PRODUCT DIFFERENTIATION

Just think about a pancake and a biscuit; although they are made of the same ingredients (water, eggs, flour and milk), there are different quantities of these ingredients within each item. Pancake batter is runnier than biscuit batter, making it easier to pour. Whereas, biscuit batter is more easily molded. You cook them at different temperatures for different lengths of time, one in the oven and one on the stove.

Plastics are the same way. They all have the same initial components that makes them plastic and relate to the number they are given (i.e., 1-7); however, the individual makeup within each product dictates our ability to recycle it. Injection–blown plastics, like a water bottle, are similar to pancakes; and molded plastics, such as a butter tub, are similar to biscuits. So even though a plastic item may have #2 on the bottom of it, not all #2s are the same.

Can any plastic bottle with a recycling symbol be recycled in my community?

NO The plastics industry created the coding system to mean it can be recycled somewhere in the world but not necessarily in your town.

To see what's recyclable near you, go to http://nc.myecoville.com/ecosearch