

Small Town Leading Big Change in Recycling

The Town of Clifton, VA (estimated population 280) has received a Virginia State Department of Environmental Quality Grant to recycle everything, except anything yucky.

Clifton, VA, November 1, 2023

Since April 2021, a start-up business has been disrupting the way residents of the greater Clifton area handle their trash. In fact, they don't even talk about trash, waste, or garbage. They focus on resources. Resources have value and are worth recovering. To date, 46 households have recovered over 50,000 lbs. of resources and 96% of them have been recovered. Although there is currently no other similar program in the US, the Project is repeatable and expandable to localities around the country.

“Not only have I reduced my garbage bills, but I’ve also reduced my consumption and changed my consumer habits...”
– Matt, Project Member

Recycling is complex with a lot of gray areas. Resource Recovery is simple. The Resource Recovery Project, partnering with the town of Clifton, accepts all materials if they are clean and dry. The resources are then hand sorted and sent to 29 recovery streams to be reused, repurposed, rehomed, or recycled.

According to The Recycling Partnership, "Curbside recycling in the U.S. currently recovers only 32% of available recyclables." That percentage does not include other items, such as textiles, shoes, books, toner cartridges, and electronics. The Resource Recovery Project partners with large companies such as Republic Services, Terracycle, Giant Foods, Green Drop, and small, local enterprises like Homeward Trails Animal Shelter to recover all these items and more.

Town of Clifton residents can participate as Project Members at reduced subscription rates. The grant also provides for events such as a glass recovery day, a town cleanup, and the July Fourth Picnic at which all residents and visitors can participate.

To learn more contact Ed Ehlers at ed@recoveringresources.com, follow on Facebook @resourcerecoveryproject, and visit recoveringresources.com.

#stoptalkingtrash #yeswetakethat #nothingyucky #resourcerecovery