

## WHAT IS RECYCLING?

- Recycling is taking waste material, or something that would be thrown away, and reprocessing it into a something new.
- Paper, cardboard, plastic 1 and 2, aluminum, and tin can be recycled at the West TN Regional Recycling Hub.
- By reducing waste through recycling, we can limit how much waste enters our landfills.

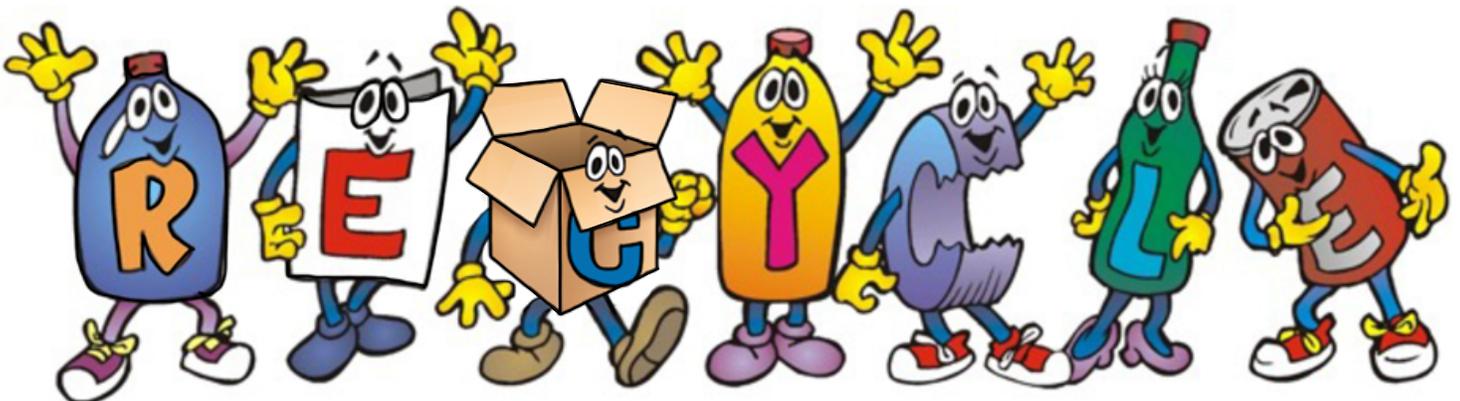
## WHY IS RECYCLING IMPORTANT?

- Recycling waste materials uses less energy than converting raw materials into a product.
- It helps prevent pollution and lessens the amount of waste thrown in landfills.
- Recycling saves natural resources while allowing trash to be repurposed.



## RECYCLING FACTS:

- It takes an aluminum can 60 days to be recycled and put back onto a grocery store shelf.
- Aluminum cans are the most recycled drink container in America.
- Paper recycled at the West TN Regional Recycling Hub is turned into tissue paper.
- One glass bottle can take up to 4000 years to decompose meaning it would sit in a landfill for a very long time.
- A 30 percent recycling rate is about the same as removing 30 million cars off the road.



# RECYCLE VOCABULARY



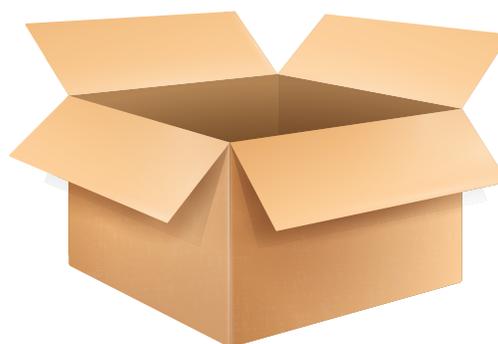
plastic



aluminum



paper



cardboard

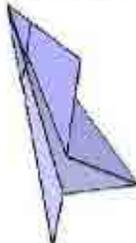
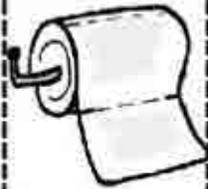
# Recycle



