

SDSU Recycling Guidelines

As part of SDSU's sustainability efforts, recycling is available across campus. Below is information on the program including what can be recycled.

The Basics

What Can Be Recycled?

The SDSU Recycling Guide is available [online](#). It is important to only place recyclable items into the recycling bin, as this ensures that the material is recycled and is of high quality.*



Where Do I Put Recycling?

SDSU uses a single stream recycling system which means all recycling (cans, paper, plastic, etc.) goes into one bin and does not need to be sorted**. All recycling **bins** are blue for easy identification.

No Plastic Bags

Due to regional recycling industry standards, plastic bags are not recyclable in the single stream system. This includes plastic bags used to hold other recyclable items.



As shown above, it is recommended to not use a plastic bag at all when collecting recycling. However, if a plastic bag must be used to bring recyclables to the dumpster, please empty the bag's contents into the recycling dumpster and then either reuse the bag, throw the bag into the trash, or place the bag in the special plastic bag collection bin located near the recycling dumpster. The plastic bag collection bins are located by all Residential Life dumpsters except SE Apartments, Hansen Hall, Wecota, and Meadows North and South. Plastic bags collected in these bins are recycled at a special facility that can process bulk quantities of plastic bags.



Plastic Bag Collection Bin

To learn more about how SDSU recycling is processed once it leaves campus, watch this video tour of the regional material recovery facility.

[Recycling Facility Tour](#)

For all questions regarding recycling and campus sustainability, please contact Jennifer McLaughlin, Sustainability Specialist at 688-4136 or jennifer.mclaughlin@sdstate.edu

*Placing non-recyclable items into the recycling bin not only affects the quality of the recycling, but can also impact the entire recycling process by damaging machinery and hurting employees. In some cases, too much trash in a recycling bin can cause that entire bin's contents to be taken to the landfill instead of being recycled.

**There are exceptions to this rule! Please follow the [SDSU Recycling Guide](#) for what can be placed in the single stream recycling bins. Other items may be able to be recycled but must be handled separately. These items are listed [here](#).

