

Civic Loop

Promoting Recycling through Community Leadership



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Plastics Recycling

Have you ever been confused about the types of plastic containers that can and can't be recycled in your blue recycling bin? This is one of the most common questions asked by residents to the staff of the Division of Solid Waste Services. Many residents are not aware that some types of plastic materials are not recyclable in Montgomery County. This information is provided to help explain the process for recycling plastic bottles and provide descriptions on the types of plastic bottles that can be recycled in Montgomery County.

What types of plastics can be recycled in Montgomery County? There are seven (7) types of plastic resins that are used to make various types of plastic materials. In the early 1990's, to help communities with their recycling efforts and to make sorting and recycling easier, the American Society of Plastics Industry developed a voluntary standard marking code to identify the type of plastic resin used to make a certain product. These types and their most common uses are detailed in the table to the left.

In 1997, the County expanded the curbside recycling collection program to include all narrow-neck

plastic bottles, regardless of the resin number. The County's recycling processor accepts all narrow-neck plastics (in which the opening of the plastic bottle is narrower than the body of the bottle). Therefore, residents and businesses in Montgomery County can recycle all clear and colored plastic bottles with narrow-necks, regardless of the number located on the inside of the chasing arrows on the bottom of plastic containers.

Montgomery County Celebrates Recycling Awareness Week



Montgomery County celebrated Montgomery County Recycling Awareness Week from May 21 through May 25, 2007 with great success. Every year, the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) hosts a variety of activities and events with public and private schools throughout the County, as well as for businesses and multi-family properties in an effort to bring awareness to the importance of recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled products. In addition, the Division showcases the outstanding achievements of numerous businesses, multi-family properties and individuals for their commitment in their recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled efforts.

The weeklong series of events included school assemblies featuring an interactive program entitled "The Magic of Recycling Show" to teach students about waste reduction and the importance of recycling. This year, DSWS brought the performance to nine Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) that were chosen to participate based on their recent performance in the annual school recycling evaluation conducted by DSWS last fall. Each of the participating public schools received an "A" on their recycling evaluation indicating that the necessary infrastructure is in place to recycle at a high level. In addition to the nine public schools, the Division selected three private schools to participate in the program that were identified by DSWS staff during on-site visits of their recycling program. Following the presentation, the students were assembled outdoors and viewed a display of a variety of products that were made with recycled materials to teach them that buying recycled-content products closes the recycling loop and allows the recycling process to work.

In addition to Recycling Awareness Week, the week of May 20 through May 26, 2007 was also National Public Works Week. To celebrate the week and to learn about some of the services provided by the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation, the students had the opportunity to see and learn about a hybrid Ride-On bus as well as a snowplow.

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Plastics Recycling (Continued from cover)

as well as the plastic ring around the neck of the bottle can be left on. The County encourages residents to empty the bottles and if possible, rinse the containers, to prevent liquids from spilling into their recycling bin.

Why only plastic bottles with narrow-necks?

In addition to the type of plastic used in commonly used packaging, the molding process also impacts a plastic item's potential for recycling. All plastics are recycled by separating the plastic by their density (each resin has a different density) and then melting the plastics down and turning them into "pellets" that are then sent to manufacturers to be made into new products. Narrow-neck plastic bottles

are made with a process referred to as the *Blow-molded process*. Using this process, the plastic resin is melted and blown into the shape of the mold. The other molding process is called *Injection-molded process*. In this method, the melted plastic is *injected* into the shape of the mold. Because injection-molded plastics (wide-mouth containers) melt at a different temperature than the blow-molded plastics, any injection-molded plastic container will not melt at the same temperature of the narrow-neck plastic bottles, thus contaminating the plastic recycling process if they are mixed in.

What types of plastic containers cannot be recycled in Montgomery County? Injection-molded or wide-mouth type plastic containers are not recyclable in Montgomery County. These types of containers include yogurt containers, margarine tubs, pint-sized baskets for fruit, beverage cups, salad bar and deli containers, flower pots, polystyrene packaging, foam trays, and any container without a narrow-neck are *not recyclable* in Montgomery County.

The only types of narrow-neck plastic bottles that are not recyclable are plastic bottles that contained hazardous products such as automotive fluids or garden products, such as motor oil containers, antifreeze and pesticides. These narrow-neck plastic bottles should not be placed in the recycling bin. In addition, lids or caps from plastic bottles are also not recyclable since the lids are made from a different type of plastic than the bottles. If mixed with the bottles, lids may contaminate the recycling process, reducing both the quality and value of the end material. Please remember to remove the lids and caps prior to tossing a plastic bottle into the recycling bin.

