

## I Spy

Can you sort these things? Count each item above and write the number in the box below. Check out our kids recycling sorting game at [RecycleSmart.org/game](https://RecycleSmart.org/game)



Answer key: BPI: 5; Recycle Symbol: 7; Glass Bottle: 11; Milk Jug: 6; Can: 12; Peach Pit: 8

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Mega machine sorts your recyclables
- Blue cart items do's and don'ts
- Save cups and money with your coffee

# Scholars all-in for recycling

Congratulations to our 2022 Scholarship winners! This year, RecycleSmart awarded scholarships to three outstanding students for leading recycling and composting initiatives at their schools. These students continue working towards sustainability and bringing positive change to their communities.

#### SOFIA GONZALEZ

Sophia was the Environmental Club leader at Acalanes High School and a RecycleSmart school intern! She educated fellow students about the benefits of sorting their waste and reducing what goes to the landfill by organizing a successful clothing drive. This fall, she will study Biology at UC Davis.

#### AYA BANAJA

Aya was also a RecycleSmart school intern and Green Team member, and helped launch a campus-wide recycling and composting program at Las Lomas High. When she moved and attended Miramonte High, she collaborated with team members to host a

virtual Earth Day Summit and created a Sorting 101 video to educate the broader Central Contra Costa community. She plans to attend Saint Mary's College to study psychology this fall.

#### DEVON BRADLEY

Devon is the founder and leader of the Miramonte Environmental Solutions Club and Project HEART. Devon focused on improving sorting and reducing waste at his school, which resulted in a 75% diversion rate for Miramonte High School! In August 2021, he helped influence the Orinda City Council to ban polystyrene. Devon will continue his journey this fall studying climate science at UCLA.

If you or someone you know is a stellar recycling scholar, visit [RecycleSmart.org/schools](https://RecycleSmart.org/schools) to learn about scholarships for Spring 2023.

Sofia



These changemakers are leading the way!

Aya



Devon



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
CONCORD, CA  
PERMIT NO. 99

EVERYDAY RECYCLING MADE EASY

# RecycleSmart

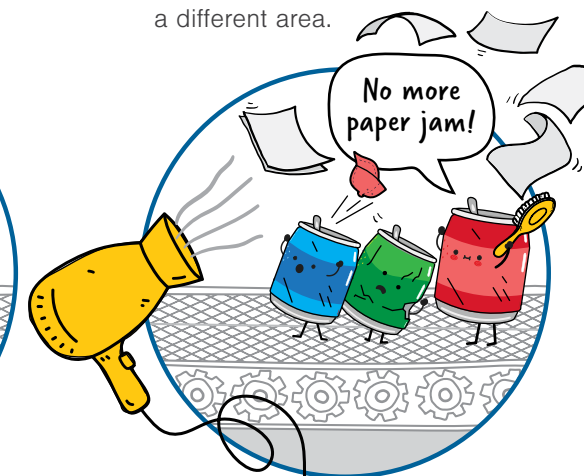
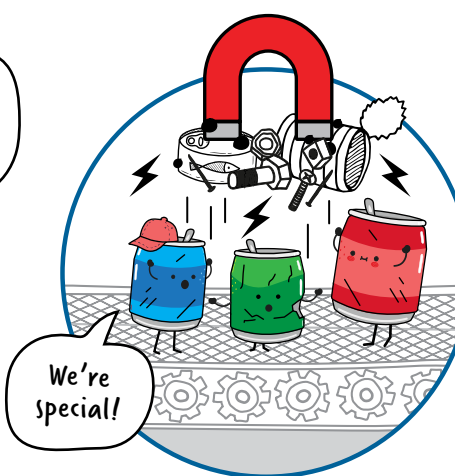
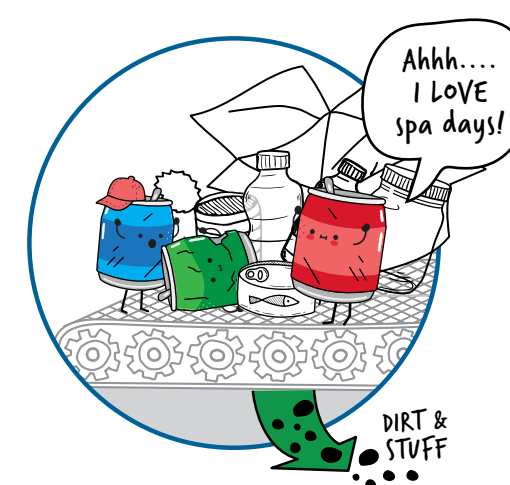
SUMMER 2022

