
Supplement D
Glossary

The following glossary terms are defined for the Arizona Recycling Program annual report. The program obtained the definitions from the sources listed at the end of the glossary.

- A -

Amber glass - brown glass used for beverage containers.

- B -

Backyard composting - on-site controlled decomposition of organic matter by micro-organisms (mainly bacteria and fungi) into a humus-like product. Backyard composting is excluded from recycling activities. It is considered source reduction because the composted material never enters the municipal solid waste stream.

Baler - equipment that compacts and binds recyclable materials to reduce volume and transportation costs.

Bimetal - made of two metals; particularly in reference to beverage cans made of both aluminum and steel.

Biosolids - sewage sludge that includes exceptional quality biosolids that is placed on, or applied to land in order to use the beneficial properties of the material as a soil amendment, conditioner or fertilizer.

Blue bag - blue bag recycling programs are a form of curbside collection of recyclables. The recyclables are placed within a blue colored bag for collection.

BOPA - a special household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event of batteries, oil, paint and antifreeze.

Buy-back centers - a commercial operation that pays individuals for recovered materials. This could include scrap metal dealers, aluminum can centers, waste haulers or paper dealers. Materials are collected by individuals, small businesses and charitable organizations.

- C -

Chipboard - a generic term that includes heavy classes of paper that are used in the production of dry food containers. It is also known as paperboard or boxboard. See paperboard.

Closing the loop - the complete cycle of collecting, processing, manufacturing and purchasing products with recycled contents; with an emphasis on purchasing.

Combustible(s) - waste capable of being burned.

Commingled - a mixture of any number of recyclable materials that must be separated before they can be recycled.

Compost - a substance occurring from the natural breakdown of plant and animal material by microbial decay. It is rich in humus that is beneficial to plants; the product of composting is not a fertilizer.

Composting - a controlled waste management alternative in which organic wastes are partially decomposed by aerobic bacteria and fungi, producing a useful soil enhancer.

Construction and demolition debris (C & D) - waste generated by the construction and demolition industry, including new construction, remodeling and demolition of homes, businesses and other buildings.

Corrugated cardboard - three layers of paperboard made for packaging purposes to protect products. The outer layers are smooth with an inner layer that has wrinkles or folds.

Corrosives - chemicals that cause visible destruction of or irreversible alterations in

living tissue by chemical action at the site of contact.

Cullet - small pieces of broken or refuse glass or plastic, usually added to new material to facilitate melting when making new products.

Curbside recycling - any residential recycling program that collects a variety of materials left in close proximity to their sources on a regularly scheduled basis. The program requires the collection of one recyclable material other than greenwaste or white goods. Material can be collected at the curb or in the alley for single family residences. Multi-family complexes are included if on-site recycling containers are provided. The recyclable materials may be source separated, sorted at the curb, blue bagged or the complete residential waste stream sorted at a dirty materials recovery facility (MRF).

- D -

Dirty MRF - a facility that receives waste just as if it were going to a landfill. The mixed waste is loaded on conveyors and, using both mechanical and manual (high and low technology) sorting, recyclable materials are removed for further processing.

Diversion rate - the percentage of all waste, municipal and non-municipal, that is diverted from landfills. It also includes any municipal solid waste diverted from landfills, but is not recycled. This includes items that are reused and materials that are burned for energy.

Drop-off centers - locations, often with unattended bins, where consumers can leave recyclable materials.

- F -

Feedstock - raw materials required for an industrial process.

Ferrous - any metal containing iron, such as

cast iron, steel and stainless steel. Ferrous metals are magnetic.

Fiscal year (FY) - a designated reporting period. For ADEQ, it is July 1 through June 30 of each year.

Flammable(s) - easily ignited or capable of burning with great rapidity.

Flint glass - clear glass used in food and beverage containers.

Fly ash - small, solid particles of ash and soot generated when coal, oil or waste materials are burned. Fly ash is suspended in the flue gas after combustion and is removed by the pollution control equipment.

- G -

Generation rate - the average amount of municipal solid waste generated by each person in a designated population per day. It is determined by dividing the sum of the amount of municipal solid waste landfilled and recycled by the product of the population and the number of days in a year.

- H -

HDPE plastic (code #2) - high density polyethylene; a plastic used to make packaging such as milk jugs, purified water containers, detergent bottles and the base cups of PET plastic soda bottles.

