

TerraCycle



When one hears the word “recycling” one thinks of aluminum beverage cans, steel cans, newspaper, magazines / catalogs, mixed paper, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, ink cartridges, vehicles, and if you are lucky enough to live in a community where recycling glass bottles and #3-#7 plastics is available, those items might come to mind.

Now think outside the box, or pouch! TerraCycle is a company that takes recycling to a new level. Working with this company can help businesses, schools, communities make Zero Waste a reality.

TerraCycle is on a mission to eliminate the idea of waste. They do this by creating waste collection programs (a “Brigade”) for previously non-recyclable, or difficult-to-recycle, waste. The collected waste is then converted into new products, ranging from recycled park benches to upcycled backpacks.

There are more than 40 Brigade programs that range from packaging (like drink pouches and chip bags) to office supplies (like pens and tape dispensers) to personal products (like cosmetic and diaper packaging). Check out the web site for all of the possibilities. You / your organization simply sign up for the Brigades for which you want to collect and then follow the simple directions for how to **Collect, Store and Ship** at www.terracycle.net .

Once your waste is received at the TerraCycle facility your collection location will be credited with any [TerraCycle points](#) that you may have earned for your waste. TerraCycle points can be redeemed for a variety of charitable gifts, or for a payment of \$.01 per point to the non-profit organization or school of your choice.

TerraCycle’s team of scientists and designers have found ways to recycle and upcycle the waste we normally would THROW AWAY into cool new

[products.](#)

Summer is a time for outdoor events. Many of us who are pretty good about recycling when it is convenient (at home, work, school, church) often abandon our recycling will when the trash bin is easier to reach.

When a purchase is made for a summer event consider what the end result will be for that item. In addition to using paper products that can decompose in a landfill or a compost pile, or buying plastic utensils that can be washed and reused (just add a little bleach to the water), another way to dispose of those Solo brand cups (found at every indoor / outdoor celebration or event it seems) is through TerraCycle. Good News Mother Earth! Solo cups should no longer enter the waste stream but instead be collected for the recycling stream via TerraCycle.

Go to www.terracycle.net for a look at the company history and the list of Brigades (items) they recycle. I learn something new every time I go to their web site. You'll be hearing more from the McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council (MCRC) about TerraCycle as we work with the community on collecting Brigade items.

Let us know if your school, church, group, or organization will be collecting for a Brigade. MCRC will help spread the word and get the community saving for you. Contact the author at betsywindisch@yahoo.com or send a message through the MCRC web site at recyclegallup.org .