



## **Pandemic Recycling Data Shows Big Spikes in Cardboard Boxes, Aluminum Cans, Bottles**

April 15, 2021

**With at-home consumption up significantly during the last year, Republic Services offers an Earth Day reminder to properly recycle e-commerce and beverage containers**

PHOENIX, April 15, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- This Earth Day, Republic Services is releasing pandemic recycling data showing significant increases in the recycling of cardboard boxes, aluminum cans and plastic and glass bottles over the last year, reflecting a shift in consumer behavior to more at-home consumption. All of these high-demand materials can be put back into the circular economy through proper recycling methods.

Experience the interactive Multichannel News Release here: <https://www.multivu.com/players/English/8683452-republic-services-earth-day-recycling/>

"The pandemic's effects were clearly seen in home recycling bins," said Pete Keller, vice president of recycling and sustainability. "We know that Americans are willing to recycle and are becoming more aware of their impact on the environment, so it's vital that we continue to help consumers understand what can and cannot be recycled this Earth Day and beyond."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, online shopping has risen to new heights – and those cardboard boxes have shown up in recycling bins, with a 63% increase in residential cardboard in some markets. In addition, households have been consuming more food and beverages at home, resulting in significant increases in recycled aluminum (17%), glass (13%) and plastic bottles (7%).

Organic waste, which includes food and yard waste, also experienced a major increase, as people cooked and did yard work while at home over the last year. Republic Services processed 20% more food and yard waste in 2020 and recycled this organic material into more than half a million tons of nutrient-rich compost.

Recycling is a simple way that everyone can be more sustainable in their daily lives, and it's important to know how and what to recycle. Visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](https://www.recyclingsimplified.com) for recycling tips, videos and other materials, as well as recycling curriculum for educators.

For more information about how consumers can bring Earth Day into their everyday, visit [RepublicServices.com/earthday](https://www.RepublicServices.com/earthday).

### **About Republic Services**

Republic Services, Inc. is a leader in the U.S. environmental services industry. Through its subsidiaries, the Company provides superior customer experience while fostering a sustainable Blue Planet® for future generations to enjoy a cleaner, safer and healthier world. For more information, visit [RepublicServices.com](https://www.RepublicServices.com), or follow us at [Facebook.com/RepublicServices](https://www.facebook.com/RepublicServices), [@RepublicService](https://twitter.com/RepublicService) on Twitter or Republic Services on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/republic-services).

# Pandemic's Silver Lining Is In Your Recycling Bin

Republic Services processed 6 million tons of recyclables and more than 2 billion pounds of organic waste in 2020.

## Good Intentions:

A survey commissioned by Republic Services revealed 58% of Americans reevaluated their eco-friendly habits because of the pandemic.

- 65% said it acted as a wake-up call to make sustainable choices
- 41% are working to waste less and conserve more resources
- 30% have committed to being more careful when it comes to sorting recyclables



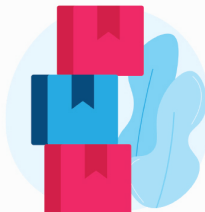
## Staying In:

At-home consumption of food and beverages drove increases in the following recyclables.

- Aluminum – 17%
- Glass – 13%
- PET (plastic water bottles) – 7%

## Online Shopping:

The USPS reported package volume increased by 19% in 2020. Republic Services has seen as much as a 63% increase in residential cardboard in some locations.



## Compost Generation:

Organic waste increased by 20%, creating more than over half a million tons of nutrient-rich compost.

[www.recyclingsimplified.com](http://www.recyclingsimplified.com)



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