

## GREEN TIP

Look for the Energy Star label on home and office appliances and products.

Energy Star products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.



ENERGY STAR

## Eco Initiatives

is an e-newsletter produced regularly by the CBRE Tower Square management office to bring you up to date on Tower Square's efforts to maintain an environmentally green facility. For more information contact us at 413-733-2171

## What You Should Know About Recycleable Plastics

So you want to do your part to recycle, but are a little confused when it comes to plastics? You're not alone. Most consumers know to look for the triangle symbol on plastics, but most don't know what the different symbol codes mean.

The easiest plastics to recycle are made of polyethylene terephthalate (PETE) and are assigned the number 1.



Number 1 plastics are used for most beverage and food containers.

Once processed by a recycling facility, PETE can become fiberfill for coats, sleeping bags and life jackets. It is also used to make car bumpers, furniture, carpet, rope, luggage, and of course other plastic bottles.

The second easiest plastic to recycle is made of high density polyethylene (HDPE), and is assigned the Number 2. It is also



used for beverage and food packaging, as well as dish and laundry soap bottles. Once recycled HDPE is made into plastic lumber, floor tiles, pipes, flower pots, crates, recycling bins, and plastic nonfood containers.

Plastics less commonly recycled would include:



Number 3, polyvinyl chloride (PVC-pipes, shower curtains, medical tubing, vinyl dashboards)



Number 4, low density polyethylene (LDPE- dry cleaning, bread and food bags, squeezable bottles)



Number 5, polypropylene (PP-Tupperware and medicine bottles)



Number 6, polystyrene (PS -cups, plates, cutler, egg cartons, CD jackets)



Number 7, other polycarbonate (OTHER-reusable bottles & food containers)



While some food debris and yard waste may degrade at a very slow rate - about 25% in 15 years - most trash (particularly plastics) entering landfills retains its original weight, volume and form for the life of the landfill.

The CBRE management team is currently working on a procedure to collect plastics for recycling at Tower Square, but in the meantime, you are encouraged to reduce your carbon footprint by doing the following:

1. Choose plastics that can be recycled.
2. Follow your town's recycling guidelines.
3. Purchase products made from recycled materials.
4. Reduce when you can.

## Tower Square's New Recycling Efforts Save Landfill Space & Money

Tower Square is expecting to save as much as \$2,000 monthly as a result of changes made to the building's paper/cardboard recycling program.

In the past, Tower Square personnel have collected and separated paper and cardboard, and bailed the cardboard prior to delivering it to the remanufacturer, a time consuming and

laborious process, according to Tower Square Operations Manager Ken Allard.

Now, instead of separating and bailing the cardboard at Tower Square, it is being combined with the recyclable paper, and delivered to a recycle station.

"This is a much more efficient and effective way of disbursing our recyclables, and will allow us to

save about \$1,200 in monthly labor costs alone," according Allard.



Tower Square tenants are asked to continue to breakdown their cardboard boxes and leave them in the appropriate designated areas.