Household hazardous waste (HHW) - products used in the home that contain substances that are listed or that exhibit the characteristics of hazardous wastes as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): toxic, corrosive, ignitable or reactive. RCRA does not require that household hazardous wastes be disposed of as hazardous wastes, but caution should be taken to dispose of them to minimize the impact to human health and the environment.

- I -

Illegal dumping (wildcat dumping) - disposing of waste in an improper manner and/or location and in violation of waste disposal laws.

In-vessel composting - composting of organic matter within a large container or vessel. The vessel is cylindrical in shape and lies just below horizontal so as the cylinder is slowly mechanically rotated, the material moves along its length. The vessel contains three chambers along its length and the material resides with each chamber for one day. At the end of three days, the decomposed material emerges to be cured in static piles.

- L -

Landfill - a large, outdoor area for burying solid waste; in sanitary landfills, waste is layered and covered with soil.

Linerboard - the material that makes up the outside layers of a corrugated container.

- M -

Master composter - a program, taught by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension offices, that provides training to individuals who wish to share the composting information with others.

Master recyclers - a training program emphasizing the promotion of recycling awareness. The program encourages volunteers to share recycling information with others.

Materials recovery facility (MRF) - a facility that separates collected commingled recyclables by material type. This process prepares materials for remanufacturing.

Mixed paper - a "catch all" category for unsorted paper recovered from offices, homes and other establishments and includes light colored papers, envelopes, magazines, catalogs,

manilla folders, newspapers, phone books, daily mail, etc.

Monomer - a molecule that can be chemically bound as a unit of a polymer.

Mulch - a protective covering of various substances (especially chipped non-decomposed organic material) placed on the earth around plants to retard weed growth and prevent moisture evaporation and freezing of roots.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) - wastes such as durable goods, non-durable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings and miscellaneous inorganic wastes from the residential, commercial, institutional and industrial solid waste sources. Examples of wastes from these categories include: appliances, automobile tires, newspaper, clothing, boxes, disposable tableware, office and classroom paper, wood pallets and cafeteria waste.

- N -

Natural resource - the supply of non-manufactured materials used to make goods.

Newsprint - uncoated paper, whether supercalendered or machine finished, including the type generally used for the publication of newspapers, commercial advertising inserts, directories or commercial advertising mailers, that is made primarily from mechanical wood pulps combined with some chemical wood pulp. Newsprint includes paper made from old newspapers that have been de-inked, using the recycled pulp in lieu of virgin pulp. Newsprint includes all grades of paper sold as newsprint, supercalendered (SC) uncoated groundwood or machine finished (MF) uncoated groundwood.

Non-ferrous - any metal not containing iron,

such as aluminum, copper and lead.
Non-ferrous metals are not magnetic.

Non-municipal solid waste (non-MSW) - heavy industrial and commercial wastes. Examples of non-municipal solid waste include construction and demolition debris, automobile bodies, municipal sludge, combustion ash and industrial process wastes that might be disposed of in municipal solid waste landfills.

Nonrenewable resource - a natural resource that is not capable of being naturally restored or replenished; resources available in a fixed amount (stock) in the earth's crust; they can be exhausted either because they are not replaced by natural processes (copper) or because they are replaced more slowly than they are used (oil and coal).

- **O** -

OCC - old corrugated containers.

Office paper - white, mixed color, computer, etc. is part of the commercial recyclables collection infrastructure.

ONP - old newsprint.

Organic - derived from living organisms; organic wastes include food, leaves, grass clippings, etc.

Overruns - quantity of newspapers or other printed material that is larger than that ordered or needed and is left unsold. The material is often collected from retail outlets by the distributor and either recycled or landfilled.

Oxidizers - substances that are combined with oxygen to make oxide, a binary compound of an element.

- **P** -

Packaging - the materials used to wrap, contain and protect food, household and industrial products; materials used to make packaging are from paper, cardboard, metals, ceramics, glass, wood, plastics or paperboard.

Paper - newspaper, high grade office paper, fine paper, bond paper, offset paper, xerographic paper, duplicator paper and related types of cellulosic material containing not more than 10 percent by weight or volume of noncellulosic material such as laminates, binders, coatings or saturants.

PET plastic (code #1) - polyethylene; a lightweight, rigid, transparent plastic that is resistant to chemicals and moisture; also referred to as PETE plastic; used to make soda bottles and other food product containers. Some containers have a base cup made from HDPE plastic.

Plastics - a specific polymer or mix of polymers in combination with various amounts of plasticizers, stabilizers, colorants, fillers and other organic and inorganic compounds.

