

Maximize Scrap Value, Minimize Waste

PROFITABLE CNC RECYCLING

IN THIS GUIDE:

KNOW YOUR METALS

BEST PRACTICES FOR CNC RECYCLING

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CNC RECYCLING PARTNER

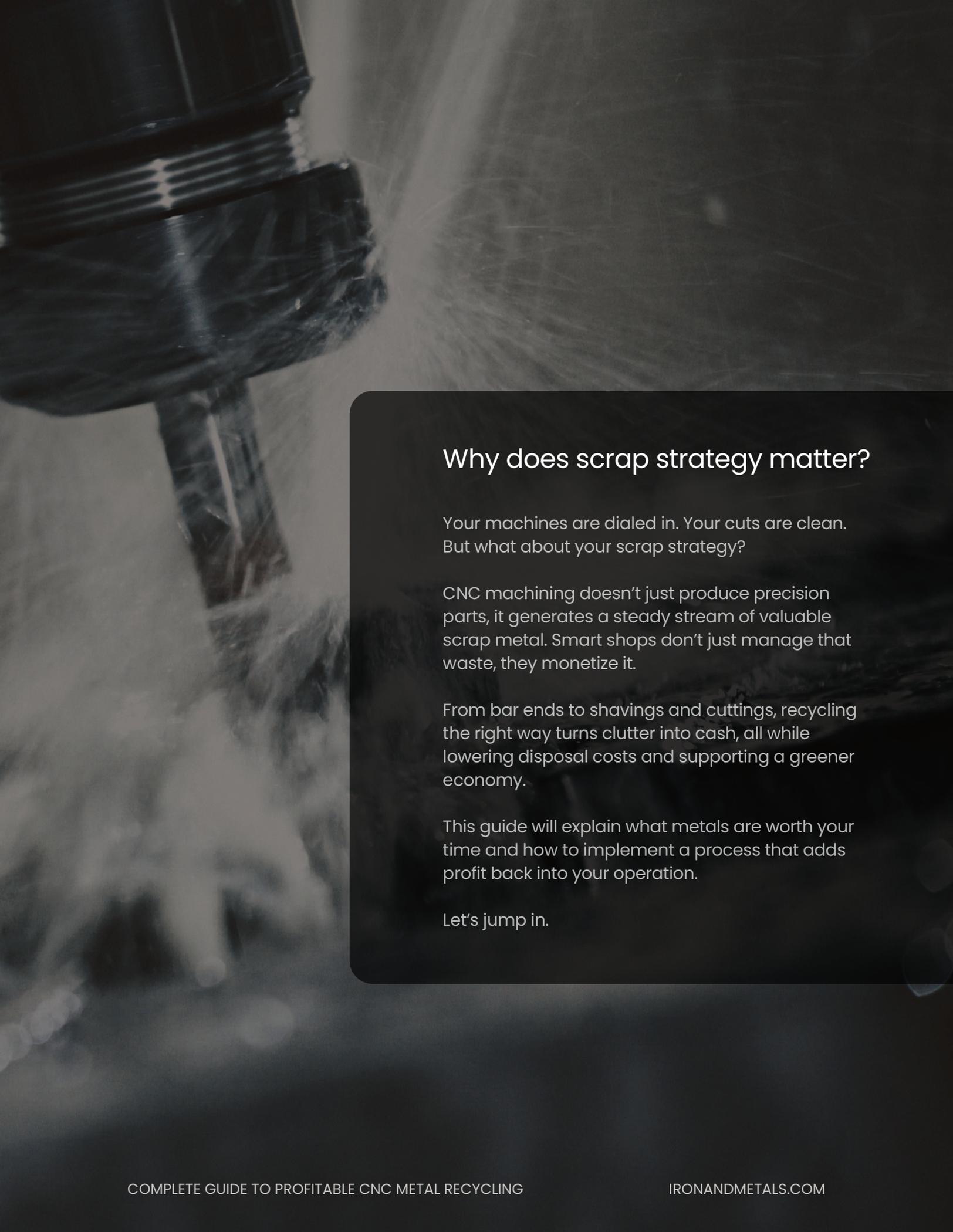
IMPLEMENTING A CNC RECYCLING PROGRAM

ARE YOU LEAVING MONEY ON THE TABLE?

LET'S TALK

Turn CNC metal scrap into profit while cutting costs & supporting sustainability.





Why does scrap strategy matter?

Your machines are dialed in. Your cuts are clean. But what about your scrap strategy?

