

# Recycling Efforts at the National Museum of Natural History



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Smithsonian Institution

# Smithsonian Institution



**National Museum of Natural History**



**National Museum of American History**



**National Museum of American Indian**

- Smithsonian Institution Castle 1855
- Arts and Industry Building 1881
- Zoological Park 1889
- Natural History 1910**
- Freer Gallery 1923
- American History 1964**
- Anacostia Museum 1967
- Portrait Gallery 1968
- American Art 1968
- Hirshorn 1974
- Cooper-Hewitt 1976
- Air and Space 1976
- African Art 1979
- Sackler Gallery 1987
- Postal Museum 1993
- American Indian 2004**
- African American History and Culture

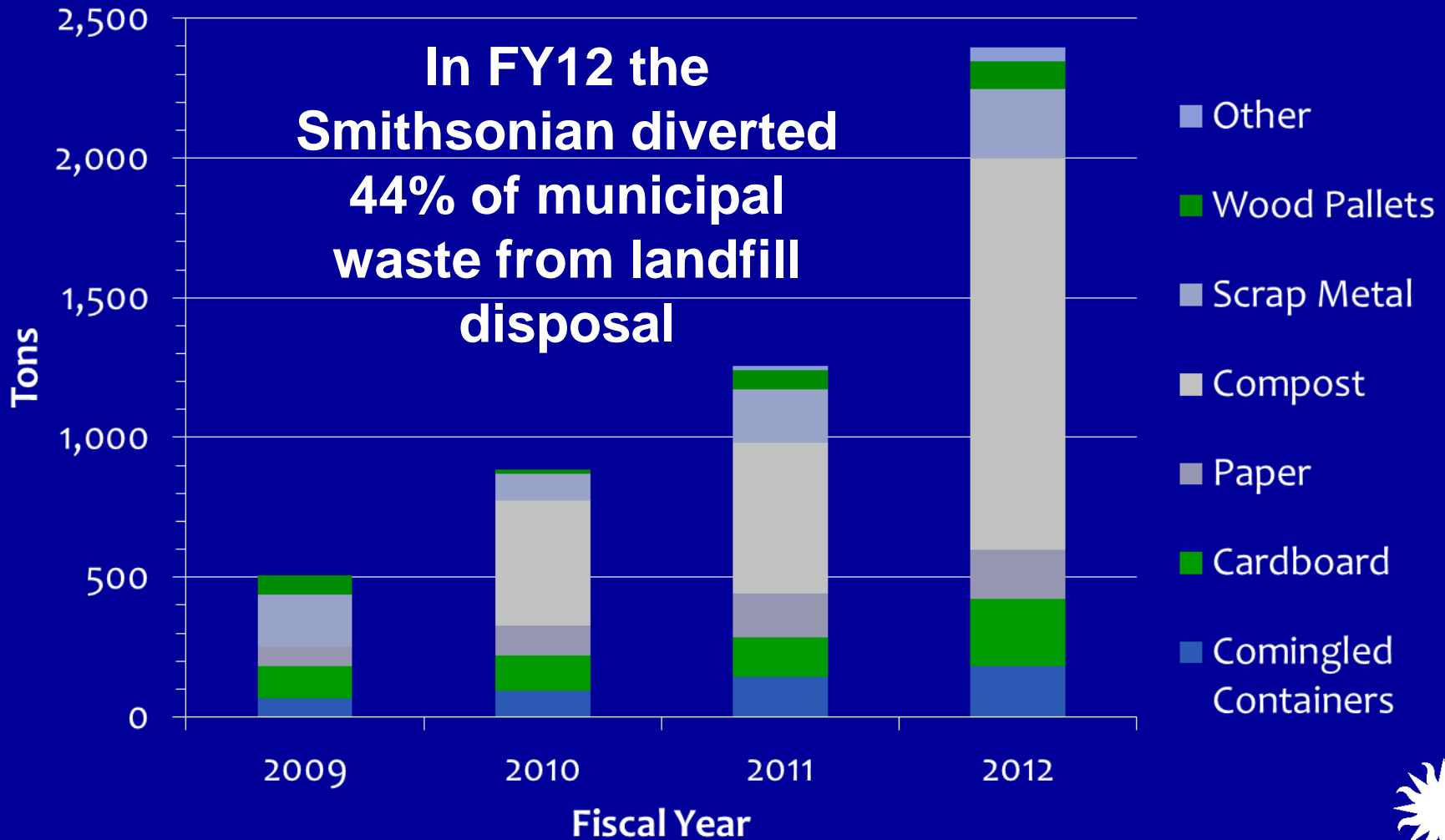
# Smithsonian Recycling Since 1862

*“In view of the great & increasing cost of paper, and of the large quantity of the article required in the operations of the Institution, I request that a basket be kept in each room of the building, into which all pieces of waste paper may be thrown during the day and afterwards emptied into a common receptacle to be preserved for sale.”*

Secretary Joseph Henry, 1862.

