

# Recycling Programs



## Give Recycling a Warm Welcome.

Reducing and reusing are the first steps in establishing sustainable practices at your bed and breakfast. But recycling also plays a significant role in diverting waste from landfills.

Recycling is a process that transforms used items into new products, saving energy and raw materials while keeping useful waste out of the landfill.

## Getting Started

To implement a successful recycling program, you will need to determine which types of materials can be recycled in your region, set up recycling bins with necessary signage, educate staff and assign duties accordingly.

- Determine which materials are accepted in the recycling programs available in your area and which are financially feasible and most appropriate for your bed and breakfast. Options may vary depending on your community or waste management region.
- **Beverage container recycling.** Ask your nearest Green Depot about drop-off services or if pick-up service is available.

- **Paper and container recycling.** Contact your local municipality or waste management region about curbside programs, or contact a private waste-hauler about other recycling services in your area.

- Explore safe disposal options for household hazardous waste such as paint, batteries, CFL light bulbs and household cleaners.
- Explore options for electronic waste recycling in your area.

*TIP:* Consider conducting a waste audit to determine the types and amounts of waste generated at your bed and breakfast. Refer to MMSB's *Waste Audit Guide for Bed and Breakfasts*.

## Setting Up Your Program

- Choose appropriate locations to place recycling bins throughout your bed and breakfast—guest rooms, common areas, kitchen and office.
- Choose a location for larger central recycling bins such as the garage, basement or kitchen; empty smaller bins from guest rooms and other locations regularly.
- Post signage on or beside each bin explaining which items should and should not be placed in the bin.
- If necessary, create a regular recycling schedule for collection and drop-off at your nearest Green Depot.

## Promoting Your Program

- Educate staff or other family members about your recycling programs and provide a list of accepted materials as well as any other necessary information.
- Conduct a walk-through of the building with staff or family members to ensure they are clear on the new recycling program, where the bins are located and their individual responsibilities.
- Communicate information about your recycling programs to guests by including the information on print materials in your guest rooms.

## Maintaining Your Program

- Ask guests for feedback on your recycling system; try an electronic survey or comment card.
- Make necessary program changes based on feedback.
- Update staff and guests on any changes or new recycling initiatives.
- Measure your program's success by conducting waste audits annually; set a goal to create less waste than the previous year.

Establishing a recycling program at your bed and breakfast may result in a few initial challenges; however, recycling will soon become second nature to you, your staff and your guests. By initiating more sustainable practices, your bed and breakfast is demonstrating a true commitment to the environment and becoming a role model for other businesses in your community.

