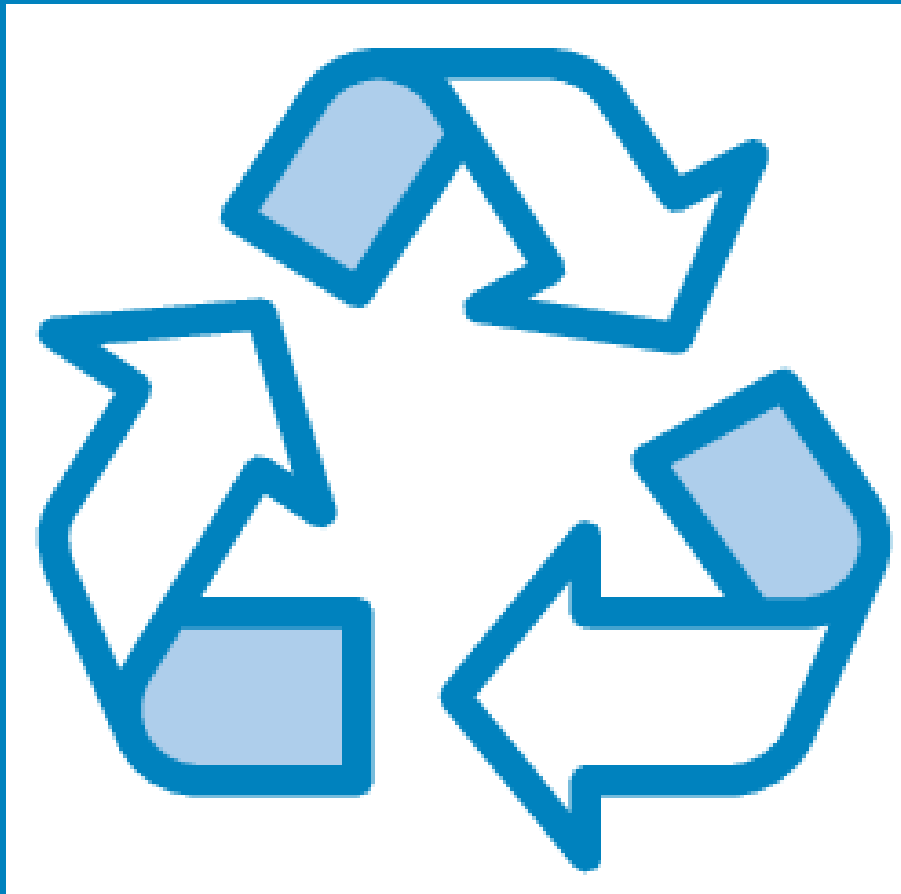


# Recycling at AUS

## FAQ





## Why Recycle?

Recycling is collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown into the landfill and turning them into new products. Recycling benefits our community, the economy and the environment. Data shows that recycling conserves energy and natural resources. For example:

- Recycling one ton of paper saves the energy equivalent of consuming 1,219 liters of petrol. ([EPA Recycle FAQs](#))
  - In the 2018-19 academic year, AUS recycled 168 tons of paper saving 200,000 liters of gas.
- Data shows UAE residents use 450 plastic water bottles on an average in a single year, making the country one of the highest in bottled water consumption in the world. ([Khaleej Times](#)) Recycling just 10 plastic bottles (weighing ~100 grams) saves enough energy to power a laptop for more than 25 hours. ([EPA Recycle FAQs](#))
  - In 2018-19 academic year, AUS recycled 14 tons of plastic. That is enough energy to run approximately 275 laptops for one year.

## Does waste at AUS get recycled?

Yes, AUS works with numerous waste management companies including, Bee'ah, University City, Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), Wekaya, HP, and Xerox to recycle various products.

- [Bee'ah](#) manages the recycling for the academic areas in addition to the batteries and e-waste.
- University City manages the recycling for the faculty housing area.
- [EEG](#) collects the glass recycled on campus.
- Wekaya collects the hazardous waste from the labs and the medical waste from the health center.
- HP & Xerox collect user printer cartridges.

