FAQs for Printer Cartridge Recycling Program

Questions about what goes in the bins:

Q: What packaging should I be sure to omit from the bins?  
A: Please omit any cardboard or plastic packaging. The less packaging there is in the bin, the less likely it is to overflow before we can come pick it up and the easier our job is when sending them to the recycling company. Please recycle any cardboard or paper packaging in the appropriate places.

Q: What is a toner tank?  
A: A toner tank is a plastic bottle containing liquid toner with a screw on lid (see image below for examples). They come in many shapes and sizes. If you aren’t sure if your printer part is a toner tank or a toner cartridge, you can email uisc-recycling@uidaho.edu and we will help you figure it out. Please remember that we do not accept toner tanks though this program.

Please DO NOT send toner tanks

Q: Can you accept a broken cartridge?  
A: This program does not accept damaged or broken cartridges, as many of the cartridges are remanufactured for reuse. Please place the cartridges in the bins gently to avoid damage.

Q: Can I recycle printer cartridges from home?  
A: Yes! Just be sure not to put any packaging or toner tanks in the bins.

Questions about the efficacy of the program:

Q: Is this program easier, faster, and cheaper than returning individual printer cartridges by mail?  
A: This program is easier and faster for you because all you need to do is put the cartridge in the bin. We will collect them and send them to a company called Evolve who takes all laser toner cartridges and ink cartridges. This increases efficiency because collectively we will only be sending to one company instead of each of us sending individual cartridges to many different companies. Evolve pays for the shipping and also pays us between $0.10 and $5.56 for a
cartridge depending on the model. This money goes back to the Sustainability Center to help cover the cost of a student employee who manages the program.

**Q: Does this program save resources?**
A: Yes, this program saves resources by sending all of our printer cartridges together. We only need one label and box for 20+ cartridges instead of 20 individual packages, and it cuts down on carbon emissions by having fewer boxes taking up room in shipping vehicles.

**Q: Does this mean I won’t have to deal with mailing labels to recycle my printer cartridges?**
A: Yes! All you need to do is put the cartridge in the bin. We will collect it and only have to use one mailing label for 20+ cartridges!

**Miscellaneous questions:**

**Q: When and where can I drop off printer cartridges?**
A: Anytime! We have 18 collection bins distributed across campus. See our [locations list](#) on our website to find the one nearest to you.

**Q: If there isn’t a location near me, can I send my cartridge to be recycled via intercampus mail?**
A: Please take a look at the locations list, we have tried to position the bins as close to as many units as we can. If accessibility is an issue, cartridges can be sent to MS2007 via campus mail, please let us know if you plan to use this method: [uisc-recycling@uidaho.edu](mailto:uisc-recycling@uidaho.edu). Also note that the cartridges may contaminate the envelopes with ink.

**Q: When we had this program before, there were often issues of overflowing bins. Will this be better this time?**
A: Yes, we are doing our best to educate users about not filling the recycling bins with cardboard packaging, which is a big reason why the bins often overflowed. You can also help out by emailing [uisc@uidaho.edu](mailto:uisc@uidaho.edu) if you notice a bin is full.

If you have any questions that are not on this list, please contact us at [uisc-recycling@uidaho.edu](mailto:uisc-recycling@uidaho.edu) or [uisc@uidaho.edu](mailto:uisc@uidaho.edu).

Thank you for your interest in this program!