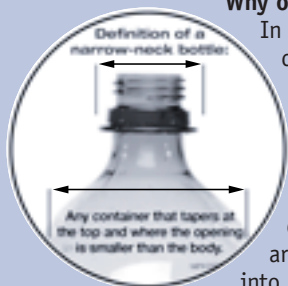
Become a "green" consumer and source reducer! In order to increase the types of plastic containers that can be recycled in communities across the country, consumers must take an active role in increasing the demand for recycled plastic containers by looking for and purchasing products that are made with recycled-content. Request your favorite store to stock products made with recycled materials. This closes the recycling loop and makes recycling work. And, don't forget, source reduction is even better for managing waste. Buy products in bulk or in concentrate form and use reusable glassware such as mugs and plates. Every person makes a difference.

2007 Montgomery County Recycling Awareness Week (Continued from cover)

Other major activities during the course of the week included the Annual Recycling Awards Recognition Program and the MCPS School Recycling Poster Contest Awards Ceremony. The Recycling Awards Recognition Program, which was held May 24th at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center, recognized fifty businesses, organizations and individuals, and twenty multi-family properties, property managers, recycling committees and residents for excellence in recycling more than 50 percent of their waste in 2006, as well as for outstanding achievement for their contributions to successful recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled and educational efforts. In addition, an eight-year-old County resident was recognized for his initiative and creativity in writing an essay about recycling. The County Executive, Mr. Isiah Leggett presented a joint proclamation (signed by the County Executive and the County Council President, Ms. Marilyn Praisner) to the Division of Solid Waste Services proclaiming the week of May 21st through 25th as Recycling Awareness Week in Montgomery County.

During the School Recycling Poster Contest Awards Ceremony, awards were presented to the winners of the "Our Earth is a Gift, Give it a Lift, Recycle!" poster contest. A total of 33 students were recognized for their creative artwork in designing their poster that reflected on the theme of the poster contest.

Overall, the 2007 Montgomery County Recycling Awareness Week was successful, informative and fun for all participants. Over the course of the week, 3,051 people participated in the many activities associated with the weeklong series of events. The Division encourages all residents, businesses and multi-family properties to continue to strive for recycling excellence by taking steps to reduce the amount of waste that is generated, to recycle all of the materials that can be recycled in the County, as well as to make an effort to purchase products made with recycled materials. By working together and taking these steps, the County will achieve its goal to recycle 50 percent of all waste generated in the County.





Montgomery County Outstanding Achievement in Recycling

- Sean Le

Multi-Family Excellence in Recycling

- Affiliated Property Management
- Andrew Kim House
- Aspenwood Senior Living Community
- Avalon at Grosvenor Station
- Bedford Court Sunrise Senior Living Community
- Copperfield Crossing Condominium
- The Gables on Tuckerman
- Kentlands View Condominium
- MICA Condominium at Silver Spring Metro
- Riderwood Resident Recycling Committee
- ictory Terrace
- The Waterford Condominium Recycling Committee

Multi-Family Outstanding Improvement in Recycling

- Fox Run Apartments
- Highland House West Apartment Homes
- The Riviera of Chevy Chase
- Rock Creek Terrace
- Willow Wood Condominium

Multi-Family Outstanding Individual Achievement in Recycling

- Cornell Butler
- Juan Gonzalez
- Shirley Lyles

Excellence in Recycling (Business)

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- Asbury Methodist Village
- AVAD Metro East
- Bethesda Country Club
- The Bullis School

- The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.
- The Calvert Group
- The Chevy Chase Club
- Congregation Har Shalom
- Henry M. Jackson Foundation
- History Associates Incorporated
- Holton-Arms School
- Hughes Network Systems, LLC
- The Humane Society of the United States
- The Izaak Walton League of America
- J. Craig Venter Institute
- Lockheed Martin Corporate Headquarters
- Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Services
- Montgomery College
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- NCR Corporation
- Northrop Grumman Denro Systems
- Norwood School
- NPI, LLC
- Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health
- QIAGEN Sciences, Inc.
- Sandy Spring Friends School
- Shapiro & Duncan, Inc.
- Smith Lithograph
- Spirent Communications
- St. John's Episcopal School and Church
- United States Department of Health & Human Services
- U.S. Pharmacopeia