## What can be recycled at AUS?

Currently you can recycle the following items at AUS

- [Paper](#)
- [Cardboard](#)
- [Plastic](#)
- [Metal](#)
- [Glass](#)
- [Coffee Pods](#)
- [Batteries](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Used Clothing and Shoes](#)
- [E-waste](#)
- [Printer Cartridges](#)
- [Expired Medications](#)

## Is there a description of what is recyclable under each category?

### Paper

Copier paper and news print can be recycled from a number of places on campus:

- In offices on campus, paper can be recycled in the blue Bee'ah bins. Most offices have a bin. They are also often located around copy machines. If you would like to request a bin for your office on campus please contact AUS Sustainability at [sustainability@aus.edu](mailto:sustainability@aus.edu).
- If you have large quantities of paper to recycle you can drop the paper off at the Bee'ah recycling cage. It is located between the Sports Complex and Faculty Housing Block G on the service road.
- Otherwise the indoor and outdoor tri-bins all accept paper.

## Cardboard

There are three locations to recycle cardboard on campus. Any boxes to be recycled should be flattened before being put into the skip (a.k.a. metal dumpster) or cage.

- **In the Academic Buildings** – there is a dedicated skip in the student center loading dock trash room.
- **Housing, Dorms, and other areas not within the Academic Footprint of Campus** – Cardboard can be recycled in the Bee’ah recycling cage. It is located between the Sports Complex and Faculty Housing Block G on the service road.
- **Housing** – Cardboard can also be recycled in the faculty housing single-stream recycling skips.

## Plastic

There are many different types of plastic and not all plastics are recyclable at AUS. Almost all plastics have a number printed on them, usually on the bottom of the object. Like this image on the left below. The numbers are between 1 and 7 and signify what type of plastic. On campus we can recycle #1 and #2 plastics.



### #1 Polyethylene Terephthalate (PETE)\*

Examples:

Soda bottles, water bottles, salad dressing bottles and medicine bottles

### #2 High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)\*

Examples:

Milk jugs, juice containers, shampoo and conditioner bottles, soap bottles, detergent containers and bleach containers

\*Bee’ah requests that user rinse out plastic containers, especially one with cleaning products for the safety of the Bee’ah employees who handle the waste.

These plastics can be recycled in the indoor and outdoor tri-bins across campus and in the tri-bin cage by the sports complex. Additionally, these can also be recycled in the faculty housing single-stream recycling skips.

Larger hard plastic items such as laundry baskets and toys can be disposed of in the large cage just past the Epicenter next the Charity Bin. (Note: Please disregard the signage, *OCC Cardboard & paper Collection* as Bee’ah has assigned this bin for hard plastics)

## Metal

Aluminum cans and tins cans can be recycled on campus. These metals can be recycled in the indoor and outdoor tri-bins across campus and in the tri-bin cage by the sports complex. Additionally, these can be recycled in the faculty housing single-stream recycling skips.

## Glass

All colors of glass is recyclable on campus. Glass needs to be taken to the EEG bin on the road between the sports complex. The bin is located behind the large Bee’ah tri-bin cage.

## Coffee Pods

It is now possible to recycle coffee pods on campus. Currently this can be done at the Epicenter and the AUS Sustainability Office (Main Building M240).

## Batteries

Alkaline batteries (AAA, AA, A, C and D) can be recycled on campus. Currently this can be done at the Epicenter the library and in the student center near the reverse vending machine on the first floor.

## Books

Books can be recycled in the Bee’ah tri-bin cage by the sports complex. For academic book disposal, if there are large quantities of books to be recycled a special pick up from Bee’ah can be scheduled. Please contact AUS Sustainability at [sustainability@aus.edu](mailto:sustainability@aus.edu) to assist in arranging a pick up.

## Printer Cartridges

Spent printer cartridges can be recycled in HP cardboard boxes in each academic building. If you cannot locate an HP cardboard box please reach out to AUS Sustainability at [sustainability@aus.edu](mailto:sustainability@aus.edu).

## Used Clothing and Shoes

Bee'ah has provided four charity bins around campus (behind the student center, near the Sharjah Co-op mini mart by the girls dorms, near the epicenter and near the leisure center). You can donate used clothes, shoes, blankets, bags, and other items. These bins tend to fill up quickly. If you see one overflowing or with donations placed next to it, please contact AUS Sustainability at [sustainability@aus.edu](mailto:sustainability@aus.edu) and we will request a pick up.

## E-waste

Often people think of e-waste just as computer equipment, but e-waste is considered as anything that has a plug, requires batteries or has an USB cable. If you have an electronic item that has broken, such as a microwave, kettle, computer mouse, hair dryer or fan it should not be placed in the general waste as it has components that should not be disposed of in the landfill and it recyclable. You can call Bee'ah and arrange a bulk pick up. The number is 800 826 3333. You can also request Bee'ah to pick up through their web form: <https://beeah.ae/en/you-call-we-haul/introduction>. Most often you can place the item outside your house at an appointed time and Bee'ah will collect it. You do not have to be present for collection.





