Montgomery County, MD
Recycling Volunteer Program
RECYCLETTER

Fall 2016

Program Update

This summer was a very busy one for our Montgomery County, Maryland Recycling Volunteer Program. Recycling volunteers contributed over 536 hours of their time and talked with more than 7,950 residents, visitors and employees about the importance of reducing waste and recycling. Talking with residents and employees are important efforts to increase awareness and participation in the County's recycling programs to achieve our goal to reduce waste and recycle 70 percent by 2020.

The fall has been just as busy as this past summer. Our recycling volunteers have participated in many community events such as Burtonsville Day, World of Montgomery and Potomac Day. Coming up is *Montgomery County's Annual Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade* on Saturday, November 19, 2016 in downtown Silver Spring. The parade kicks off at 10:00 a.m., but recycling volunteers will be needed from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to help decorate our recycling pick-up truck with a variety of colorful items that can be recycled and walk in the parade alongside our mascot "Rocco" the Recycling Retriever. Our goal is to encourage all viewers, both at the parade and those watching the parade on television at home to recycle more now! The parade will be televised live on News Channel 8 on the day of the parade and replayed again on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016. Be sure to sign-up by emailing me at *michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd. gov* or by calling 240-777-6484. For additional recycling volunteer opportunities and training sessions, please see the last page of this edition of the Recycletter.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication!

Michelle Devillo

Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist

Reuse and Recycling Tips for Winter

Fall is here and the colder weather is coming. It's that time of the year when we start switching out our summer clothing for winter clothes in preparation for the colder weather. As you're digging through your wardrobe, consider donating quality clothing in good condition to your favorite charitable organization. Donating clothing and other household items for reuse goes a long way towards the County's goal to reduce the amount of waste generated. *The Montgomery County Volunteer Center* maintains a list of local clothing and household goods donation opportunities. If the clothing is not in good enough condition to donate, then recycle your clothes and unwanted or damaged textiles by taking them to the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station textile drop-off location. For drop off hours and location, visit our website at *www. montgomerycountymd.gov/ sws/facilities/ts/*.

2016 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

What is summer without the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair? Despite the excessive heat warnings and the many severe thunderstorms that were part of this year's fair, a total of 67 recycling program volunteers, some of whom volunteered for multiple shifts, helped staff a total of 135 shifts during the fair, daily from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Volunteers provided outreach and education about waste reduction, recycling, composting, grasscycling and buying recycled to over 5,849 people who visited our booth! *Click here to view from the Fair*.
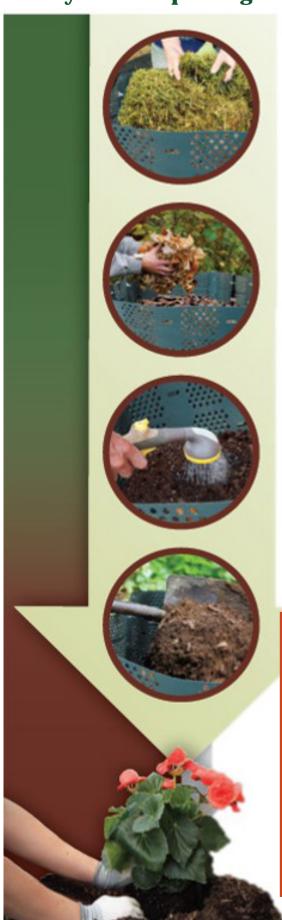

Our Depatment's booth at the County Fair

To kick things off, a special recycling volunteer training session was held for recycling volunteers who were scheduled to work during the fair. This provided everyone the opportunity to learn about the latest information about recycling in Montgomery County, the layout of the Department's tent, how to sign in and sign out using our online volunteer management system, and picked up their supplies for the Fair. For those of you who have yet to experience volunteering at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, it's a fun opportunity to do a little bit of everything, from working the recycling trivia game to test folks knowledge about recycling, to making recycling pledge buttons. *Thank you to everyone who helped during the fair. You did an AWESOME job!*

Recycling volunteers in action during the 2016 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Backyard Composting

Don't know what to do with all those leaves in your backyard? Backyard composting is a great way to turn leaves, grass, brush and garden trimmings into a nutrient-rich soil conditioner that can be used in your garden or for your potted plants and lawn. It's also a great time to get a jump-start on your spring gardening. Compost bins are available to residents of Montgomery County, Maryland at no additional charge. Compost bins are available for pick-up at any of our 22 compost bin distribution locations throughout the County. To find the nearest compost bin distribution location, visit our webiste at *www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/composting/bins.*

What are the benefits of using compost? Using compost as a soil amendment increases the porosity of the soil, reducing the need to water frequently by helping the soil retain moisture and preventing runoff due to rain and melting snow. It also improves soil fertility and returns valuable nutrients back in the soil. How much time is involved? As much or as little time as you want. Keep in mind, the more attentive you are with your compost pile, the faster the results.

Benefits:
- Compost is a natural fertilizer
- Improves soil texture by allowing moister to soak deeper into the ground
- Makes plants and lawns healthier
- Promotes better root growth
- Saves money otherwise spent on commercial fertilizers or paper lawn bags
- Prevents runoff from rain and melting snow
- Reduces the amount of excess chemicals released into the environment
- Reduces the amount of yard trim that is collected and processed by the County

Helpful Tips

- **Mix** - Three parts brown to one part green
- **Aerate** - Turn the materials at least once a month
- **Water** - Pile should be moist to the touch
- **Watch** - Our video to *"Compost, Make It Happen - A Guide to Backyard Composting"*

Brown (Carbon) Sources	Green (Nitrogen) Sources
Dry leaves	Flowers
Cotton rags	Plant trimmings
Dryer lint	Grass clippings
Wood Chips	Fresh hay
Straw	Empty nutshells

2016 Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade
Saturday, November 19, 2016
10:00am to 12:00noon
(*Volunteers need to arrive at 8am for parade line-up***)**

Join fellow recycling volunteers and other participants, such as the Washington Redskins Marching Band, local high school bands, costume characters, mounted police, fire engines, trained dogs, and much, much more as we parade through Downtown Silver Spring. Recycling volunteers are needed to help decorate the DSWS truck, walk in the parade handing out information or walk in the parade as the Division's mascot, "Rocco the Recycling Retriver"! Join the fun and sign-up today by emailing Michelle DeVillo at *michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov* or by calling 240-777-6484.

Events Calendar

For more information about the events below, please contact the Recycling Volunteer Program at (240) 777-6484 or e-mail us at michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov. All of our activities are approved Student Service Learning experiences.

Date	Time	Event	Location
November 5	9 to 11am	New Volunteer Orientation/Refresher Training (Click here to Register)	Rockville
November 5	11am to 3pm	Habitat for Humanity Restore Recycling/Composting Booth	Silver Spring
5	11am to 1pm	Greenbriar Park Grand Opening Crafts Activity Table	Potomac
12	11am to 3pm	Habitat for Humanity Restore Recycling/Composting Booth	Rockville
19	8am to 12noon	Montgomery County Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade	Silver Spring
December 10	9am to 11am	New Volunteer Orientation/Refresher Training (Click here to Register)	Rockville

Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid Waste Services
Waste Reduction and Recycling Section

Contact: Michelle Romero DeVillo
Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
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Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
Customer Service: Call 3-1-1 or 240-777-0311
TTY: Maryland Relay 7-1-1