CNC machining doesn't just produce precision parts, it generates a steady stream of valuable scrap metal. Smart shops don't just manage that waste, they monetize it.

From bar ends to shavings and cuttings, recycling the right way turns clutter into cash, all while lowering disposal costs and supporting a greener economy.

This guide will explain what metals are worth your time and how to implement a process that adds profit back into your operation.

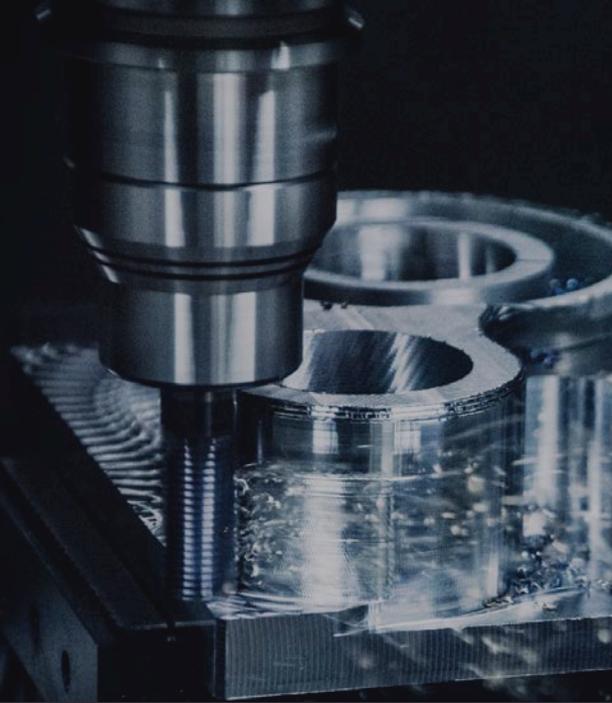
Let's jump in.

KNOW YOUR METALS

CNC Scrap That Pays Off

It's important to know the value of the scrap metal you generate. Apart from their payout potential, each metal has a different demand.

Metal	Common Applications	Recycling Value	Worth (per lb)	Pro Tip
Aluminum	Aerospace, automotive, precision parts	 high	\$0.30–\$0.80	Clean, sorted shavings or chips bring the best rates
Steel	Structural, tooling, fabrication	 moderate	\$0.03–\$0.12	Sort demagnetized grades for better payouts
Copper	Electrical parts, grounding	 very high	\$2.50–\$4.00	Keep copper clean and free of insulation to avoid downgrades
Brass	Fittings, valves	 high	\$1.50–\$2.00	Separate yellow, red, and leaded brass for accurate grading
Stainless	Food-grade, marine, medical	 moderate high	\$0.25–\$0.75	Avoid mixing stainless with magnetic steels or non-metals
Titanium	Aerospace, medical, auto	 very high	\$2.50–\$5.00+	Keep scrap segregated to avoid contamination
High-Temp Alloys	Aerospace turbines, chemical	 extremely high	\$4.00–\$10.00+	Clearly label alloy types. Recyclers may pay a premium for known specs



OPERATIONAL BEST PRACTICES FOR CNC RECYCLING

Keep CNC Scrap Recycling Flowing

Whether you're running 3 shifts or a single machine, scrap adds up. Smart shops don't just manage it, they monetize it. From custom bins to automated tracking, today's best recycling partnerships make it easy to cash in without disrupting your workflow.

- 1 Customized Skip Bins:** Use tailored containers (roll-offs, luggers, lockboxes) for sorting metals efficiently

- 2 Account Tracking:** Track weights and values over time to gauge performance and profitability

- 3 Regular Audits:** Improve sorting to reduce contamination and boost payout

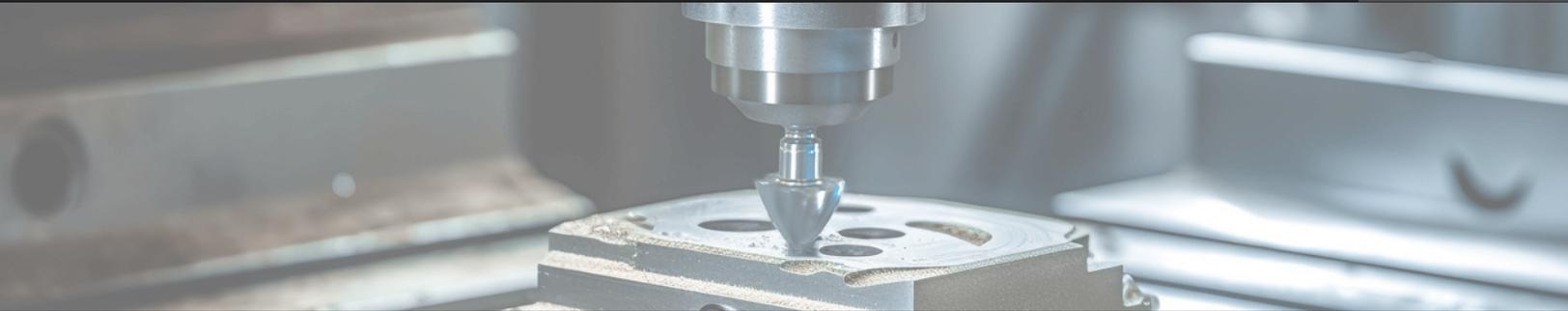
- 4 Staff Training:** Teach teams how to separate and handle materials properly