## You clean, we'll sort!

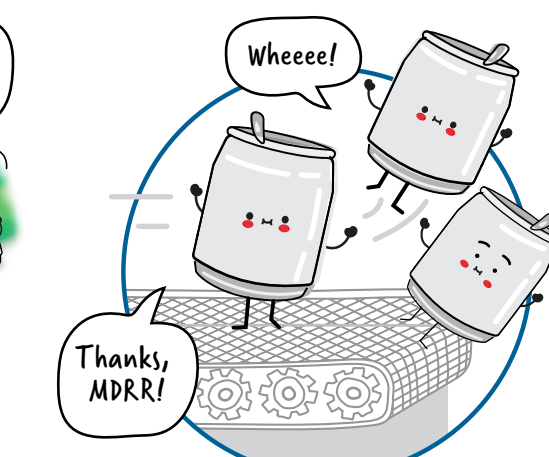
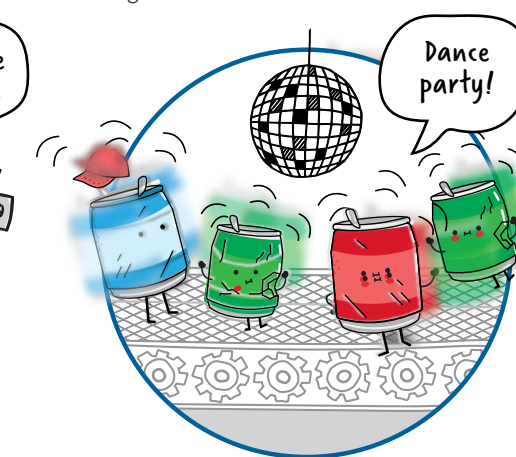
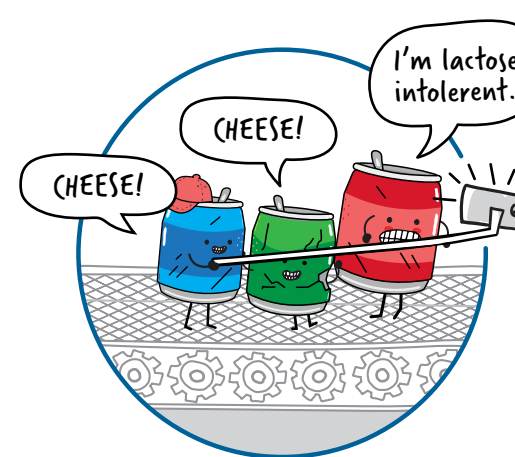
We believe in recycling. All RecycleSmart blue cart materials are sent to the franchised processing facility, **Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR)**, in Pittsburg, CA. MDRR has invested in state-of-the-art technology to make sure recycling is easier for our community and our planet. It all starts with YOUR empty, clean, and dry blue cart materials. Let's see how Ali the Aluminum can gets processed at the facility...



- 1 First, recyclables (like Ali) are carried across a sorting line where staff members hand pick out any trash.
- 2 Next, a magnet picks up the tin cans and other metal objects—but not Ali, since aluminum isn't naturally magnetic!
- 3 Now it's time for a blow dry! Jets of air push paper and cardboard away to be baled in a different area.



- 4 Say cheese! Optical sorters find and remove anything remaining that cannot be recycled.
- 5 Ali's ready for her appointment in the Eddy Current, a machine that makes her atoms wiggle so she becomes magnetic!
- 6 During her magnetic massage, the labels and dye on Ali and her friends are removed. Now they can join other cans to start their new life!



Learn more about recycling empty, clean and dry at [RecycleSmart.org/clean-recyclables](https://RecycleSmart.org/clean-recyclables)



# Sorting process do's & don'ts

Even though we're using the finest sorting technology, what you put in the blue cart matters! Some items can create a lot of grief in the sorting process.

These should stay **OUT** of the blue recycling cart:

- **Anything with food residue** like takeout containers, pizza boxes or jars. Any kind of goop can contaminate other items in a cart. Uncoated food-soiled paper can go in the green organics cart!
- **Items like rope, hoses or wires** can wrap around the machinery during the sorting process. Tangles can create safety hazards for people working, and even cause the machinery to shut down.

- **Polystyrene foam**, otherwise known as styrofoam, goes in the black landfill cart. Look for—and request—eco-friendly packaging.

Here's what **CAN** be recycled:

- **Empty, clean and dry plastic, glass and metal** bottles, jars, aluminum and steel cans, clean foil, detergent and soap containers (keep the lids on!).
- **Clean and loose paper** including cardboard, paper bags, newspapers, paper and envelopes.

It's important to make sure your items are empty, clean and dry when they go into the blue cart. It helps the machine capture all those good recyclables! For more recycling information, please go to [RecycleSmart.org/houses/blue-cart](https://www.RecycleSmart.org/houses/blue-cart)