For AUS property e-waste, there is a separate process for disposal. The IT department has a disposal process that should be followed for all University owned IT property. You can start this conversation with IT by sending an email to [ITHelpdesk@aus.edu](mailto:ITHelpdesk@aus.edu). For AUS e-waste property not managed by IT, you should submit a request to [call-center@aus.edu](mailto:call-center@aus.edu) for the product to be collected and disposed of properly.

## Expired Medications (not technically recyclable)

Medicine can be dispose of safely on campus. It can be taken to the Health Center for disposal.

## Great, so where do I take the different items to be recycled?

There are different recycling locations for different items on campus. The table below lists many of the options.

Location	Bin Image	What Can Be Recycled?
<b>Paper Bins: Offices on Campus</b>		Paper
<b>Reverse Vending Machine: Student Center ,Ground Floor near vending machines</b>		Aluminum Cans Plastic Drink Bottles
<b>Tri-bin Cage: Service Road between AUS Sports Complex &amp; Faculty Housing G</b>		Paper Cardboard Plastic (#1 & #2) Metal Books
<b>Outdoor Tri-bins: Placed around campus on busy sidewalks</b>		Paper Plastic (#1 & #2) Metal Cans General Waste

Location	Bin Image	What Can Be Recycled?
<b>Indoor Tri-bins: Main Building, Student Center &amp; Academic Buildings</b>		Paper Plastic (#1 & #2) Metal Cans General Waste
<b>Indoor Tri-bins: Engineering &amp; Sciences Building (ESB)</b>		Paper Plastic (#1 & #2) Metal Cans
<b>Housing Single-stream Recycling Skips: Faculty Housing East &amp; West</b>		Plastic (#1 & #2) Metal Cans Cardboard Paper
<b>HP Printer Cartridge Bin: Buildings on campus</b>		Used Printer Cartridges
<b>Glass Recycling: Service Road between AUS Sports Complex &amp; Faculty Housing G</b>		Glass
<b>Bee'ah Charity Bin: Various locations around campus and faculty housing</b>		Clothes Shoes Bags Blankets Etc.
<b>Alkaline Battery Recycling: Epicenter, Library &amp; Student Center</b>		Alkaline batteries (AAA, AA, A, C & D)
<b>Coffee Pod Recycling: Epicenter &amp; Sustainability Office (M240)</b>		Coffee Pods
<b>Cardboard Recycling: Student Center Ground Floor Loading Dock</b>		Cardboard

## How does the recycling in the faculty housing work?

If you have moved into your AUS faculty/staff residence recently, you were provided with two kitchen waste bin. One was intended for general waste and the other blue bin is for recycled materials. Recycling in the faculty housing is a single stream system, meaning all recycled materials can be disposed of together. Cardboard, metal, and #1 and #2 plastics can be recycled at faculty housing bins. Recycled materials should be cleaned (absent of any food debris or remnants of cleaning products).



Each housing block or cluster of housing blocks have a blue single stream recycling skip – see image (versus the silver skip which is for general waste). The waste for faculty housing is collected by University City waste management collectors during the week. These skips are designated for recycled materials. You are asked to put your recycling in plastic bags. This recycled waste is collected sometimes separately and sometimes with the other general waste.

They ask that you bag it, so in times that it is collected with the other general waste, it remains separate, as this will reduce contamination. The landfill has laborers known as “pickers” who go through the waste and separate it out, as well as machines that separate the waste.

The landfills in Sharjah have large magnets that all of the waste passes under and therefore Sharjah estimates that 97% of all metal waste is diverted from the landfill.

The one challenging component of a single stream system as the current one is designed, is that paper and cardboard waste is quite often contaminated, which will reduce the amount of these types of materials that end up being recycled. It is possible to dispose of your boxes and other cardboard in the faculty housing single stream recycling skips, but it is recommended, that if you have cardboard boxes or substantial quantities of paper that you take them to the Bee’ah tri bin cage on the service road between the sports complex and housing block G. This will increase the likelihood that these items are truly diverted from the landfill.

## I have some large items, like patio furniture that I would like to dispose of, is this possible?

For larger items you can call Bee’ah and arrange a bulk pick up. The number is 800 826 3333. Bee’ah has a zero furniture and household appliances waste policy for their landfill, so they request that it not be placed in the housing or campus waste skips. They will coordinate with you to pick up most of your bulk items. You can also request a pick up from Bee’ah via web form: <https://beeah.ae/en/you-call-we-haul/introduction>.

