

Introduction

Welcome to Week 16 of CGOP! 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 two Elective Actions in the Waste Reduction category, #20 & #21.

20. Recycle nitrile gloves used by your area.
21. 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 #20: Recycle nitrile gloves used by your area. Details available at: <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/glove-recycling>.

Nitrile gloves are preferred disposable gloves for use in labs and the food industry. It lacks the allergy issues of latex while remaining resistant to many of the same chemicals. Sadly, no matter what they are made of, disposable gloves are used at a rapid pace and recycled at very low rates. On the bright side, it doesn't have to be this way. While the high consumption of these gloves is difficult to lower due to these gloves' necessity, they fortunately can be recycled.

For several years, UIUC has participated in Kimberly-Clark's RightCycle program. So if your office uses nitrile gloves for any purpose (or maybe if you have a lab next door that uses them!) you can gain a CGOP point by joining the program. However, not just any nitrile gloves can be recycled -- they must be specifically purchased through [iBuy](#).

Here are the steps for participating once you've bought your gloves at iBuy:

1. Choose an office member as the contact person for the program.
2. Email maryar@illinois.edu with this person's name and email so that they can be sent the online form for sign-up.
3. Obtain collection bins for your site from Jonathan McClintock at Kimberly-Clark (jonathan.l.mcclintock@kcc.com) or Tanya Lisowsky at Fisher Scientific (tanya.lisowsky@thermofisher.com). Alternatively, you may collect used gloves

in the cardboard outer cases/boxes in which the Kimberly-Clark gloves arrive or other container of your choice.

4. When a collection bin is full, take it to the trailer behind the Physical Plant Services Building at 1501 S. Oak in Champaign, using the north gated entrance. Observe these safety rules when dropping off bins:
 - Go to the trailer between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., when there is less traffic and it is safer and easier to reach the trailer.
 - Note that the area around the trailer is unpaved, and there are no sidewalks.
 - Watch for cars and trucks coming from all directions.
 - Wear close-toed shoes.

There are some restrictions to take note of.

Gloves cannot be recycled if they have been exposed to the following:

- Biohazards that have not been autoclaved. Gloves that have been autoclaved may be recycled but should be placed in clear bags; any gloves placed in red bags will be assumed to still be hazardous.
- Any chemicals that you would not put in the trash or in your car. If you are unsure about a specific chemical, contact Heather Jordan (heather.jordan@kcc.com) or Jonathan McClintock (jonathan.l.mclintock@kcc.com) at Kimberly-Clark to request a review.

Only Kimberly-Clark nitrile gloves purchased through iBuy may be recycled through this program. Kimberly-Clark must be able to ensure that they know the content of the material that they produce in the initial phase of the recycling process. Unknown material types can compromise the quality of the recycled material that they provide to manufacturers who purchase it from them.

Elective Action #21: 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 office'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 office, 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.