

Where does it go?

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT**



Have you ever wondered where your recycling goes after it leaves your house?



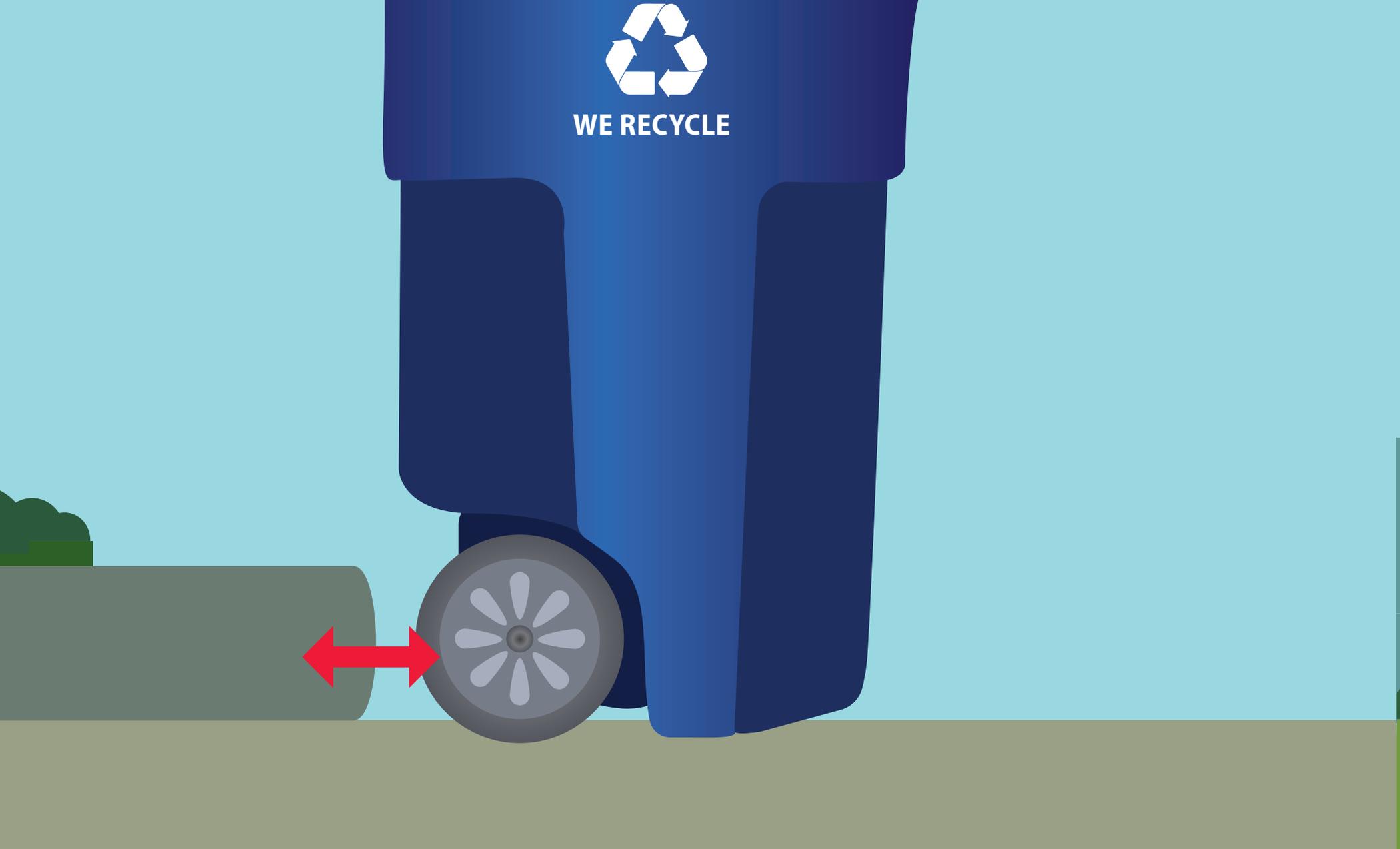
Let's begin here in the neighborhood where San Antonio families place clean recyclables such as paper, plastic, cans, and glass into the blue cart.



