



Sustainable Roanoke volunteers are collecting a varied number of recyclable materials not accepted by the City's sorting facility for recycling. We then send them to different facilities to be recycled, repurposed or reused. Anyone reading this document can do the same thing on their own, or get groups of people together and combine efforts - all the information you need is included in this document. Please share this widely!

Before we delve into the items we collect at our events, please consider this stream that you can take care of on your own in Roanoke:

Sustainable Roanoke's Recyclables List

1. Rigid plastic items (#1, #2, #4, #5, and #6) → [Plastic Network](#)

IMPORTANT for #1 and #2: We will accept only the types of #1 and #2 plastics that are not accepted by the RDS. We accept, for example, clamshells, egg containers, or small medicine bottles, which are not recognized by the RDS computer as desirable. We realize that this can be confusing and ask for your patient cooperation. If you are not sure about something, bring your items to us and we will let you know if they are acceptable.

Best practices for recycling: Items must be washed clean and dry. If labels are easy to remove, please do remove them. If not, leave them on. **NO NEED TO SORT BY PLASTIC! YESSSS!**

2. Plastic film → [Trex](#)

Check out the [video](#) we made explaining what kinds of plastic we collect.

Accepted items:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case overwraps
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Ziplock & other re-sealable bags (except the ones made for frozen foods!)
- Produce bags
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags
- Tarps

Not accepted items: On the same link as the accepted items, scroll down to see what is NOT ACCEPTED.

Required: All materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue

New! You don't have to wait for our recycling events. You can drop off your plastic film at [uCell2us](#) at 2001 Centre Ave NW Roanoke VA 24017, Monday-Friday 8:30am-6pm and Saturday 8:30am-4pm. You will need to just pull into the gated area and there is a side entry bay door for you to drop off the plastic at. Make sure that the film is NOT loose and is in either grocery bags or trash bags and tied closed so that it does not blow away.

3. Packing polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) ➡ [Atlas Molded Products \(276\) 638-3592 \(445 Industrial Park Dr, Ridgeway, VA 24148\)](#)

Accepted items: White, CLEAN Styrofoam.

Best practices for recycling (as explained to us by Atlas Molded Products): Remove all dirt, tape, stickers... Make sure it's clean. DO NOT BREAK UP.

Check out [our video](#) to learn the differences between packing and foodservice Styrofoam.

4. Foodservice polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) ➡ [Dart Container Foodservice Products](#)

Accepted items: Cups, egg cartons, and other Styrofoam used to package & serve food.

Best practices for recycling: Items must be washed clean and dry.

Send to:

3219 Wesleyan Rd, Randleman, NC 27317

5. Small-size metals: caps, jar lids, bolts, nails, and small hardware objects ➡ [Gerdau Metal Recycling](#)

A Sustainable Roanoke member will take them to [Gerdau Metal Recycling](#) and give us whatever money she gets from them. Please make sure that whatever you bring is **CLEAN!**

If you have larger size metal items, (including cat food and tuna cans) or if you can't make it to our events, you take them yourself to [Gerdau Metal Recycling](#), located at 2580 Broadway Ave SW, Roanoke, VA 24014. They will give you money for your metal, which you can keep or ask Gerdau to add to Sustainable Roanoke's account!

6. Sneakers ➡ [Got Sneakers](#)

Accepted items: Gently used sneakers.

For detailed guidelines, click [here](#). Sneakers in good condition will be donated to people in need around the world. Unwearable footwear will be turned into rubber mats and other athletic surfaces.

This program is a fundraiser for Sustainable Roanoke and North Cross School.

7. Teva Sandals → [Teva](#)

Accepted items: Any Teva sandals.

Best practices for recycling: Make sure they are clean and dry!

Important: At Sustainable Roanoke we thought it makes sense to gather many of them to minimize the shipping carbon footprint but, if you have a bunch of them, you can send them to Teva yourself - check out [this link](#) to learn how to do it.



8. Guitar strings → [D'Addario](#)

We will bring the strings to [Fret Mill Music Co.](#), located at [19 Salem Ave SE, Roanoke, VA 24011, USA](#) in downtown Roanoke.

9. Bread clips → [Danielle Cares for Chairs](#)

Danielle Cares for Chairs is a non-profit that recycles the tags and uses the funds to provide wheelchairs to people in need.

10. Tennis balls → [Recycle Balls](#) or donate to local schools to be used as floor protection in chairs

Best practices for recycling: Balls must be clean and dry.

11. Wrapped plastic flatware and condiment packages → [RAM House](#)

Accepted items: Plastic flatware still in its original plastic wrap (such as the type that is given with takeout orders) and small condiment packages.

What happens to these items? A volunteer will take them to RAM House to distribute among people who need them.



Although they will not get recycled, at least they will have served a purpose!

12. Bottle corks → [Re-Cork C'ville](#)

Accepted items: Any bottle corks.

Helpful hints:

Anyone traveling north can bring their own corks to one of [Re-Cork's drop boxes](#) (scroll down for locations). If you have tons (like a garbage bag-full or more,) you can leave them on their loading dock at 805 Preston Avenue, Charlottesville VA 22903 (the loading dock is around the back to the right of the building).

Lately, some wine makers have decided to use synthetic (aka, plastic) stoppers which are, you guessed it, unrecyclable and bad for the environment. If you want to make sure the wine you buy uses natural cork, check out this [database](#).

13. Bicycle inner tubes → [Alchemy Goods](#)

Accepted items: Just bicycle inner tubes **with their valves removed.**

Not accepted: Tires, small children's bike inner tubes, tubes filled with slime, balloon tires.

If you have lots of inner tubes and would like to ship them yourself:

Eco Brands Group
Tube Recycling
2500 47th St. Unit 12
Boulder Co. 80301

14. Electronics → [UCell2Us](#)

Accepted Items: Old cell phones, laptops, PC Towers, Printers, Televisions, almost anything with an electric current running through it.

Not Accepted Items: Batteries and light bulbs.

Or you can sell your items by appointment or simply drop them off in the brown box in front of the gate.

UCell2Us
2001 Center Ave., N.W.
Roanoke, Va. 24017 540-339-6831