

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



Buncombe County Solid Waste Department

828-250-5460

Fall 2008



Handy recycling guide

Buncombe County has a handy, new recycling guide available for residents. You'll be able to pick up the guide at county government offices.

The guide provides information on where and what to recycle. In the Towns of Montreat, Black Mountain and Woodfin, you can recycle at the curb with the "Blue Bags." In the City of Asheville, recycling is provided in curbside bins. Biltmore Forest and Weaverville provide drop-off sites for recyclables. Plus, the County provides drop-off sites at the Transfer Station and Landfill, as well as at Westgate Shopping Center. In all of these programs, you can recycle all plastic bottles and jugs (please do not recycle plastic food containers or microwaveable plastics, because these items melt at a different temperature than plastic bottles and jugs), aluminum cans, steel cans, glass bottles and jars (clear, green, and brown), newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and mixed paper, such as magazines, office paper, junk mail, and cereal boxes.

In addition, you'll find out what to do with your special wastes, such as lead-acid automotive batteries, motor oil, tires, old appliances, household hazardous waste, electronics, non-infectious medical waste, wood waste, and fluorescent tubes and bulbs.

With all of this information in one location, we know that you'll find it easy to do the right thing with all your waste!

Our website also has up-to-date information on where and how to recycle and properly dispose of waste. Visit www.buncombecounty.org and select Solid Waste from the Departments drop-down list.



Celebrating recycling

Since 1997, Americans have been reminded each November 15th that recycling is a great habit! Recycling includes collecting used products, as well as making these products into brand-new items. When we recycle, we use our natural resources more wisely, we reduce the amount of pollution that we create, and we save energy. These are all good things!

Recycling has three parts—two of which depend on you. First, you need to collect your recyclables.

Second, a factory needs to use recyclables to make new products. Third, you must buy things you need that are made from recyclables. Lots of products can be made from your recyclables, such as fleece fabric (used to make jackets, vests, and blankets), carpet, glass tile, jewelry, furniture, appliances, cans, jars, bicycles, surfboards, newspaper, packing and cereal boxes, and printer/copier paper, to name just a few!

If you already recycle at home and at work, thanks—keep up the good work! If you recycle sometimes and in some places, commit to recycling more items, more often. If you don't recycle, now is a great time to start.



Did you know?

If America's recycling rate for aluminum and steel cans, plastic PET bottles, glass containers, newspaper, and corrugated packaging increased by just 10%, we would save enough energy to provide electricity to 1.8 million Americans for an entire year. That's right! You'll find facts like this and much more good news about recycling at the America Recycles Day website, www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx.



Fall leaf frenzy

As autumn brings us cooler temperatures, the trees display their beautiful, annual show of color. Once those trees begin dropping their colorful leaves, you probably have a big cleanup job. As you're taking care of leaves this fall, remember there are many ways to reuse them in your yard:

- Shred the leaves with a mulching mower (or a mower with the bagger removed) and let them stay on the grass. These shredded leaves will provide a protective winter cover and decompose by spring. If you have a lot of leaves, you'll need to mow often during the weeks with the heaviest leaf-fall.
- Pick up leaves with your bagging mower. The mower will shred the leaves as it picks them up, creating a great mulch. Use the leaf mulch in your gardens or flower beds.
- Rake or blow the leaves into piles. Carry these leaves to mulch planting beds or add them to your compost pile.
- Mix fall leaves with over-ripe fruit and vegetables and grass clippings in a compost pile or bin to help the material decompose more quickly. If you have more leaves than you can



mulch or compost, deliver your leaves to the Landfill. The leaves will be turned into mulch. For the location of the Landfill and hours of operation, turn to the back page.

Remember—don't burn your fall leaves! Leaf burning releases many pollutants into the air. Smoke from just 5 pounds of burning leaves creates a full pound of pollution. Leaf burning can create health hazards for children, the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties. Burning can also put nearby properties at risk.

Do you Freecycle?

If so, you're in good company! Freecycle is part of a virtual community that began with about 40 people in Tucson, Arizona in 2003 and has grown to 4,566 groups with 5,604,000 members around the world. Each Freecycle group is local and independent, but all groups follow a few simple guidelines—everything offered or accepted must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages.

Members can post items that



they would like to receive (Wanted) or items they would like to give away

(Offer). An email alerts all members of these postings. People freecycle office and school supplies, clothes and shoes, sports equipment, books and magazines, toys and games, computer accessories, sheets and towels, CDs, DVDs, and so much more.