First they must rinse out all glass jars and food cans before placing them in the blue cart.



Families then place the items loosely into the blue cart.
No trash bags are needed.

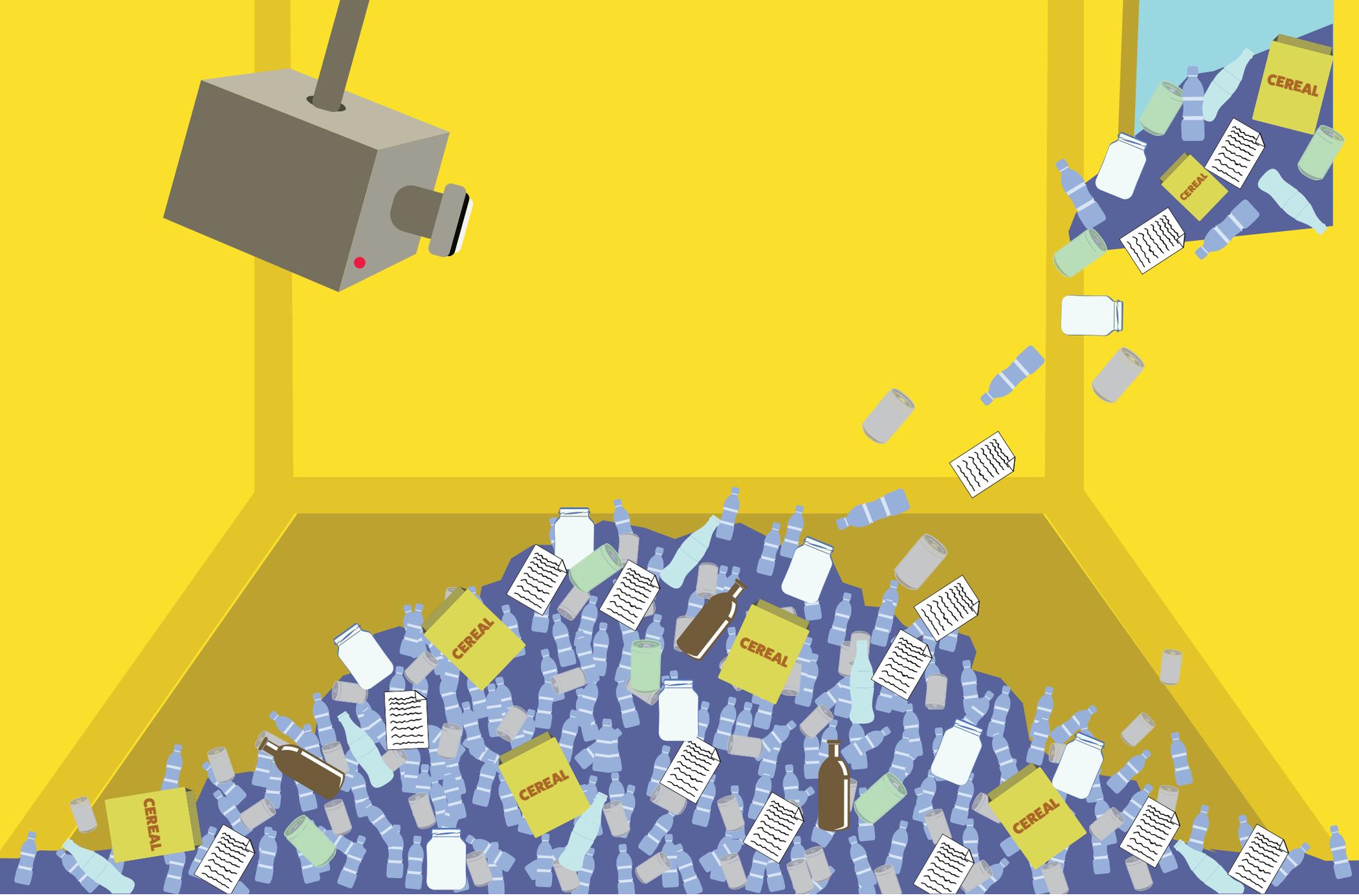


On collection day, they place the blue cart on the curb before 7 a.m., making sure the wheels of the cart are facing the curb.