Post-consumer material - a discard generated by a business or residence that has fulfilled its originally intended use. Post-consumer material includes discards from industrial or manufacturing processes.

Pre-consumer material - waste generated during the manufacturing process, including industrial scraps, trimmings and overruns.

Precycling - a source reduction option where by evaluation and selection of items for purchase is dependent upon method of manufacture, product content and recyclability of the product after consumer use.

Process or processing - the reduction, separation, recovery, conversion or recycling of solid waste.

Pulp substitute - a material, often generated in the converting operation, that can replace wood pulp materials in paper and paperboard production. This grade of paper is almost exclusively a pre-consumer material.

- R -

Recyclable material - post-consumer materials that may be collected, separated, cleansed, treated or reconstituted and returned to the economic stream in the form of raw materials or products.

Recycle (recycling) - to reprocess materials that may otherwise be thrown away for use in the manufacture of new products. Collecting, sorting and transporting of the waste materials are important steps in recycling. Materials such as aluminum, steel, paper, glass and plastic can be recycled.

Recycled - a process by which post-consumer materials are collected, separated, cleansed, treated or reconstituted and returned to the economic stream in the form of raw materials or products.

Recycled materials - those materials that have been separated from the municipal or county solid waste stream, processed and returned to the economic stream in the form of raw materials or products.

Recycling bin - a container in which to put recyclable materials.

Recycling center - a place where recyclable items are taken for processing.

Recycling loop - a process in which used materials are separated from other solid waste and made into new products. The loop is completed when recycled products are used.

Recycling rate - the percentage of municipal solid waste (MSW) that has been recycled. It

differs from the diversion rate because only municipal solid waste is used in determining its value. Also, municipal solid waste that is diverted but not truly recycled, such as items that are reused and material that is burned for energy, is not counted as recycled. This material is included as part of the municipal solid waste stream.

Reduce - to use less of a product, package or an energy source.

Reusable - capable of being used again, either as is or with repairs.

Reuse - the return of a commodity into the economic stream for use in the same kind of application as before without change in its identity.

Roll-off container - this is a metal container, twenty cubic yards or greater in volume, that is picked-up by a large semi-truck, transported to a processing site, "rolled-off" its transport and emptied. These containers are usually used in the collection of large or bulky items such as yard trimmings, C & D debris and land clearing material.

- S -

Solid waste - any garbage, trash, rubbish, waste tire, refuse or sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or pollution control facility and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material.

Solid waste management - the systematic administration of activities which provide for the collection, source separation, storage, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment or disposal of solid waste in a manner that protects public health, safety and the environment, and prevents and abates environmental nuisances.

Source reduction - any action that causes a net reduction in the generation of solid waste and includes reducing the use of non-recyclable materials, replacing disposable materials and products, reducing packaging, reducing the amount of yard waste generated, establishing garbage rate structure with incentives to reduce the amount of wastes that generators produce, and increasing the efficiency of the use of paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastic and other materials in the manufacturing process.

Source separation - the segregation of various materials from the waste stream at the point of generation for recycling (e.g., householders separating paper, metal and glass from the rest of their waste).

- T -

Transfer station- a site that is owned, operated or used by any person for the rehandling or storage for 90 days or less of solid waste that was generated off-site for the primary purpose of transporting that solid waste. A transfer facility includes those facilities that include significant solid waste transfer station activities that warrant the facility's regulation as a transfer facility.

- U -

UBCs - used beverage containers made from aluminum.

Used oil - any oil that has been refined from crude or synthetic oil, and as a result of use, storage or handling has become unsuitable for its original purpose due to the presence of impurities or loss of original properties, but

that may be suitable for further use and may be economically recyclable.

- V -

Vegetable waste - waste generated through discards of produce during the processing, distribution, retail and preparation stages of the produce's life.

Virgin material - occurring in its natural or raw form. Virgin materials are derived from natural resources and do not include recyclables.

- W -

Waste generator - a person, business, government agency or other organization that produces solid waste.

Waste stream - the solid waste material output of a community, region or facility.

Waste-to-energy - a recovery process where waste is burned as received or after being processed to a more uniform fuel, which generates steam or electricity.

Wood waste - dimensional lumber, such as a two-by-four plywood or particle board, that can be characterized as C & D debris or any wood pallet.

- Y -

Yard waste (yard trimmings) - vegetative matter resulting from landscaping maintenance and includes materials such as tree and shrub trimmings, grass clippings, palm fronds and trees.

References

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