


But getting the recyclables separated is only one part. For recycling to happen, there have to be manufacturers who want the recovered material to make into new products and customers who want to buy those new products. So what becomes of all this neatly sorted and bailed material when it leaves the MRF?




Much of the newspaper, mixed paper and cardboard will go to Asian countries for production of a variety of paper products, including more boxes, tissue paper, and packaging. Most of the office paper and computer paper will go to domestic mills to become recycled content paper products.



Plastic soda/water bottles are made from very high quality plastic called PET . Besides coming back to us in brand new soda bottles, this PET plastic is produced into dozens of products, including t-shirts, sweaters, tennis shoes, and backpacks made from recycled products. Check out your fleece outerwear. It just might contain your old soda bottle. Recycled

soda bottles go into carpets, tennis balls, combs, cassette tapes, car bumpers and car parts, boat sails, and furniture.



Milk and juice jugs and detergent bottles are typically made from HDPE  plastic. They will come back to stores as new containers or show up in parks as playground equipment, on back yard decks as plastic lumber, and in parking lots as speed bumps and parking blocks.



You will find a lot of recycled aluminum and steel in beverage and food cans. You will also find recycled steel in cars and ships and construction beams; in appliances, file cabinets, and paper clips. You will find recycled aluminum in air planes, bicycles, foil, toys, electronics. In fact, you will find recycled steel and aluminum virtually everywhere you find steel and

aluminum.

Remember to close the loop and buy recycled content products.