



EUREKA!
RECYCLING

About Us

Eureka Recycling is a nonprofit organization and social enterprise recycler based in the Twin Cities. As one of only a few nonprofit recyclers in the United States, we have provided recycling services and Zero Waste education to the Twin Cities metro since 2001.

We believe that communities deserve access to accurate information about waste reduction. We operate as a zero waste laboratory. Taking the data and experiences from our operations, we apply it to policy work aimed at changing systems to make it easier to recycle, and, more importantly, reduce waste and build reuse systems.

Let's Connect

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Ban Bags From Bins

KEEP PLASTIC BAGS OUT OF RECYCLING BINS

Plastic bags pose significant challenges in MRFs (material recovery facilities) where the recycling collected from residential carts is delivered.

MALFUNCTIONS IN PROCESSING

The lightweight and flexible nature of plastic bags causes them to get tangled in the sorting equipment, leading to costly malfunctions and improperly sorting of materials.

SAFETY ISSUES

Because plastic bags are made from petroleum, they can cause fires when sucked into motors or can ignite with friction when stuck in equipment. MRF workers must open up and physically get inside the inner workings of machinery to remove plastic bags.

NO VIABLE MARKETS

Low market value and lack of demand discourage recycling facilities from investing the millions of dollars in equipment, labor, and downtime it would require to integrate plastic bag sorting into a multi-stream recycling program.

SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

- **Refuse:** Switch to reusable bags
- **Repurpose:** Use for garbage liners or pet waste
- **Discourage:** Support or advocate for plastic bag bans or fees for the use of bags - both encourage the use of reusable bags and cut consumers' reliance on plastic bags in stores.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

bit.ly/Eureka-ban-the-bag

