

## Introduction

Welcome to Week 11 of CGLP! We've learned a lot so far, so it's understandable if you need a refresher on any of our past materials. If that's the case, browse through our other newsletters [here](#)! This week we will be covering the final Elective Action in the Waste Reduction category, #12.

12. If you print, collect and recycle printer cartridges.

As a reminder, completion of five Elective Actions beyond the Required Actions will earn you Bronze level certification, completion of ten will earn Silver level certification, and fifteen Elective Actions will earn Gold level certification.

## Instructions

***Elective Action #12: If you print, collect and recycle printer cartridges. Many office supply stores have drop-off boxes available to the public.***

It is estimated that about [1.3 billion](#) printer cartridges are used worldwide -- and they are recycled at a rate of less than thirty percent. These cartridges are made up of a mix of plastics, metal, foam, ink, and toner, which naturally makes them complicated to recycle... but not impossible! Most of us are probably aware of the drop-off boxes at pretty much any major office supply store.

By dropping off your lab's cartridges for recycling, you'll be preventing four of the usual environmental perils associated with not recycling most materials: landfill waste, lost resources, increased water and energy use, and emission of greenhouse gases.

So, set up a collection bin in your lab, pick a destination for drop-off, decide who will drop them off, and you'll be all set!

If you're not sure the closest location for drop-off, you can use the locator [on this webpage](#) from Earth911.