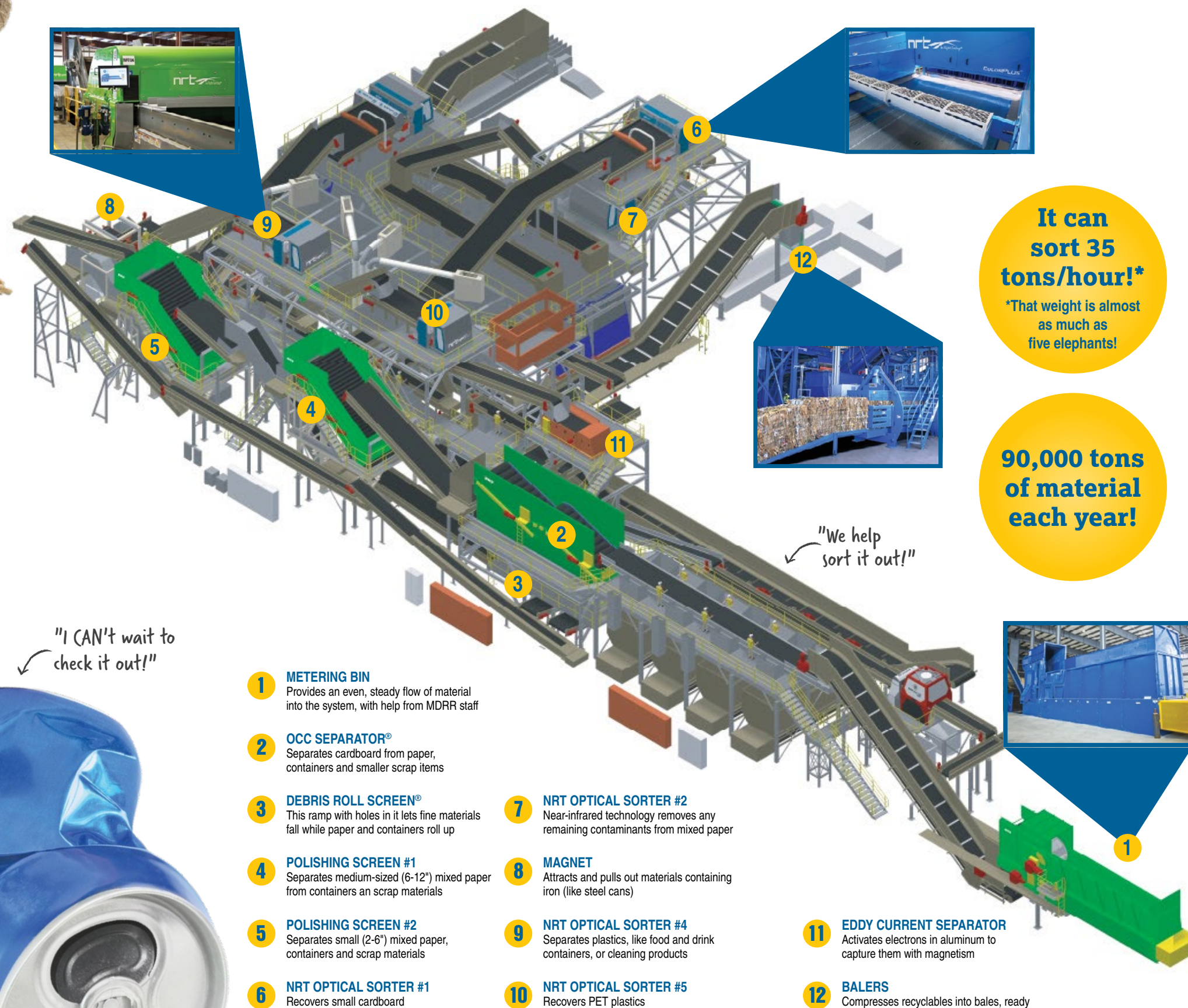
"Strings in the cart?  
I'm a frayed knot!"



## How it works

Check out the mega machine that sorts your recyclables!

"BYo mug?  
Makes cents  
to me!"



It can sort 35 tons/hour!\*

\*That weight is almost as much as five elephants!

90,000 tons of material each year!

"I CAN't wait to check it out!"

## Need More Info?



Editor, Janna McKay  
Janna@RecycleSmart.org

For tips, resources and other recycling services!

[www.RecycleSmart.org](https://www.RecycleSmart.org)  
925-906-1801  
Authority@RecycleSmart.org

For questions about your bi-annual Reuse Day contact Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery at 925-692-2286 or visit [RecycleSmart.org/reuse-day](https://www.RecycleSmart.org/reuse-day)



### Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

For questions concerning your recycling, organics or landfill carts, billing, new service, vacation hold requests, computer and TV collection, special cleanups or to request motor oil recycling kits and kitchen food scraps containers.



Printed on paper made from post consumer waste (PCW).



## A Note to My Fellow Coffee Lovers

Lewis A., Walnut Creek

My local coffee shop is encouraging customers to bring their own mugs by offering a 10 cent discount. As a big coffee lover, I was so excited to hear I could get my favorite drink for less! I don't like having to use disposable cups when I pick up coffee on the go. I've been bringing my favorite mug to this coffee shop and I've noticed others are starting to do the same.

I've also heard that some restaurants allow customers to bring their own to-go containers. That's definitely a step up from coffee mugs and a great way to reduce waste.

So, fellow coffee lovers: let's keep our waste low with our cup of joe!

*Editor's note: CA State Law AB 619 allows consumers to bring their own clean, reusable food and beverage containers for takeout orders and leftovers (as long as they follow all sanitary guidelines). More at [RecycleSmart.org/AB1276](https://www.RecycleSmart.org/AB1276)*



### HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to  
[Authority@RecycleSmart.org](mailto:Authority@RecycleSmart.org)