- 5 Reputable Partners:** Choose vendors who offer transparent pricing, fast pickups, and reliable service

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT CNC RECYCLING PARTNER

What to Look for Before You Commit

Choosing a qualified CNC recycling partner is critical for maximizing returns and maintaining operational efficiency.



Proven Track Record

Choose a recycler with experience serving industrial CNC shops. A proven history means they understand your workflow, scrap types, and volume demands.

Certifications & Compliance

Look for state-certified scales, environmental compliance, and any industry-specific certifications. These ensure accuracy, legal protection, and peace of mind.

Transparent Reporting

The best partners make it easy to track loads, weights, and payments. Reliable reporting helps you track performance, forecast revenue, and audit your scrap program.

Container & Pickup Options

Every shop setup is different. Make sure your recycler offers:

- Drop-off containers sized for your space
- Flexible pickup scheduling (same-day or next-day)
- Fast swap-outs to prevent downtime

IMPLEMENTING A CNC RECYCLING PROGRAM



A Step-by-Step Roadmap for Shops

A successful recycling program doesn't happen by accident—it takes a clear plan and consistent follow-through. Here's how to set up a system that keeps scrap flowing smoothly and profitably:

01

Assess Your Scrap

Identify what metals your shop produces most often (aluminum, steel, copper, or high-temp alloys) and estimate your volumes.

02

Set Clear Goals

Decide what matters most: boosting revenue, hitting sustainability benchmarks, improving shop cleanliness, and workflow.

03

Design a Collection System

Label bins by metal type and place them strategically near machines. Consider tailored containers to streamline sorting and avoid contamination.

04

Monitor Results

Track scrap volume, value, and service needs. This data reveals trends, highlights inefficiencies, and shows whether you're hitting your goals.

05

Celebrate Wins

Share performance metrics with your team or stakeholders. Recognizing progress motivates staff, builds buy-in, and highlights the real impact of recycling on your bottom line.

ARE YOU LEAVING MONEY ON THE TABLE?

For Shops Already Recycling

If your shop is already recycling, you're on the right track. But even shops with established programs often miss simple opportunities that can boost profits and streamline operations.

Here's how to make sure you're not leaving money on the table:

Shop around for pricing by metal type

Rates can vary widely. Compare what different recyclers pay for high-value metals like copper, brass, and titanium.

Avoid monthly rental fees if you're filling bins quickly

If containers are turning over fast, you shouldn't be paying extra to keep them on-site.

Look for next-day pickup options

Quick, flexible service keeps your shop clean and prevents costly downtime from overflowing bins.

Ask for support in picking the right bin sizes

The right container setup reduces clutter and makes sorting scrap easier for your team.

Get full transparency: tickets, weights, and rates

Every load should be tracked with clear, verifiable reporting so you know exactly what you're earning.

At Iron & Metals, we specialize in flexible container solutions for CNC shops, with fast swap-outs, no load minimums, and accurate tracking.

Ready to Level Up Your CNC Scrap Strategy?

CNC scrap recycling doesn't have to be a headache. It can be a powerful revenue stream.

With the right metals sorted, the right processes in place, and the right recycling partner on your side, your shop can turn waste into measurable profit while supporting sustainability and efficiency.

At Iron & Metals, we specialize in helping CNC shops get the most from every cut.

From tailored container solutions to fast pickups and transparent reporting, our team makes it simple to maximize your scrap returns.

Call us today to schedule a scrap metal container pickup or a free onsite audit.

Learn about our scrap metal recycling services

ironandmetals.com

Find Us

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Business Hours:

Receiving Hours:

Monday and Friday, 8am - 4pm

Business Hours:

Monday and Friday, 8am - 4:30pm

