

Can't We Just Recycle?...

All of us, both individually and as a church, should recycle as much as we can – understanding that in lots of ways, recycling is terribly inadequate. For example, if a barrel full of “recyclables” is contaminated (let’s say, by food waste), the whole thing may just be dumped into the trash. “It’s really a complete myth when people say that we’re recycling our plastics,” says Jim Puckett, the executive director of the Seattle-based [Basel Action Network](#). Or as British author Will McCallum puts it, “We aren’t going to recycle our way out of this one.”

A lot of energy goes into recycling, when it is actually done. Much so-called “recyclable” plastic is sold overseas and is often discarded into waterways.

Still, something is better than nothing. Recycle what you can. When it comes to plastic soda bottles, bringing them back to the store for the refund means there’s a much higher chance the bottle will actually be recycled. So even if you don’t care about the nickels, don’t toss soda-pop bottles (or cans) into your recycle bin; cash them in, or give them to a charity that does so.