Our friendly recycling driver enters the neighborhood driving a recycling truck that uses a special arm to reach out and grab the blue cart.



The arm picks up the blue cart and pours out the clean paper, plastic, glass and cans into the truck.



To make sure we are collecting all of the right items the truck has a camera that can see what is being poured out of the cart.



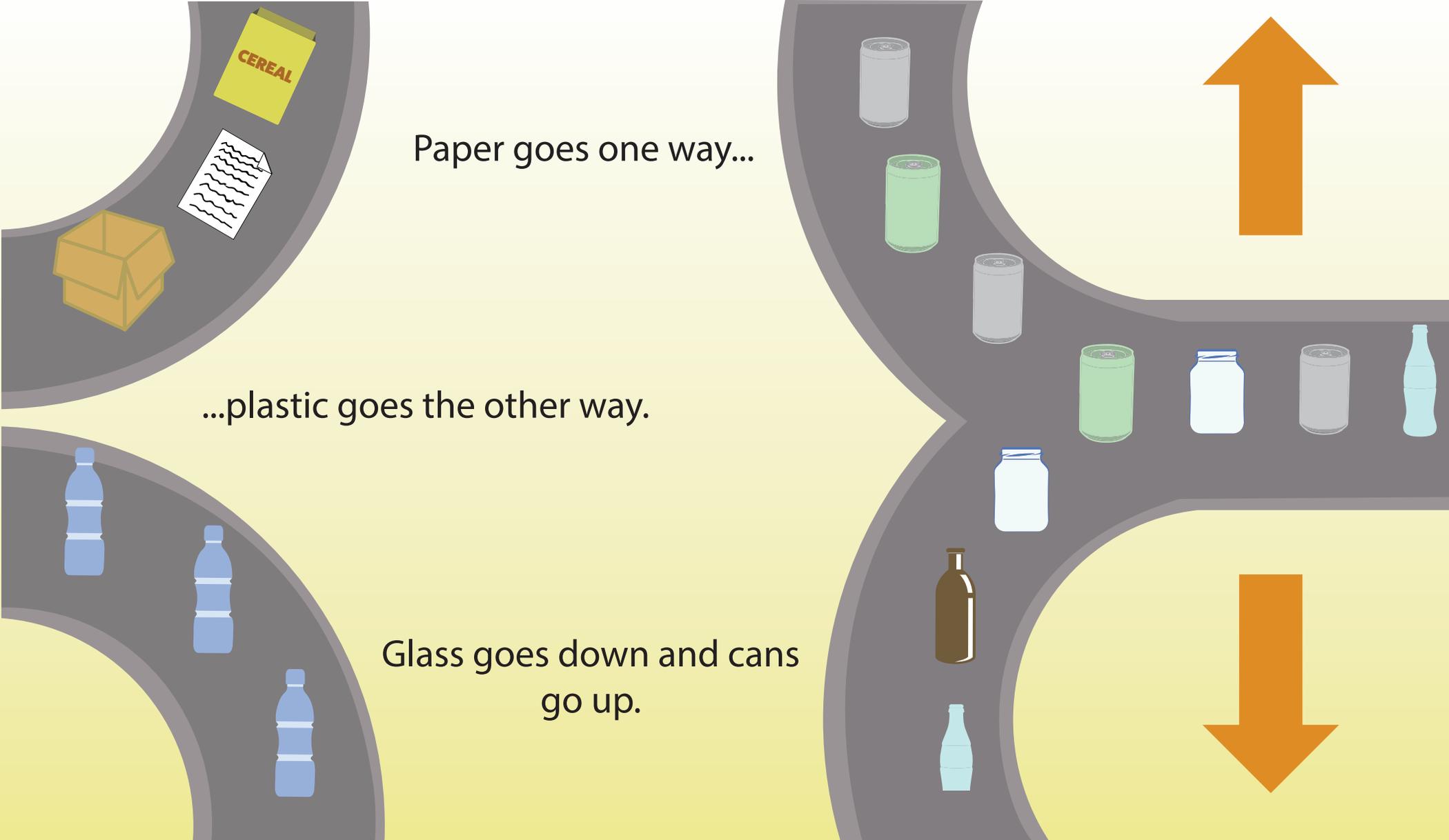
If the driver spots anything other than recyclables, a reminder tag is left on the cart.

