



Montgomery County, MD
Recycling Volunteer Program



Fall 2015

RECYCLER

Program Update

Wow, what a busy summer! I'd like to thank all recycling program volunteers who helped support the Division of Solid Waste Services by participating during the numerous events and activities over the course of the summer, including the 9-day Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. With the help of 104 volunteers, the Division was able to successfully wrap-up the summer by providing outreach and education about reducing waste, recycling, composting, grasscycling and buying recycled to over 12,500 people!

During the months of July, August, and September recycling volunteers contributed 542 hours providing outreach and education to help people understand the importance of reducing waste and recycle. Volunteers also helped collect 12 tons (24,000 pounds) of paper and cardboard during the Confidential Paper Shredding/Recycling and Clothing/Household Reuse Item Donation Collection event in September. According to the Division's Environmental Footprint Calculator, recycling 12 tons of paper saves 3,313 trees. To see the amount of natural resources you help save by recycling, visit the DSWS' website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/footprint.



Again, thank you for your ongoing support and great job!

Michelle Devillo

Waste Reduction and Recycling Specialist

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Recycling Volunteer Recruiting

The Division of Solid Waste services is always looking for recycling volunteers of all ages and abilities. If you know of someone who shares in your passion to recycle and wants to help protect the environment, please have them contact me for more information by calling 240-777-6484 or by emailing michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov. See the schedule of fall volunteer orientation training and recycling training refresher sessions below. Remember, when we reduce waste and recycle, each of us protect the environment by saving energy and preserve natural resources resulting in cleaner land, cleaner air and cleaner water for future generations.

New Volunteer Orientation and Recycling Refresher Training Sessions

New Volunteer Orientation and Training Sessions

- Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 9am to 11am
- Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 6pm to 8pm
- Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 9am to 11am

Composting Training Session

- Thursday, November 5, 2015 from 6pm to 8pm

All new volunteers must attend a volunteer orientation training session as part of the program's requirements.



All training sessions are held at the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor in Rockville.
To Register: Please contact Michelle DeVillo by calling 240-777-6484 or email michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov.

2015 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

The Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is always a great opportunity for the Division of Solid Waste Services to showcase the different waste reduction and recycling programs the County has to offer. This year, 60 dedicated volunteers, some of whom volunteered during multiple shifts, worked alongside DSWS staff and helped answer questions and provided waste reduction and recycling information to a record breaking 9,346 people who visited the DSWS exhibition booth! More so, recycling volunteers generously contributed 375 hours to fill 123 shifts during the 9-day fair event. Thank you and outstanding job!

Volunteers educating residents during the 2015 Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

For those of you who have yet to experience volunteering with DSWS staff and fellow volunteers during the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, it's a great opportunity to do a little bit of everything. From working the recycle trivia wheel to test

folks on their recycling knowledge, to making reuse bottle cap bugs at our craft activities table to spending quality one-on-one time speaking to people about the County's waste reduction and recycling programs. It's always a lot of fun!



Recycling volunteers hard at work prepping the reuse crafts used during the Agricultural Fair.



Join us August 12-20, 2016 for the 2016 County Fair!

Ban on Expanded Polystyrene Food Service ware and Loose Fill Packaging

Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP), Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) has been hard at work developing an outreach and education plan to inform food service establishments, retailers and the public on the County's ban on the use and sale of expanded Polystyrene (#6PS) food service ware and polystyrene loose fill packaging. Examples of these items are: foam containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, egg cartons, etc. not recyclable in Montgomery County.



Start Backyard Composting this Fall!

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.

What are the Benefits? 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.

TO BEGIN - select a bin that works best for you.

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 offers compost bins to County residents at no additional charge. Just stop by any of our 20 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.

LASTLY - watch it happen!

If you decide to only compost your leaves, compost will happen, but it will take time. We recommend you add both brown sources that provide carbon and green sources that provide nitrogen to the compost. (See helpful hints.)



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.
- **Watch** - Our video to Backyard Composting by visiting the County's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim

Brown (Carbon) Sources

Dry leaves
Cotton rags
Dryer lint
Wood Chips
Straw

Green (Nitrogen) Sources

Flowers
Plant trimmings
Grass clippings
Fresh hay
Empty nut shells



Volunteer

To learn more about composting, join DSWS staff from 6pm-8pm on Thursday, November 5th as we take an in-depth look at how to start and maintain your own backyard composting bin. The volunteer training session will be held at the Executive Office Building, located at 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor in Rockville. To register, please call Michelle DeVillo at 240-777-6484 or email michelle.devillo@montgomerycountymd.gov

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES
 WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING SECTION
 RECYCLING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor**



Customer Service: 311 or (240) 777-0311
 TTY: (301) 251-4850
 Email: michelle.devilleo@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.devilleo@montgomerycountymd.gov.

All of our activities are approved Student Service Learning experiences.

Date	Time	Event	Location
October 31	9 - 11am	New Volunteer Orientation/Recycling Refresher	Rockville
November	2 1 - 4pm	Thanksgiving Parade Prep	Rockville
	5 6 - 8pm	Composting Training	Rockville
	7 11am - 3pm	Habitat for Humanity Compost/Recycling Event	Silver Spring
	14 10am - 3pm	Habitat for Humanity Compost/Recycling Event	Gaithersburg
	14 10am - 2pm	DSWS Paper Shredding and Recycling Event	Germantown
	17 6- 8pm	New Volunteer Orientation/Recycling Refresher	Rockville
	21 10am - 12noon	Thanksgiving Parade	Silver Spring

