

RECYCLE THIS!

Horry County's Newsletter to Read & Recycle

MythBusters: Recycling

Myth #1 - Recycled products are expensive, poor quality

If you recycle, you may often wonder what happens to your cans, bottles and paper. Recycling is simply taking something old and turning it into something new. This new product may be carpet from soda bottles or notebook paper from old office paper.

However, it has been misconceived that recycled products are poor quality because it was once something old. But just look in your home or office and you will find plenty of recycled products. For example, most cereal boxes are made from 100% recycled paperboard. Many name brands

use post-consumer recycled content plastic in their bottles. Just about every steel product, such as a soup can, has recycled steel in it. But you don't think about your cereal box or shampoo bottle as a poor quality product.

The pricing for these recycled products is not much different than a cereal box or plastic bottle made from virgin material. The high price tag for recycled products usually comes from specialty gifts such as toy airplanes made from aluminum cans or messenger bags made from billboards.

Purchasing recycled products is an vital part of "closing the loop." In order for recycling to be effective and save natural resources, there has to be a market for recycled products.

Myth #2 - It's Not Really Being Recycled

Those that recycle routinely pay attention. They are ones that rinse out their bottles and cans, flatten their cardboard boxes and even over-analyze their paper. However, one of the most discouraging events to have happen is to think your recycling hard work is getting trashed.

Some curbside programs in Horry County utilize a traditional garbage truck for its residential curbside program. You may place your recycling into a roll cart (looks like a trash cart) or into a recycling bin, but the one that picks it up places it into

a "garbage" truck that is being used for recycling. The City of Myrtle Beach and the Town of Surfside use a rearloading and sideloading garbage truck for recycling collection. The City of Conway and the City of North Myrtle Beach use a traditional curbsort recycling truck that has separate compartments.

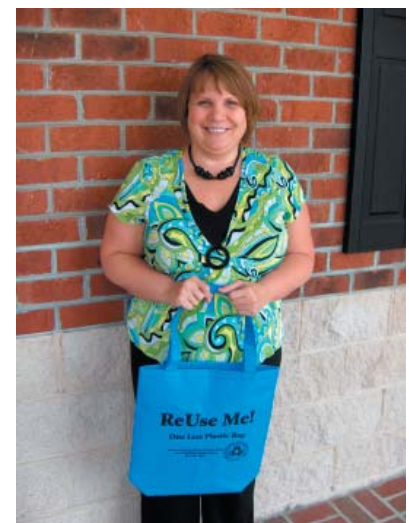
All recycling trucks are able to bring the recyclables to Horry County's Material Recycling Facility off Highway 90 in Conway for processing. There is no tipping fee to drop-off recyclables at this location. The recycling collection includes the residential curbside programs, the recycling centers and any other recycling collection. For more information or any concerns about your residential program, please contact (843) 347-1651 or info@solidwasteauthority.org



Shop Green: An alternative to plastic bags

It is estimated that Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags every year. Only 2% of plastic bags are recycled in the U.S. Even when disposed of properly, plastic bags can become litter. The wind may carry them into our neighborhoods, forests, and into our ocean.

An alternative to the use of plastic bags or paper bags is to bring your own canvas or reusable bag. Many local grocery stores offer such bags (cost around \$1.00 a bag) and are placed near checkout. You do not have to purchase a bag from the grocery store, you can bring one from home. Using a reusable bag can save oil consumption, reduce litter, and save landfill space. Email us your name and a picture of you using your reusable bag to education@solidwasteauthority.org and we will put you in the next newsletter.



Susie Wofford of Aynor reuses her bag at the grocery store.

Recycling Tidbits

Recycle Your CFLs

The Home Depot expanded its long-term commitment to the environment and sustainability by launching a national in-store, recycling program for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) at all 1,973 The Home Depot locations. This FREE service is the first such offering made so widely available by a retailer in the United States. At each Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in any unbroken CFL and give it to the store associate at the customer service desk. The collected bulbs will be managed responsibly by an environmental management company that will coordinate CFL packaging, transportation and recycling to maximize safety and ensure environmental compliance.

Eco-Quick Fixes at Home

- 1) Turn off unnecessary lights
- 2) Switch from regular light bulbs to CFL bulbs
- 3) Install motion sensors for outdoor lighting
- 4) Turn off your computer at night.
- 5) Switch to a laptop.
- 6) Get an energy saving monitor.
- 7) Turn down the water heater. Lowering it from 140 to 120 degrees may save costs by 6-10% per year.
- 8) Unplug unused chargers, save 8% per year.
- 9) Install a programmable thermostat.
- 10) Use low "VOC" paint, VOC stands for volatile organic compound which can cause indoor air pollution.

Go Green with a Laptop

This energy saver is a no-brainer: When it's time to upgrade to a new computer, think laptop. Did you know that a laptop computer draws only 15 to 25 watts during regular use as compared to the 150 watts used by a conventional desktop computer and monitor? Laptops also draw just a fraction of a watt when in sleep mode. To reduce energy consumption and maximize savings even further, put your laptop's AC adaptor on a power strip that can be turned off when you're not recharging. Otherwise the adaptor will continuously draw power.

How to Report an Environmental Crime

You can help stop pollution and other crimes against the environment. All it takes is visiting an easy-to-use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) web site. The criminal charge is the first to result from a tip to the EPA's Report an Environmental Violation web site. Environmental violations include situations such as improper treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous waste, unpermitted or illegal dumping, accidents which release pollutants, etc. If you've seen an environmental crime, visit the website at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints> or call the EPA - Region 4 office at (800) 241-1754. For environmental emergencies such as a oil or chemical spill, call the National Response Hotline at (800) 424-8802.

EcoQuiz

What country has more cars that run on ethanol than on conventional fuels?

Brazil has more cars than burn ethanol than burn gasoline. Unlike gasoline, ethanol does not produce sulfur dioxide, and its carbon dioxide emissions are cancelled out by growing the plants used to produce it. The United States is far behind in the use of alternative fuels.

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UPCOMING CALENDAR

Irish-Italian Festival - Sept. 27, 2008

Come enjoy crafts, culture, music and food to celebrate Irish and Italian heritage. This fundraising event benefits both the Friends of the Library of North Myrtle Beach and the North Myrtle Beach Aquatic & Fitness Center Scholarship Program. Main Street in North Myrtle Beach from 10-4pm. Call (843) 281-3744.

Kids Day America - Sept. 27, 2008

Bring your kids to a free event that is dedicated to the health, safety and environmental issues that affect our children and community. Free giveaways, a grand prize drawing, kids activities and games. Trinity Presbyterian Church in Surfside Beach from 12-3pm. Call (843) 650-0247.

America Recycles Day - Nov. 15, 2008

GREEN NEWS: Music



The music scene has gone green: Musicians like Tom Petty, Radiohead, Miley Cyrus, Jack Johnson, Kanye West, and many others are jumping on the Green Band Wagon! They are making Green

efforts on their tours like every bus runs on bio-fuel and there is no idling, musicians are planting trees, recycling at shows, and any food left after the show will be donated to food banks. If you are interested in attending a Green Show, check out www.thedailygreen.com for tour dates for your favorite environmentally friendly artist.



The Horry County Solid Waste Authority provides a fully integrated solid waste management system, which includes landfill management, public education, state-of-the-art technology, and recycling programs.

CONTACT US!

Administration & Education: 347-1651
Collection & Hauling: 347-6622
Recycling Convenience Centers: 347-1651
Materials Recycling Facility: 347-1651

info@SolidWasteAuthority.org

www.SolidWasteAuthority.org