When the truck is full it comes here, to the
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).





Materials are dumped onto the floor, scooped up and placed on a conveyor belt to be sorted by hand and machines.



Paper goes one way...

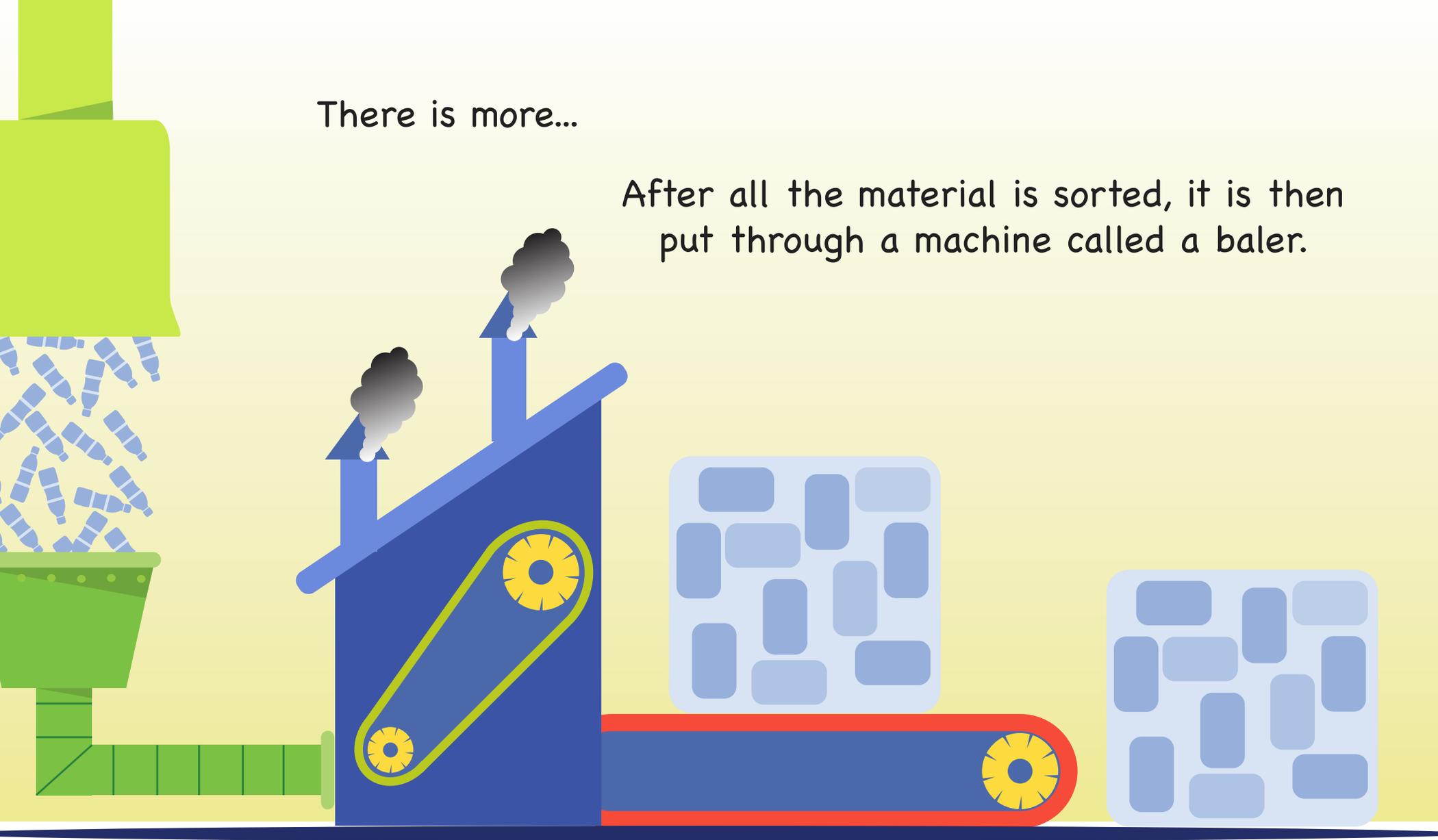
...plastic goes the other way.

