

Baling Recyclables

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Photo source: DEC

What is a recycling baler?

Recycling balers are used to compact recyclables such as aluminum, cardboard, paper, and plastic into blocks which can easily be stacked and transported. The blocks of recyclables that come out of balers vary in size and weight depending on how big of a baler you have. There are many different kinds of balers, but balers used specifically for recyclables are usually called "vertical" balers. There are some small horizontal balers on the market. They are compact and can fit in a 20' connex. The horizontal balers produce tighter bales (recycling companies sometimes pay more for tighter bales).

Where can I purchase a recycling baler?

Recycle Systems

Contact: Steve Anderson
Kirkland, WA 98083
Phone: 888-453-9300
www.recyclesys.com

Harris Balers

Pioneer Supply Inc.,
Contact: Larry Fagnani
(907) 373- 5337 (Wasilla)
www.harriswaste.com

Ver-tech, Inc

Contact: Fred Simmons
Phone: 1 (800) 328-3398
Rockford, MN 55373
www.ver-tech.com

CRAM-A-LOT

J.V.Manufacturing,Inc.
Contact: Eric Harris
Phone: 916-456-7676
www.cram-a-lot.com

TSISSG

3451 South 40th St
Phoenix, AZ 85040
Phone: 1-800-223-4540
www.tsissg.com

This company sells a small horizontal baler (model 710) for under \$14,000 (not including shipping). To make a bale of aluminum cans with this baler, you need about 3,000 cans (which is similar to the amount needed to make a bale with a vertical baler). The weight of a bale of aluminum from the 710 baler is about 150 lbs compared to 125 lbs with the small vertical balers.

Note: some communities use one baler to bale their solid waste as well as recyclables. For information about baling **solid waste**, see our solid waste baling document <http://www.zendergroup.org/baler.html>. If you are interested in baling waste and recyclables, ask the companies you call to recommend a baler that can do both.

The vendors are listed as a directory to assist people in identifying and locating the resources they need to apply to their individual, company, or community situations. Zender neither endorses nor underwrites any of the vendors listed here and is not in any financial relationship with any vendor listed here. Zender does not portray this vendor list as a final or complete list. Zender invites vendors whose products and/or services fit the category of Solid Waste Management to contact Evelyn Agnus, Environmental Scientist, 907-277-2111, about inclusion on the vendor resource web list.

Examples of successful recycling baling systems

Haines, Alaska

Haines in Southeast Alaska has a great recycling program called the "Haines Friends of Recycling" group. The group uses a GPI S60SD recycling baler for the following items:

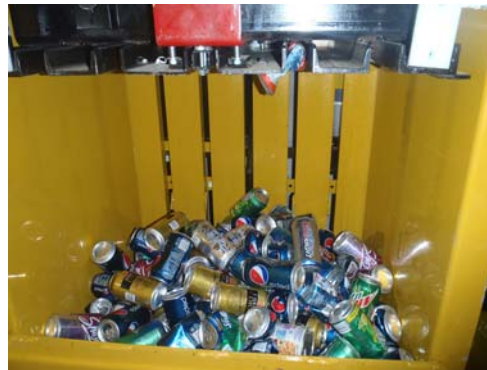
- Aluminum cans
- Paper
- Plastics
- Scrap metal

They had to upgrade the door so when paper is loaded they can tie the bale before opening the door; otherwise the paper just squirted out. Users will need access to pre-tied baling wire made for the machine.

You can contact the Haines Friends of Recycling group at **766-3000** and they have a great website which describes their recycling program: <http://www.hainesrecycle.org/>

Kalskag, Alaska

Kalskag Traditional Council recently purchased a M30HD through Recycle Systems with an ANTHC Division of Environmental Health Grant. The baler is used for aluminum and cost \$8,375 plus shipping. Contact Billy Jean Stewart at 471-2322 or kalskagenvironmental@yahoo.com and ask how they like their new baler.



Gustavus, Alaska

The 400 person Southeast community of Gustavus runs a great recycling program. They use a recycling baler to bale aluminum, cardboard and plastics. They use a Cram-a-lot baler (model: DH-42R) which produces pallet size bales. A Bobcat is the used to move the bales.

You can contact the person in charge of Gustavus's recycling program **Paul Berry, the Dumpmaster**, by phone at **697-2367 or 697-2714**. Or by e-mail

dumpmaster@gca.gustavus.ak.us Paul runs a great baler program and is a really nice guy. Give him a call to ask his advice about getting started with a baler! Also check out information on their website <http://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/services/DRC>



Bales of Aluminum cans next to Gustavus's new Landfill building.

Akiachak, Alaska

The Akiachak Native Community purchased a M42HD Vertical Baler from Recycle Systems through a Tribal Solid Waste Assistance Grant in 2007. The baler is operated in their Recycling Building (converted Quonset hut). The baler is used for aluminum cans and plastics and bales are shrinkwrapped and sent to Seattle for recycling (see photos below). Contact Eric Phillip or Gregory Charles at 825 4626 to ask how they like their baler.



Cans and plastics baled in Akiachak



Funding opportunities to purchase balers

The Rasmuson Foundation Tier I Grant.

Amount: \$25,000

Description: They fund infrastructure needed for a recycling program such as a baler or building for a recycling center.

Contact: Aleesha Towns-Bain, 297-2875.

Community Environmental Demonstration Grants The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Zender Group award small demonstration projects - average awards are \$20,000. Projects must demonstrate an innovative approach for improving human health and/or the environment of Tribal communities in rural Alaska. Contact Desirae Roehl at 729-3496 or Jacqueline Shirley 907 952 9973 for more information or see

<http://www.zendergroup.org/cedp.html>

Environmental Protection Agency Indian General Assistance Program

(need prior approval from your project officer)

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Grants/IGAP/>

Zender Environmental's Funding Page

<http://www.zendergroup.org/funding.html>