Outstanding Achievement in Recycling (Business)

- Brodsky Group, Inc.
- Children's Center of Damascus
- National Naval Medical Center
- Takoma Park Silver Spring Food Co-op
- United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Verizon Communications
- Woomi Garden Restaurant

Outstanding Achievement in Recycling (Individual)

- Erik Fuss, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- Bill Hauser, Shoppers Food Warehouse
- Emily Herson, Carl M. Freeman Associates, Inc.
- Henry K. Ho, D.D.S.
- John Lehman, Fitzgerald Auto Malls
- Michael Potter, MTM Management Associates
- Anthony Ravello, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation
- Barry Soorenko, PhotoGroup, Inc.
- Martin Svrcek, Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc.
- Gerald Wright, Westfield Shoppingtown Wheaton

2007 Montgomery County Public Schools "Our Earth is a Gift, Give It a Lift, Recycle" Poster Contest Award Recipients

Kindergarten-First Grade

- Ria Sardesai - Ritchie Park ES
- Karis Ryu - Bells Mill ES
- Sam Welsh - Glenallan ES
- Ricardo Granados - Weller Rd ES
- Jad Hammad - Cashell ES

Second-Third Grade

- Alexandra Van Horn - Weller Rd ES
- Beira Ho - Cannon Rd ES
- Kenny Wahl - Belmont ES
- Valerie Williamson - Chevy Chase
- Nate Fellner - Chevy Chase ES

Fourth-Fifth Grade

- Mica Ho - Dr. Charles Drew ES
- Natchanun Suwannawong - Weller Rd ES
- Naeem Alam - Dr. Charles Drew ES
- Waturo Ono - Wyngate ES
- Rachel T. Watkins - Whetstone ES

Sixth-Eighth Grade

- Xiomara L. Portillo - Roberto Clemente MS
- Tomas Gaigalas - Ridgeview MS
- Weiming Liane - Lakelands Park MS
- Joel Flores - Takoma Park MS
- Yeankyung Woo - Earle B. Wood MS

Ninth-Tenth Grade

- Katie Berbert - Gaithersburg HS
- Gaby Munoz - James Hubert Blake HS
- Emily Greene - Damascus HS

Eleventh-Twelfth Grade

- Kira Oliver - James Hubert Blake HS
- Kasey Caparella - James Hubert Blake HS
- Jhonny Herrera - James Hubert Blake HS

High School Multi-Media/3-D

- Camilo Caffi - Thomas Edison HS of Technology
- Bryan Karmel - Thomas Edison HS of Technology
- Daniel Jenkins - Thomas Edison HS of Technology
- Chris Kaczmarek - Thomas Edison HS of Technology
- Bora Ersay - Thomas Edison HS of Technology

Foreign Language

- Dennis Villatoro - Takoma Park MS
- Jonathan Dos Santos - Takoma Park MS



Calendar of Events

Visit the Division of Solid Waste Services educational recycling display at any of the following upcoming events. The Division will have information available on recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled, composting and grasscycling. For more information, please call (240) 777-6400 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

July 2007

July 10 and 21, 2007 Recycling Volunteer Training Sessions

101 Monroe Street
Lobby-Level Auditorium
Rockville, MD 20850

July 10, 6pm – 9pm
July 21, 10am – 2pm

Please join us!

To register, please call the Recycling Volunteer Program at (240) 777-6445.

August 2007

August 10-18, 2007 59th Annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Montgomery County Fairgrounds
16 Chestnut Street
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

10am - 8pm

Please join us!

August 7, 2007 National Night Out, Olney

5pm – 8pm

August 8, 2007 Germantown National Night Out

4pm – 8pm

September 2007

September 15, 2007 7th Montgomery County Housing Fair 10am – 3pm

September 22, 2007 Hispanic Heritage Health Festival

11am – 5pm

October 2007

October 6, 2007 Germantown Oktoberfest

11am – 8pm



June 2007

Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services

Contact: Alan Pultyniewicz
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Important Contact Information

Division of Solid Waste Services
(240) 777-6400
(240) 777-6442 (TTY)
(240) 777-6465 (fax)
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
e-mail: recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov

Recycling for Multi-Family Properties
(240) 777-6400

Recycling for Businesses
(240) 777-6400

County Transfer Station
(301) 840-2370

County Recycling Center
(301) 417-1433

This information is available in an alternate format by calling Alan Pultyniewicz at (240) 777-6400.

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