Glass goes down and cans go up.

Everyone at the MRF is given a task. Sort, sort, sort until everything is completely separated.

There is more...

After all the material is sorted, it is then put through a machine called a baler.



This is where materials are pressed together into cubes. Companies buy these cubes and use the recycled materials in them to make new things.

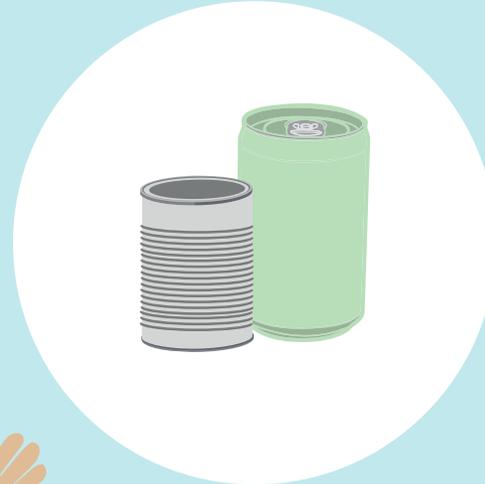
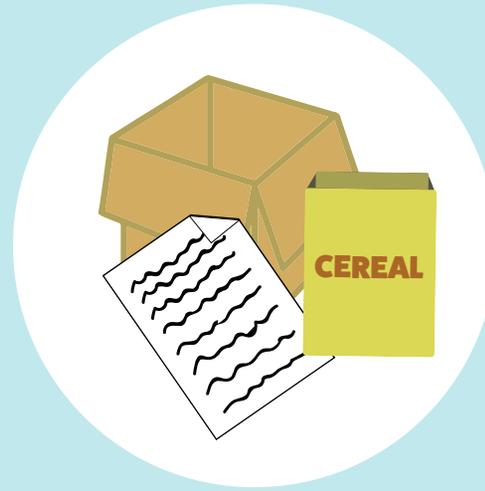
Paper makes more paper.

Plastic can be turned into t-shirts and other stuff.





And cans are back on the shelf in just six weeks!

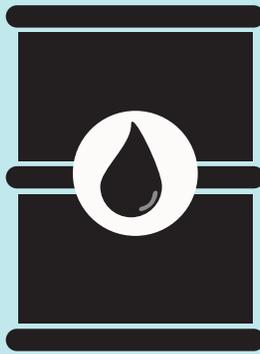


Recycling paper, plastic, cans and glass helps save our planet's natural resources.

Recycling...



...Saves our trees



...Saves oil for other things



...Keeps us from digging for minerals.



San Antonio plays a big role in saving the planet.
Join the movement. Be smart and do your part!





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