

# EPA Sustainable Materials Management Web Academy



**Managing “Recycling”  
Contamination: What works and  
What is a Waste**

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# Managing “Recycling” Contamination: What works and What is a Waste

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# National Waste & Recycling Association<sup>SM</sup>

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

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Contamination in recycling  
Anne Germain



**SINGLE STREAM =  
INCREASED DIVERSION**



# SINGLE STREAM Recyclables

**MIXED PAPER**

Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, brown paper bags, paper packaging, beverage cartons, all office paper, phone books, envelopes, junk mail

**PLASTIC**

All beverage and food containers, detergent bottles, household cleaners, yogurt cups, rigid plastics

**GLASS**

All beverage and food containers

**METAL**

Aluminum cans, aluminum pans, foil

**CARDBOARD**

Flattened boxes

Please empty, rinse and squash all containers. Remove lids when possible. No foam containers.



## What Goes in the Blue Cart?



[www.savethatstuff.com](http://www.savethatstuff.com)  
617.241.9998

Printed on post consumer recycled paper



**SINGLE STREAM =  
INCREASED CONTAMINATION?**



**GOAL:**



# MAXIMIZING DIVERSION WHILE MINIMIZING CONTAMINATION