# Recycling Tons

In FY12 the Smithsonian diverted 44% of municipal waste from landfill disposal



# Bottle & Can Recycling

## Commingled containers

Plastics grades 1 through 5

Glass

Aluminum

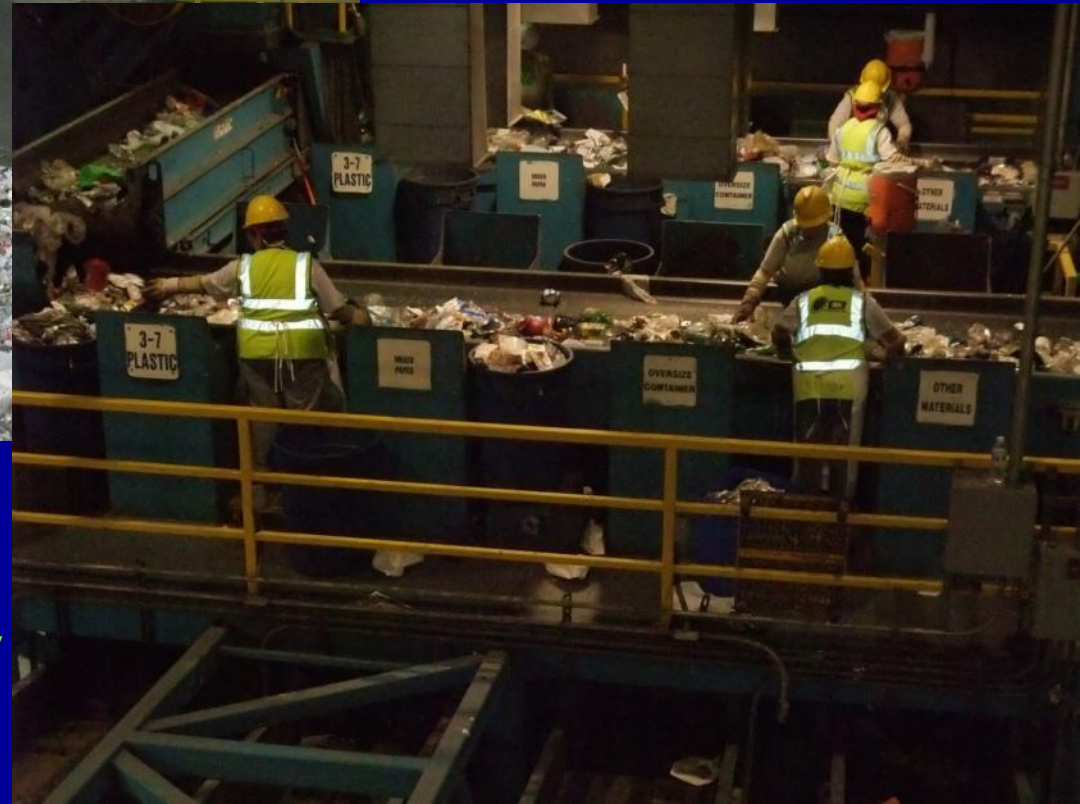
Bi-metal cans





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# Recycling Commingle (bottles and cans)



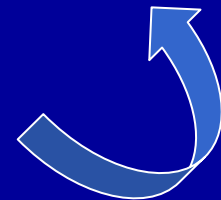
Montgomery Co.  
Recycling Facility



# Paper Recycling



Interior exit





Smithsonian  
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# Paper and Cardboard Recycling

Paper and Cardboard



Georgetown Paperstock

# Recycling at the National Museum of Natural History



In FY 2013 the NMNH recycled:

