



Newsletter

November 2008

Is Your School Recycling?

We want to know...

How are you recycling?

Share your school recycling program with us and your school may be featured on our website!

- Who's involved?
- What materials are you recycling?
- How are your recyclables collected and hauled?
- What have been your successes? Obstacles?

Email us at SSInitiative@aol.com

School recycling programs are essential to creating community norms for recycling. Setting one up takes planning to build partnerships, establish long-term collection plans and identify key benefits to the individual school or school system. Relying solely on one motivated teacher or staff member to handle the collection of materials does not always lead to a consistent program from one year to the next. However, motivating those in-house allies to help the program run smoothly is an excellent partnership!

When establishing a recycling program, some steps that we

recommend are:

1. **Form a team!!**
2. **Determine what you're going to recycle**
3. **Find a market or a hauler**
4. **Organize collection procedures** including: Containers, collection and storage areas, work with custodial staff to organize a manageable collection system and create signage to show what materials are being recycled in each bin.
5. **Educate Staff & Students:**

Remember, the success of a sustainable recycling program depends on how well people participate. Make sure that everyone involved knows what to do and why it is important. Keep a running total and post monthly recycling figures to make students and faculty aware of the results of their efforts. Recognize recycling champions at school gatherings, faculty meetings, and in the school newspaper or website.

For more in-depth guidelines visit:

www.p2pays.org/recycleguys/guidelines.asp

Recycle Ready: Choosing a Hauler

Are you ready to get a recycling program started at your school? Whether you just want to recycle one material, like paper or are ready to take on multiple materials, there are several companies in NHC that can help you with your efforts.

- Waste Management: Free paper recycling to schools

using 96-gal roll carts.
Contact: Tracy Walsh, 443-4194 or twalsh@wm.com

Contact the following companies for rates and materials accepted:

- Coastal Enterprises: www.coastalenterprisesinc.org/recycling
- Green Coast Recycling: Clif Cash 471-7747
- Waste Industries: Carol Donovan, 762-7563
- C. Todd's Recycling 352-6103
- A-1 Sanitation 342-0337

Do it yourself recycling— NHC Drop-off sites:

www.nhcgov.com/AgnAndDpt/ENVM/Pages/DropOffSitesForNewHanoverCounty.aspx

Reduce: Choose not to print!

It All Comes Back To You

Recycling in America has come a long way since 1776, when the first metal recycling began as patriots melted down a statue of King George III in order to make bullets. Over 100 years later, the first recycling center was established in New York City with police officers on duty to explain the new “source separation.”

Today, we have programs across the country to recycle paper, plastic, aluminum, cell phones, and even computers, as well as a

wealth of consumer goods made out of recycled content.

In honor of America Recycles Day on November 15, make it a



priority to step up your recycling efforts! Start by taking a pledge to recycle and buy recycled at www.nrc-recycle.org.

Ideas for America Recycles Day at your school!!

- Recyclable scavenger hunt (search for recyclables thrown away) . Reward students that have a keen eye for misplaced recyclables!
- Place a graph in the hallway showing how many trees are saved a month by each classroom.
- Recycling Olympics (can crushing, newspaper baling contests; bottle ring toss, smash mash relay race)
- Holiday recyclathon (collect toys, clothing, etc. for reuse)

A study by the California Government found that the majority of a school's waste stream is comprised of:

1. Paper: 47%
2. Organics 32%
3. Plastic 12%

Recycling in New Hanover County

Every second, 17 pounds of waste is created in NHC. By making smart purchasing choices and recycling we can reduce reliability on landfills.

Facts about NHC Drop-off Sites:

- Materials accepted: Paper, cardboard, plastic food and beverage containers (1-5 & 7), aluminum cans, glass, and rechargeable household batteries.
- All recyclables are taken to NHC recycling facility to be baled and shipped to market.

Facts about City of Wilmington Recycling Program:

- Curbside recycling is offered at no additional

charge through the city's trash service to single-family homes (no businesses or apartments)

- Materials collected: All items collected at drop-off sites (except batteries) and tin/steel cans.
- Recyclables are sent to Waste Management/ Recycle America and are transferred to Raleigh for sorting.

Wrightsville, Carolina & Kure Beaches:

www.nhcgov.com/AgnAndDpt/ENVM/Pages/CityofWilmington.aspx

So before you make a purchase, think about whether or not the packaging is accepted through the recycling site or service you use. You have the power to make an impact in NHC every second!!

Tip: Can't find recycled products at the places you frequent? Fill out a suggestion card, tell a manager, write an email. Let stores (& your school) know your preference!!



It Starts With Me!— Buy Recycled

Recycled products are everywhere— at home, at school, in the playground, and even in the clothing we wear. Checking labels and buying goods with recycled content will help “close the loop” and make recycling work. The paper, plastic, and metal cans that you separate and recycle find new

life in new products. Everything from pencils to computers, shoes to fleece jackets, and much more are made with recycled materials.

