



Glass Container Recycling



We all know that recycling glass is important. Glass is infinitely recyclable with no loss to its strength, purity, or quality. Unless broken, glass takes up a lot of landfill space. New companies have moved into Minnesota to recover the glass cullet for recycling.

Where Glass Goes for Recycling:

- **Anchor Glass** (Located in Shakopee, MN): Anchor Glass recycles various colors of glass, which is made into new glass bottles and food containers. See www.anchorglass.com for more information.
- **Blue Skies Glassworks** (Located in Duluth): Each year, Blue Skies Glassworks uses 1,000 pounds of plate glass (not recyclable curbside) to make sculptures and other works of art. See www.blueskiesglassworks.com for more information.
- **eCullet** (Located in St. Paul): With over 60 years of glass processing experience, eCullet opened its plant in St. Paul in 2008. Using a four-way color sorting machine, eCullet collects glass from drop-off centers and MRFs, processes the glass, and sells the cullet back to manufacturers to make new jars and bottles. See www.ecullet.com for more information.
- **Strategic Materials** (Located in St. Paul): Strategic Materials set up a new plant in St. Paul in 2011. With over 40 locations in North America, Strategic Materials sells over 2 million tons of glass cullet each year. See www.strategicmaterials.com for more information.

How Glass Recycling Helps Minnesota's Economy:

- By substituting recycled glass for only half of the raw materials, the production waste is cut by over 80%. Mining and transporting raw materials for glass produces about 385 pounds of waste per ton of glass produced.
- Glass that is not suitable for manufacturing glass containers is used for flooring, countertops, tiles, abrasives, roadwork additives, and other items.

How Glass Recycling Helps Minnesota's Environment:

- In 2011, Minnesotans recycled over 133,221 tons of glass.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can power a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. It also causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from virgin materials.