



RECYCLING MATTERS

FOR A WASTE-FREE COLLAR CITY

12 R's of 2022

An big part of sustainability is revisiting topics to see if they are still sustainable. Over time, things change. We figure out better methods for creating and utilizing. This issue we dive into the pros and cons of sustainability in the music industry, an interview with Jim Barrett, the owner of the River Street Beat Shop, and registration information for two upcoming events.

Replay

They way we listen to music has changed so much. To enjoy music, we don't need to be able to play an instrument, or make time to see a live performance. Now, we have music at our fingertips - radios, tapes, cds, records, and streaming.

Every option has its own pros and cons. Many of the products were created to be used, but not to be recycled. **Extended producer responsibility** is holding manufacturers and producers accountable for creating products that don't have to end up in the landfill.

Records: unfortunately, records can't be recycled in your curbside bin. While they're made from plastic, they are sometimes made with harmful heavy metals, which recycling facilities don't always have the capacity to handle. If they're still in usable condition, we recommend donating them so others can enjoy listening!

Cassettes/tapes: cassettes are also not recyclable in your curbside bin. GreenDisk, a mail-in program, accepts them. Learn more at <https://www.greendisk.com/gdsite/services.aspx>

CDs: cds are made from plastic and aluminum, but, surprise surprise, cannot be recycled curbside. They can be mailed in to special recycling programs like GreenDisk.

Streaming: apps and websites like Spotify, Amazon Music, and Apple Music create no waste, so there's no need to recycle. But pressing play on your device has more impact than you think. All the digital music is stored in servers, which use a large amount of electricity. Many streaming services are starting to use Google's cloud to cut back on negative environmental impacts, however.

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Pictured: two black records, and a CD,

Community News

River Street Beat Shop

Jim and Liam Barrett, father and son, co-own The River Street Beat Shop, which opened 19 years ago.

Jim Barrett's love of music pushed him to start collecting records in 1954. "I just loved it," he said. In over 60 years of his passion for music, his all-time favorite record is Blonde on Blonde by Bob Dylan.

The River Street Beat Shop offers records, CDs, cassettes, mainly. Limited books and movies are also available.

Records are made from PVC, a plastic otherwise known as "vinyl." While they are made from plastic, they are not easily recycled. With music shifting towards digital streaming and away from records and CDs, this means many records and CDs have found their way into the used market.



Pictured: The storefront of The River Street Beat Shop, with a white sandwich board sign that says OPEN.

The majority of the items sold at the Beat Shop are used. "Lots of customers bring [products] in for trade, bring them in for sale; we buy [from] estates, we buy stores out occasionally... any way the wind blows, we buy records." Jim Barrett said.

When deciding whether or not to buy records or CDs, the condition is the biggest consideration. "Say you brought in 10 albums. I would look to see what shape they're in, and if I could use them. We're very eclectic - we really like everything. Our customers do, too." Barrett said.



Pictured: Two racks of records against a wall covered in colorful band posters.

Since The River Street Beat Shop mainly sources used products, they're kept out of landfills and can still be used and enjoyed. Collecting records and CDs is still a passion for many.

"A record store like ours is a very social experience for young people," Barrett said. "Young people are sharing their love of music with much older people and it's finding common ground. It's fun."



Pictured: Records stored neatly wall to wall inside The River Street Beat Shop.

Electronics Recycling Event

Saturday, September 10

Troy residents can register for the 2022 electronics, tire, and paper shredding event online at www.troyny.gov/electronics, or by calling Recycling Specialist Naomi Pitkin at (518) 279-7313. Spots are limited.

For more information and to view the list of accepted items, visit www.troyny.gov/electronics

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event: Bethlehem, NY

Our next household hazardous waste disposal event will be on **Saturday, October 1st in Bethlehem**. You will receive a confirmation and time slot email approximately one week before the event. **Please check your spam and junk folders!** If you still have not received a confirmation, please call us at (518) 279-7313 or email recycling@troyny.gov. Scan the QR code to the right to register and view the list of accepted and prohibited items.



SCAN ME

Address: 74 Alm Ave East, Bethlehem, NY 12158

Registration link: www.troyny.gov/hhw

Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY-BASED SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

TROY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (ALAMO) OPEN

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 1

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT -REGISTER HERE

Troy Resource Management Facility

Saturday, September 10

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP @ TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY - LANSINGBURGH

Thursday, September 22

Register at <https://bit.ly/compost-workshop-registration>

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL EVENT - BETHLEHEM

Saturday, October 1

Advanced registration required: www.troyny.gov/hhw

COMPOSTER AND RAIN BARREL SALE (ONLINE)

Place orders by Wednesday, October 5: www.troy.compostersale.com

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