If you are interested in joining the local Freecycle group, visit www.freecycle.org and search for Asheville, NC. There are over 7,000 members, so start giving away today!

10 Tips *for a* Frugal Fall

We're reusing some old advice in this edition—namely, sayings that are well-known and full of common sense. Whether you're trying to live a greener lifestyle or just a more frugal one, you'll find that this advice can save you money and reduce your waste.

- 1. Waste not, want not.** There's a reason why the word for trash is "waste." What we throw away is "wasted" rather than being put to good use. If you take care of what you have, it will still be yours to use and enjoy in the future. When we reuse and recycle, we use our resources more efficiently, rather than letting them go to waste.
- 2. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.** By choosing durable products, properly maintaining appliances and furniture, and making minor repairs as needed, you can keep the things you own in tiptop shape. Wouldn't you rather get more use out of what you already own than spend money to replace it with something new?
- 3. There is no place like home.** Children form lifelong habits when they are young. If the habits in your home include conserving resources, saving energy, spending wisely, reducing waste, reusing, recycling, and composting, your children will become good stewards of the environment and productive members of our economy.
- 4. If it "ain't" broke, don't fix it.** Don't replace it, either. Whether it is a cell phone, a TV, or a bookshelf, if what you have works, keep it and keep using it.
- 5. One person's trash is another person's treasure.** This is one of our favorites, of course. The things you no longer want or need may be exactly what someone else is looking for. Or, someone else's "trash" may become your treasure.
- 6. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.** Choosing non-toxic cleaning products creates less indoor air pollution and eliminates the need to dispose of products as household hazardous waste. When you reduce your use of hazardous paints,



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cleaners, automotive fluids, and lawn and garden products, you help prevent pollution and reduce the costs of hazardous waste disposal.

- 7. Many hands make light work.** The "little things" that you do make a difference. Think about it — if every person in America were to recycle one plastic bottle today, that would be over 305 million plastic bottles recycled! And that's just today!



- 8. What goes around comes around.** By recycling, you ensure that your discards become someone else's new stuff. In the process, you help save energy, reduce pollution, and conserve natural resources.

9. Knowledge is power. Do you know what can be recycled locally? Do you know where the closest second-

hand store is? Do you know where and how to dispose of household hazardous waste or old electronics properly? If not, contact us. We have the answers to these and many other questions.

- 10. Better late than never.** If you've been a spender in the past, there is no reason why you can't be more frugal in the future. Being a "sustainable consumer" means spending your money wisely, using durable goods longer, reusing what you have, and recycling all you can.

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Read more about it!

New American Dream's Carbon Conscious Consumer Project
www.newdream.org/c3

EcoConsumer
www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/ecoconsumer/

Simple Living Network
www.simpleliving.net

The Complete Tightwad Gazette by Amy Dacyczyn (Villard, 1998)

Get Satisfied: How Twenty People Like You Found the Satisfaction of Enough, edited by Carol Holst, Simple Living America (Easton Studio Press, 2007) – www.getssatisfied.org

30 Days to a Simpler Life by Cris Evatt and Connie Cox (Plume, 1998)

The choice is yours

According to the U.S. Postal Service, American companies sent out 100 billion pieces of unsolicited advertising mail in 2005. That's more than 333 pieces for each person in your family—or almost one mailing each day. Because you weren't expecting most of this mail and most likely didn't want much of it, your family probably refers to it as "junk mail."

You can reduce the amount of junk mail that your family receives. When you apply for a credit card, order a product, fill out a warranty card, or donate money, check the box that says, "Please do not provide my name or address to other organizations." If there is no box, write this message in large letters. If you are already a customer or donor, contact the companies and organizations through their toll-free phone numbers or websites and ask them not to rent, trade, or sell your name and address. Don't forget online vendors!

Another way to reduce your junk mail is to sign up for "preference services." These services provide a "do not mail" list to businesses and other organizations. The lists work because the businesses and organizations don't want to waste their money sending advertising to people who don't want it and won't look at it. Here are some of the preference services that are available. There may be some fees.

- All Types of Mail: www.dmachoice.org (Click on "Remove My Name From Those Lists.")
- Credit Card Offers: www.optoutprescreen.com or 888-567-8688
- Catalogs: www.catalogchoice.org
- Additional Resources: www.stopjunkmail.org/links.htm

If your family regularly orders from companies or donates to organizations, you will not be removed from mailing lists for those businesses and organizations. This is "solicited" mail because you buy from the company or support the organization.



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Measuring the human footprint

How big a footprint does the average American boy or girl leave behind over the course of a lifetime? National Geographic set out to answer this question. The result was the *Human Footprint* project, which premiered on the National Geographic Channel last spring.