103 tons paper

49 tons commingle

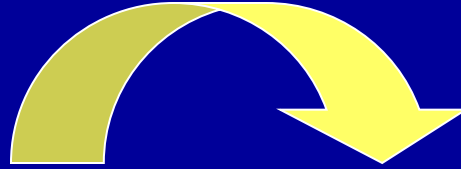
205 tons compostable organics

55 tons of scrap metal

28 tons of wood pallets

3 tons of cooking grease

# Receptacle and Signage Improvements



# Still better containers



# Commingle increase at NMNH

2007- <1 ton

2008- 6 tons

2009- 15.3 tons

2010- 26.7 tons

2011- 30.9 tons

2012- 42.9 tons

2013- 49 tons







# Recycle Clean Cardboard Only

Reciclar Limpio Solamente Cartón



**No Trash**

No Basura

**No Plastic**

No Plástico

**No Waxed Cardboard**

No Carton Espelmado



**No Metal**

No Metal

**No Paper**

No Papel

**Please**

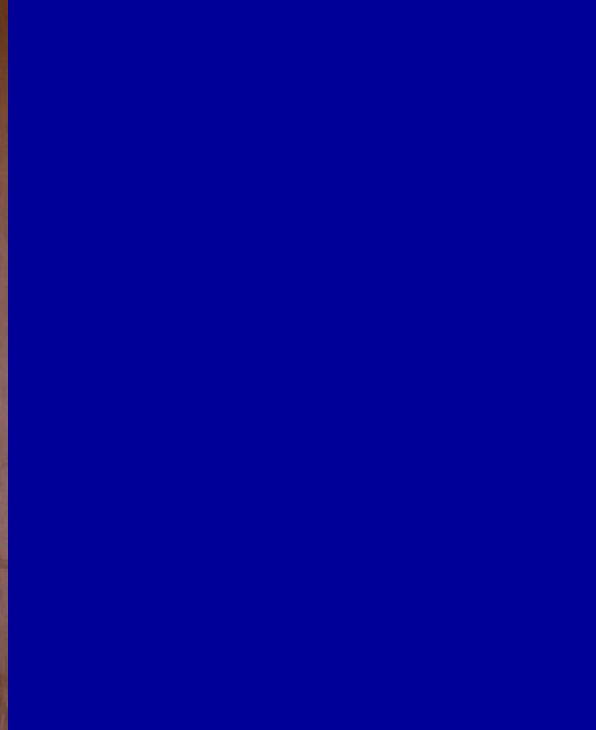
**Breakdown Boxes**

Desbarate La  
Caja De Cartón

# Dry, Clean Corrugated Cardboard Only

Ondulando Carton Seco, Limpio Solamente





NMNH Cafe



Compost Separation at  
Tray Returns at NMAI  
and NMAH



**LANDFILL**

- Plastic
- Plastic Bags
- Plastic Packets
- Plastic Wrap
- Food Container Lids Only
- Candy Wrappers
- Styrofoam
- Foil

Not Sure? Here is OK.

**RECYCLE**

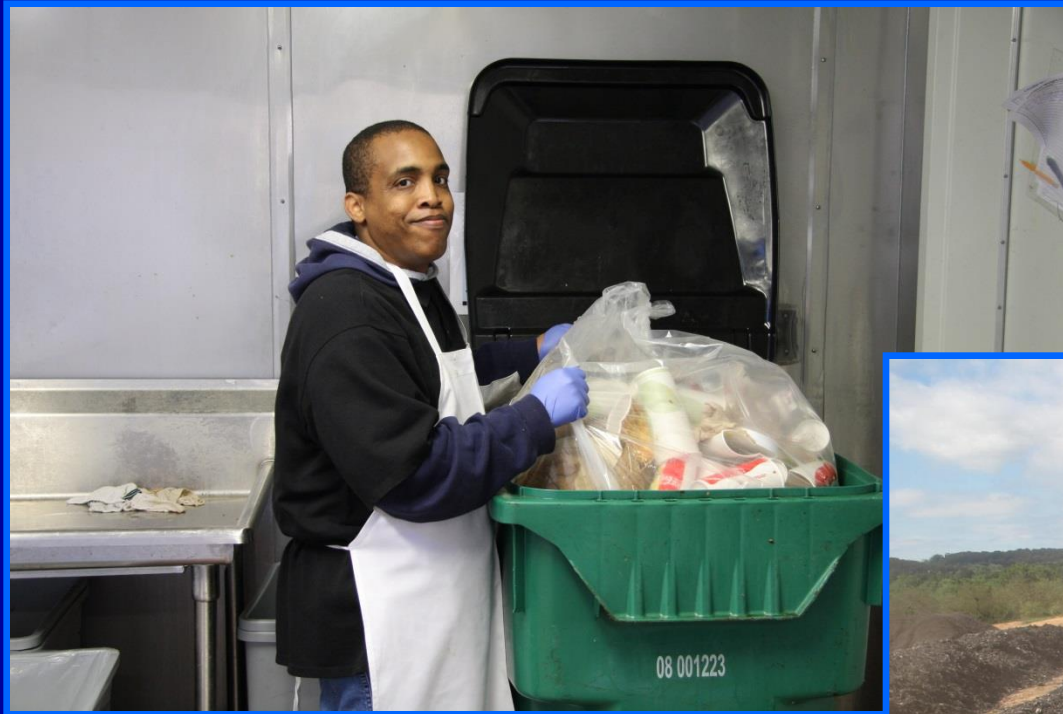
- Plastic Bottles
- Glass Bottles
- Metal Cans
- Biodeg. Caps

