



Montgomery County
Recycling Volunteer Program



RECYCLATTER

Fall 2014

Program Update

This was a spectacular summer and I'd like to thank all of our recycling volunteers who helped the Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) at the many events we participated in. This summer, recycling volunteers assisted the Division in providing recycling outreach to nearly 11,000 people across the county. WOW! Needless to say, I'm very proud of all of you! Your hard work and vast knowledge of our various recycling programs together with your support and dedication makes this volunteer program a great success.

Each event we attend, whether they are small community fairs/festivals or large scale events such as the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair or even the multiple shredding/recycling and donation collection events we host, allows DSWS staff and recycling volunteers the opportunity to educate and create awareness about waste reduction and recycling to people across the County. For this reason, along with the Division's commitment to make waste reduction and recycling a priority, has earned Montgomery County the highest waste diversion rate in Maryland of 60% for two years in a row according to the Maryland Department of the Environment. If we continue to work together we will achieve the County's goal to reduce waste and recycle 70% by 2020!

Thank you for your support!

Michelle Drillo

Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist

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Fall Paper Shredding/Recycling and Reuse Donation Events

On September 13, 2014, the Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) kicked off the fall season with the first of three confidential paper shredding/recycling and clothing/household items reuse donation collection events in celebration of America Recycles Day.

America Recycles Day (ARD) is a nationally-recognized time dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling efforts in the U.S.



Celebrate ARD by volunteering at our next paper shredding/recycling and donation collection events or at any of our other upcoming events listed on the back page of this edition of the Recycler.

Upcoming Shredding/Recycling and Reuse Donation Events:

Takoma Park Middle School
 7611 Piney Branch Rd, Silver Spring, MD
 Sunday, October 5, 2014
 10:00am-2:00pm

Northwest High School
 13501 Richter Farm Rd, Germantown, MD
 Saturday, November 15, 2014
 10:00am-2:00pm

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair 2014

Recycling Volunteers were hard at work at the 2014 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair providing recycling information to fairgoers, working the “Recycling Trivia Wheel”, and helping kids and adults at the reuse craft table. Throughout the 10-day fair, 52 dedicated recycling volunteers contributed just over 400 hours assisting the Division in providing recycling information to 8,464 people! With the help of our amazing volunteers, the Division of Solid Waste Services broke all previous records and also received the Grand Champion Educational Award from the Fairgrounds for its overall appearance and interaction with patrons.

Thank you for all of your hard work!



Volunteers educating residents during the 2014 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair



Volunteers met for a special project in preparation for the fair.



Alex Guzman (left) and Michelle Fang (right) have another winner at the recycling trivia wheel.



Brandy Carullo (left) and Barbara Newland (right) help a young visitor at the recycling trivia wheel.



DSWS staff, Mike Mussman (left) show visitors an example of a recyclable clamshell container.



Tamiah Griffin (left), Demari Simms (center) and Alice Harrington (right) take a break for a picture.



Tejas Guja (left) and Philip Palmer (right) prepare for the next round of visitors.



County Executive Isiah Leggett, visits volunteers and staff at the DSWS recycling booth.



Angelah Sibanda (left) and Freeman Lee (right) help visitors at the reuse craft table.



Sirak Habtesellassie (left) and Paolo Nardone (center) team up with Eileen Kao, Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, DSWS (right), to answer questions.



New Volunteer Orientation Sessions

We have three volunteer orientation sessions scheduled for the remainder of the year:

- **Saturday October 4, 2014 10:00am-12noon**
- **Saturday November 1, 2014 10:00am-12noon**
- **Saturday December 6, 2014 10:00am-12noon**

The orientation sessions will be held in the Executive Office Building in downtown Rockville. All new volunteers must attend an orientation session. If you know of someone who is interested in volunteering with our program, let them know about our upcoming trainings and have them contact Michelle DeVillo at 240-777-6484 for more information or to register.

Backyard Composting



Start composting yard trim materials in your own backyard!

Why compost?

Compost is a natural process where leaves, grass, and garden trimmings decompose making a nutrient-rich soil conditioner that can be used for your garden, potted plants and lawn.

The benefits of composting?

Compost reduces the need to water by helping the soil retain moisture and preventing runoff due to rain and melting snow. It also improves soil fertility and returns nutrients back in the soil.

How much time is involved?

As much time as you want. Keep in mind, the more active you are with your compost pile, the faster the results.



FIRST - select a bin.

Compost bins come in many shapes and sizes. You can purchase one from a hardware store or make one using items found at home such as chicken wire or used wooden pallets.

Montgomery County also offers compost bins (as seen to the right) to Montgomery County residents at no additional charge. Just stop by any of our 19 compost bin distribution sites listed on the County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim



NEXT - find the right spot.

If possible, keep your compost bin in a place where it gets both sun and shade. Too much shade can leave your pile too moist, however too much sunshine can make your compost too dry which may require more moisture.

START COMPOSTING!

If you decide to only compost your leaves, compost will happen, but it will take time. We recommend you add both brown materials that provide carbon and green materials that provide nitrogen to the compost. Below is a list of ingredients you can use.

Brown (Carbon) Sources

- Dry leaves
- Cotton rags
- Dryer lint
- Wood Chips
- Straw

Green (Nitrogen) Sources

- Flowers
- Plant trimmings
- Grass clippings
- Fresh hay
- Nut shells

Helpful Tips -

- **Mix** - Three parts brown to one part green
- **Aerate** - Turn pile from the outside to the middle of the pile
- **Water** - Pile should be moist to the touch.
- **Request** - Our video: Composting - Make it Happen: A Guide to Backyard Composting by visiting the County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim

Recycle Bulky Rigid Plastics

On September 2nd, DSWS mailed a reminder postcard about recycling bulky rigid plastics to all single-family households. Remind your friends and neighbors about ways they can recycle their large plastic items.

It's as easy as 1-2-3. Just follow these easy steps.

Step 1 Gather bulky rigid plastic items from around your home.

Step 2 Take to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood.

Step 3 Place the items in the large container labeled "Bulky Rigid Plastics".

For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
 DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES
 WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING SECTION
 RECYCLING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
 Rockville, Maryland 20850**



Customer Service: 311 or (240) 777-0311
 TTY: (301) 251-4850
 Email: michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov
 Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
 This information is available in an alternate format by
 calling Michelle DeVillo at (240) 777-6484

Return Service Requested

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	
October	4	10am - 2pm	Sears National Safety Day	Silver Spring
	5	10am - 2pm	DSWS Paper Shredding and Recycling	Silver Spring
	5	12pm - 7:30pm	Germantown Oktoberfest (2 shifts)	Germantown
	12	11am - 4pm	Kensington Volunteer Dept. Open House	Kensington
	12	12pm - 5pm	Oktoberfest at the Kentlands	Gaithersburg
	18	10am - 4pm	Fenton Street Market (2 shifts)	Silver Spring
	18	11am - 2pm	Church of the Atonement Fall Festival	Silver Spring
	25	10am - 3pm	Potomac Day Celebration	Potomac
November	15	10am - 2pm	DSWS Paper Shredding and Recycling	Germantown
	22	10am - 12pm	Thanksgiving Parade	Silver Spring

Please print on recycled and recyclable paper.