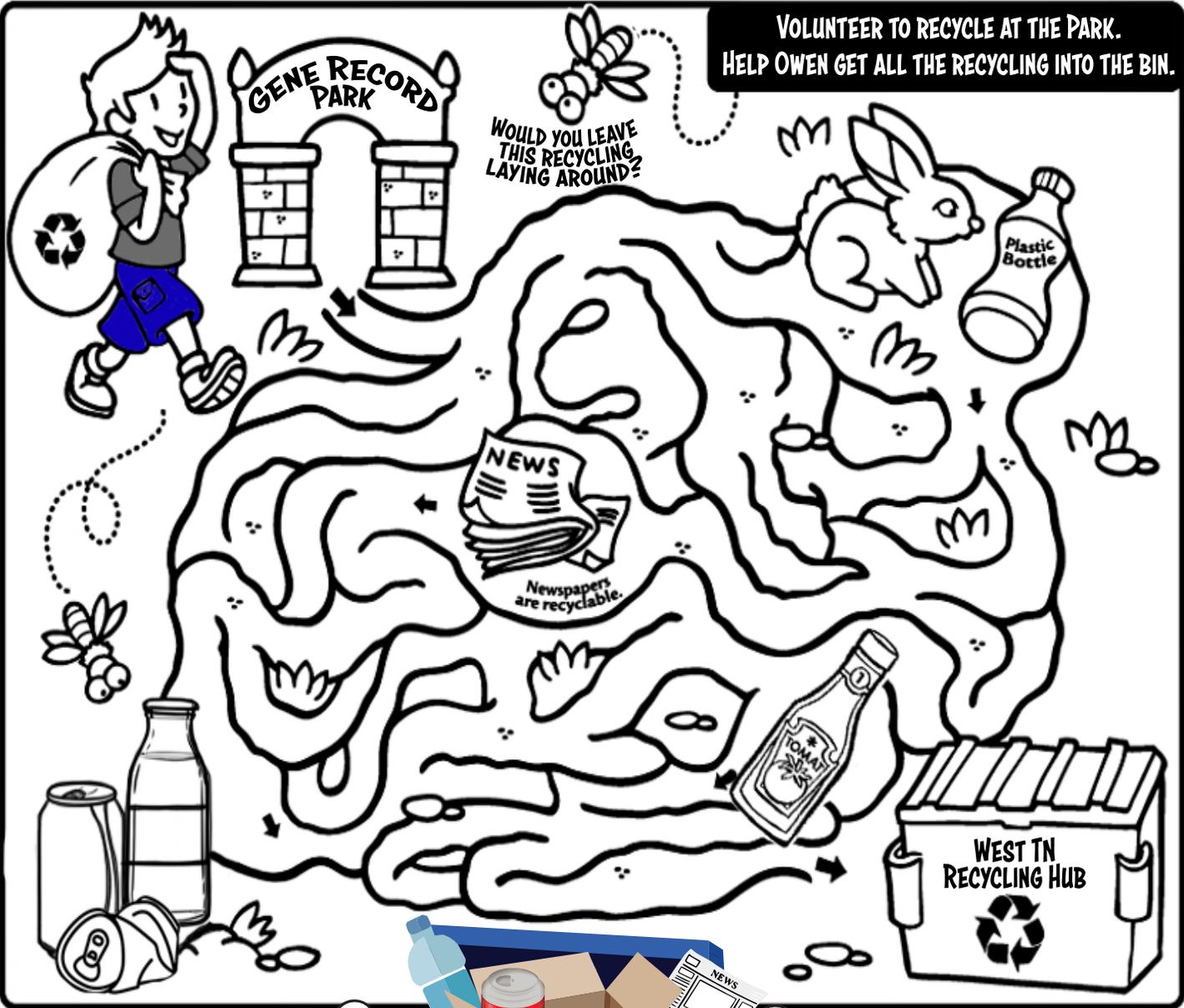
# Trash



Cut out each square and paste it under recycling or trash.  
You decide where it goes.



**VOLUNTEER TO RECYCLE AT THE PARK.  
HELP OWEN GET ALL THE RECYCLING INTO THE BIN.**



# The RECYCLE CYCLE

- Cans
- Plastic Bottles
- Cardboard
- Paper



## COLLECTION & PROCESSING

The recycling cycle begins when recyclables are placed in your recycling cart.

Recycling collection occurs nationwide depending on community participation. Most recyclables are collected curbside or through drop-off centers, buy-back centers, or deposit/refund programs.



### REMEMBER NOT TO BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES!



Plastic bags are the #1 reason for contamination and can cause problems with the equipment. Plastic bags can be taken back to your grocery store for recycling.

Recyclables that are collected all together (commingled), go to a materials recovery facility (MRF) to be sorted and prepared for market.



## MANUFACTURING

Once the raw material is separated, it is sent to other factories to be made into new products



Newspaper and cardboard are shredded, pulped, dried and flattened into new rolls of paper

The steel and aluminum cans are crushed, melted, and flattened into sheets of metal.

Plastic bottles are chipped, melted, and remolded



## BUY RECYCLED GOODS

It is always important to buy recycled products to keep them "in demand" and support the recycling cycle.



Some products, like aluminum and steel cans, can be recycled again and again

while others...

like paper, may be recycled once into bathroom tissue and then reach the end of its life.

You close the loop by buying recycled material. This final step restarts the cycle and secures the success and value of recycling.

Plastic bottles can be made into new juice bottles, clothing, backpack and rulers

Aluminum cans can be remade into new cans but also can become lawn furniture or gutters

Steel cans can be made into bikes, nails or even cars

Corrugated cardboard and newspaper can become pens, pencils, paper, cereal boxes or insulation