No Dr Plastics

**COMPOST**

- All Food Scraps
- Paper & Cardboard Food Containers (Not Lids)
- Measur. Cups & Plates
- Measur. Forks, Spoons & Knives
- Bio-Plastic
- Measur. Liner Bags
- Chispicks
- Gum & Candy

# NMNH restaurant composts 200 tons of organic waste per year



# Disposables





## CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the following product has been found to comply with the specifications established in the American Society for Testing and Materials standard ASTM D6400, "Standard Specifications for Compostable Plastics", in accordance with the terms and conditions of the "Biodegradable Products Institute and The United States Composting Council - Certification Program for Products Made of Compostable Plastics - Program Rules":

**Products:**

- PSM HL-101 Resins for making blown films and bags with a maximum thickness of 2.07mms.
- PSM HL-102 for extruded sheet and thermoformed products with a maximum thickness of 2.07mms.
- PSM HL-104 for making foamed products with a maximum thickness of 2.07mms.
- PSM HL-103 for making injection molding products with a maximum thickness of 2.5mms.

as further described in the application and related information submitted to the Biodegradable Products Institute by Wuhan Huali Environment Protection Science & Technology Co. Ltd. (the "Licensee") of Wuhan, Hubei, China.

This Certificate authorizes the Licensee, for three (3) years beginning on the date below, to use the Certification Program Logo in the United States only depicted below in relation to such Product, subject to all conditions and terms of the Program Rules and the License Agreement between the Biodegradable Products Institute and the Licensee. Use of other resins or additives with PSM materials voids this certification.



By:   
BPI Executive Director

Date: February 10, 2009



# Unauthorized BPI certification for cutlery



NMNH's café is certified with  
3 Stars



# GREEN RESTAURANT® POINTS



## Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's Cafe

3 Star Certified Green Restaurant®

| <b>Environmental Category</b>    | <b>Points</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Energy                           | 36.29         |
| Food                             | 29.38         |
| Water                            | 18.29         |
| Waste                            | 55.75         |
| Disposables                      | 20.14         |
| Chemicals & Pollution Reduction  | 18.53         |
| Furnishings & Building Materials | 3.50          |
| <b>POINT TOTAL</b>               | <b>181.88</b> |

[Details of All Steps and Points](#)

Certified Since 2011

2 Stars = 100 Points · 3 Stars = 175 Points · 4 Stars = 300 Points

[Click here to see GRA's Standards](#)



|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Recycling: Comingled (Plastics, Glass, Aluminum) | 10.00        |
| Recycling: Cardboard                             | 8.00         |
| Recycling: Paper                                 | 2.00         |
| Recycling: Grease to Biodiesel or Energy         | 2.50         |
| Composting: Pre Consumer Waste                   | 17.50        |
| Composting: Post Consumer Waste                  | 7.50         |
| Reusable Mug Program                             | 2.25         |
| Reusable Trays                                   | 1.00         |
| Donations to Food Bank                           | 5.00         |
| <b>Total Waste</b>                               | <b>55.75</b> |





# Smithsonian Banner Bags





**Tote bags recycled from NMNH banners.**



Broken gift  
shop fossils  
used as  
garden  
decoration



# Resource Recovery at 2013 Folklife Festival



Thank You