



RECYCLING MATTERS

FOR A WASTE-FREE COLLAR CITY

12 R's of 2022

Refill and reuse go hand in hand. What better way to reuse than to refill? Matt and Caroline, the co-owners of the newly opened Matt's Refillery on River Street, told us about how "small changes create big impacts," doing our planet a whole lot of good.

Refill

When you hear the phrase "zero waste," what do you think? For many, matching containers come to mind. Perfectly organized cabinets and shelves. Everything is pristine.

Zero waste doesn't need to look perfect. Any effort towards reducing waste doesn't need to look perfect. We can refill glass jars from kimchi we finished; plastic containers from takeout; there is magic in refilling.

One of the most common ways to refill It means buying items without packaging, the majority of the time in large quantities. These items could range from grains and other dry goods, all the way to shampoo and lotion. As the customer, you can choose how much you're buying. Products in a typical grocery store are prepackaged at certain weights. If you need less than a whole can of corn, you're out of luck. At a bulk store, however - you can choose any amount you'd like - you just need to weigh it.

In the last issue of Recycling Matters, we discussed circular economies, which means items are created with the intention of being reused, repaired, recycled, shared, leased, and more. In our interview with Matt's Refillery, the co-owners touched on **closed loop systems**, which are a great example of a circular economy. We won't spoil it here, though. You'll have to keep reading to learn more!

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Pictured: three wooden shelves with mismatched jars and containers.

Community News

Matt's Refillery

We wish a warm welcome to a new addition in the Troy sustainability scene: Matt's Refillery. Co-owners Matt Converse and Caroline Buinicky opened their small business at 199 River Street here in the Collar City.

Their business' motto is "small changes create big impact." Buinicky said, "There's a lot of pressure to make a lot of changes overnight. It stops a lot of people from moving forward. But if we all start to slowly make changes, that in the long run will make a big impact."

Matt's Refillery offers home and personal care products, such as all-purpose cleaners, toothpaste tablets, shampoo and conditioner, and more in **bulk**. Customers can bring their own containers, purchase ones from the Refillery, or choose from one of the 'free shelf' options.

"Our [free] shelf is stocked with [repurposed] recyclables. Old pasta sauce jars, salsa jars, dish washer detergent bottles, stuff like that," Buinicky said.



Pictured: The Refillery's 'free' shelf, with a wooden crate of clean, repurposed, glass and plastic containers.

Customers first bring their containers to the scale at the register to be weighed before filling them so they are not charged for the weight of the container at checkout.

Customers can refill their containers as much, or as little, as they'd like. "If there's something on our shelves you haven't used before but you're curious about, you can purchase an ounce, a couple ounces, it's really up to you. There's no limitations," Converse said.

As an added measure of sustainability, all products at Matt's Refillery have **closed loop systems**.

"Say I receive a give gallon order of laundry soap. As soon as I run out, I send back the bag and spout the product came in, as well as the box. [The company] sanitize[s] the bag and pump, refill the bag with their product, and send it back to us," Converse said.



Pictured: Glass and cardboard containers with spouts holding the bulk liquid products.

The Refillery's current hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 10am to 6pm, with special hours on Saturdays from 9am to 6pm for the Troy Farmer's Market. Follow them on Facebook or Tiktok for more updates - @mattsrefillery. They hope to have their website up and running in the fall, which may also have an option for online ordering and delivery!

If there's a product you're looking to refill they don't currently offer, let them know. Converse and Buinicky hope to expand offerings as customers let them know.

Troy Resource Mgmt. Facility

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Troy Resource Management Facility

As Troy residents, you can access the Troy Resource Management Facility, formerly known as the Alamo, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm. Stop by to drop off food scraps, drop off brush and bagged leaves, pick up pallets, or pick up wood chips. The facility is located on the corner of E. Industrial Pkwy and Main St.



Pictured: a dark blue bucket filled with food scraps.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event: Brunswick, NY

Our next household hazardous waste disposal event will be on **Saturday, August 27th, in Brunswick**. Registration is limited. 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.

Address: 336 Town Office Road, Route 7, Troy, NY 12180.



SCAN ME

Registration link: www.troyny.gov/hhw

Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY-BASED SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

TROY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (ALAMO) OPEN
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 9 TO 1

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP @ TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY - LANSINGBURGH

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/COMPOST-WORKSHOP-REGISTRATION](https://bit.ly/compost-workshop-registration)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL EVENT - BRUNSWICK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED: WWW.TROYNY.GOV/HHW

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK