.edu](mailto:recycle@uncg.edu), Thank you.

