

Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin – Metal Mania

I recently received an email letting me know my fellow high school graduates are planning a reunion because we've hit a milestone anniversary date. Luckily it was so long ago there are few photos of me from the era of hair bands and heavy metal music. Note: don't Google those terms if you get nauseous easily.

Just like heavy metal is best left in my past, our recycling program wants to leave heavy metal items in our past too. About 20 years ago recycling companies were racing to see who could take more items than their competitors. That led one salesperson to tell us in Brooklyn Park that their company could accept scrap metal. Unfortunately, the salesperson didn't check with co-workers at the sorting facility. If they had they would have been told that scrap metal can't be separated effectively. Either it's too heavy, and wears out the machinery. It's too small and ends up in the trash. Or it's a danger to the workers due to sharp edges or because it becomes airborne as it goes over the sorting machinery.



They say if you live long enough everything comes back in style. And nearly 70% of scrap steel comes back in style as new steel. Making new steel or aluminum from scrap uses anywhere from 75% (steel) to 95% (aluminum) less energy than making these products from raw materials. Recycle your scrap metal for free at the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility (open year-round) or the Special Materials Drop-Off Day (one in spring, one in fall).

Until next time, give new life to your metal memories by recycling your scrap my friends.