When you buy recycled you “cast your vote” to help create long-term stable markets for the collection of recyclables; save resources, create less waste, less pollution and help to create jobs.

To ensure you're buying a product made from recycled materials, make sure you **read labels** for words that indicate it's made from recycled materials. Look for post-consumer content— the higher the number the better!

To learn about recycled products made in NC, visit:

www.p2pays.org/ref/41/40994.pdf

Nature Recycles

Recycling is nothing new. People have been doing it for thousands of years. And not just people, nature has been recycling plants, trees, insects and creatures, for as long as there has been nature. So, recycling is as old and as natural as the earth itself.

Worm composting, or vermicomposting, is a perfect illustration of how nature recycles. Worms eat food scraps, leaving behind dark castings called vermicompost— a nitrogen-rich natural fertilizer.

Starting a classroom (or home) worm bin not only teaches students how to recycle food waste, it will offer your class a multitude of ways to enrich math, science and

language arts.

Steps to successful classroom vermicomposting include Set-up, Worm Adoption and Maintenance.



1. Set-up: Like all living creatures worms need food, water, air and shelter. Set up is the creation of the worm eco-system, which includes:

Bin, Bedding, Food

2. Worm Adoption: Red wiggler worms (available at most bait shops) are the preferred species for vermicomposting. They are composter worms and are capable of processing large amounts of organic material.
3. Maintenance: A healthy worm bin is a productive worm bin!! Keep your worms healthy and happy by:

Adding fresh bedding every 2-3 weeks, keeping bedding moist, and harvesting worm castings periodically every 2-3 months.

For more in-depth instructions and lesson plans visit our website!

According to Waste-free lunches.org, the average student creates 67 pounds of lunch waste each school year.

Landfill Math

Most adults create about 5 pounds of garbage each day and most children (under 12) create about 4 pounds each day. Complete the calculations below to determine how much space you will need at the landfill for your family’s trash for one year.

Have students determine the number of pounds (lbs) of garbage their family generates in one year.

Number of adults in family _____ X 5lbs = _____ lbs per day/adult

Number of children in family _____ X 4 lbs= _____ lbs per day/child

Adults lbs _____ + _____ children lbs = _____ family lbs per day

Family lbs per day _____ X 365 days a year= _____ family lbs per year

Calculate how much space will be required at the landfill for a year’s worth of your family’s trash. **(Each 1000 lbs of material requires one cubic yard of space at the landfill.)**

Family lbs per year _____ divided by 1000 lbs= _____ cubic yards per year.

Calculate how much space will be required for a year’s worth of garbage from all of the families in the class.





Founded by Wilmington, NC parents, Sustainable Schools Initiative's mission is to foster Green Programs in North Carolina Schools. Partnering with Keep America Beautiful of New Hanover County, we are committed to helping new and established Environmental Committees and their efforts of starting and maintaining green programs in our local schools. It is our goal to unite school communities and give the needed tools and resources to accomplish the Sustainability Goals of each individual school. In doing so, we— along with everyone involved— will foster the development of generations of students becoming good stewards of the earth.

For information on Sustainable Programs in your school visit our web site

Phone: 910-798-4404
Fax: 910-798-4408

SSInitiative@aol.com

www.nhcgov.com/AgAndDpt/KAB

Events & Opportunities

UPCOMING EVENT:

- **Halyburton Fall Nature Festival:** November 15 from 10-4 www.halyburtonpark.com

CONTEST:

- **International Youth Painting Challenge:** The International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment is open to children 5-13 all over the world. This year's theme: "Climate Change: Our Challenge". Entries are due by January 15, 2009. For complete details and how to submit a painting, visit: www.unep.org/tunza/paintcomp/

FUNDRAISING:

- **Cell Phone Round-up:** Join Keep America Beautiful, Sprint & ReCellular in recycling retired cell phones in celebration of America Recycles Day. Funds generated from the phones collected will go to benefit the development of green programs in NHC Schools by Keep America Beautiful of NHC. Go to www.thecellphoneroundup.com, choose NC: Keep New Hanover County Beautiful and print a free postage paid shipping label!
- **TerraCycle** is trying to eliminate the idea of waste. To do so, they must find great uses for objects that used to be considered waste. Sign up for one or more of their collection programs and you can raise funds for your school. www.terracecycle.net

Product of the Month!

- **RECYCLED NEWSPAPER PENCILS:** TreeSmart, Inc. is a company dedicated to the idea that all of us are responsible to our environment. Order their products online at www.treesmart.com to get FREE shipping & handling. Enter "**SSI Promo**" in the comment box and receive a free gift with your order.

Sources: www.p2pays.org, www.ard.org, NHC Department of Environmental Management, St. Louis County Resourceful Schools Project, City of Wilmington Solid Waste Management, www.wastefreelunches.org, www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/WasteReduce/Composition.htm