During the film, a lifetime supply of potatoes spills from the back of a dump truck, a lifetime supply of bread is laid out to make an enormous American flag, and 28,433 rubber ducks represent the number of showers the average American will take in a lifetime. There are many other striking images of the sheer mass of consumption that goes into a single American life.

From your morning newspaper to the bananas on your breakfast cereal, you'll see how much one person uses. For instance, over the course of a lifetime, an American will read 5,054 newspa-



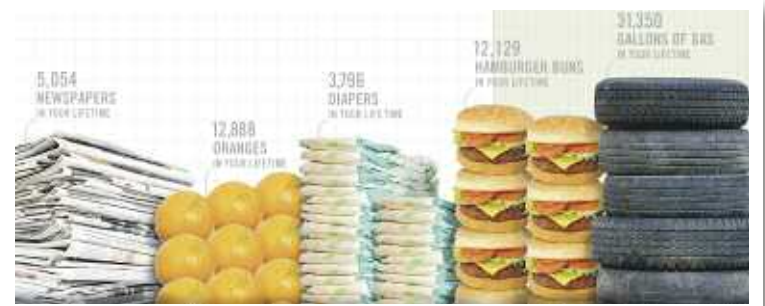
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pers, which is 43 trees' worth of paper. This same American will eat 5,067 bananas, which will travel a total of 11 million air miles to arrive on the breakfast table.

At the website devoted to the project, you can read a short essay entitled "Trash Talk," which introduces you to the facts and figures of America's waste habits. You can watch three short videos, which are excerpted from the 90-minute program, to get an idea of what "mass" consumption looks like. You'll also find "Consumption Interactive" (at the bottom of the web page). Click on this and you'll be able to see how your own consumption of eggs, milk, bananas, soft drinks, potatoes, and bread, as well as newspapers, the diapers from your early childhood, your regular showers, and your car, compare with national and international averages. You can also click through to watch the video about each of these items. Go to www.nationalgeographic.com/channel/human-footprint and explore.

Teachers, there is a nine-page Educational Resource Guide at the website for downloading, as well as additional information on National Geographic's Preserve Our Planet series.

The DVD of *Human Footprint* is available for \$24.95 at www.shopngvideos.com.



Source: National Geographic Channel, 2008

FAST FACTS

Total Annual Waste Generation in U.S.
251.3 million tons

Per Person Waste Generation
4.6 pounds per day

Total Annual Recycling & Composting in U.S.
81.8 million tons

National Recycling Rate
32.5%

Nationwide Benefits of Recycling & Composting
Equivalent to conserving 10 billion gallons of gasoline and removing 39.4 million passenger cars (and their emissions) from our roads

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2006"

GARBAGE: THE MOVIE



Canadian filmmaker Andrew Nisker set out to learn about trash. He enlisted the help of the five-member McDonald family for his documentary project. The McDonalds were asked to collect every piece of trash that they generated over three months and store it all in their garage. (They didn't keep "wet trash," such as rot-

ting food waste, as that would have been a health hazard.) As you can imagine, it turned out to be a huge pile of waste!

The 76-minute documentary, *Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home*, explores the waste created by the McDonald family, as well as where the materials came from and where they will go after leaving the garage. During the project, the McDonalds and the viewers begin to see that each action in the home has a reaction in the environment.

To learn more about the film, visit www.garbagerevolution.com. Online, you'll find a list of upcoming viewing opportunities, information on ordering the film, 12 things you can do right now to make a difference, and more.



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Save the Planet

What happens when two creative teachers join forces to teach their students about the environment? In the case of singer Jeffrey Walker and musician Michael Droste, who both teach in Illinois, the result was the "Save the Planet" song and video.

The song and video focus attention on the ways that humans have damaged the earth. However, the song isn't gloomy and doesn't scold anyone. Instead, it reminds each of us that our everyday habits—from conserving water and saving energy to recycling—can make our planet better and healthier for all of us. The chorus of the song reminds us all to "Save the Planet from Destru-u-ction." You'll still be humming long after the music stops.

Several versions of the song are available for download at Amazon.com. To watch the video, go to www.YouTube.com and search for "Save the Planet Song." To learn more about Walker and Droste's project, visit www.savetheplanetsong.org.

While you're at YouTube, also check out "Kids 2 Save the Planet."



QUOTES REQUOTED



We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.

Charles Franklin Kettering, 1876–1958
American inventor and engineer

WHAT'S UP?

Buncombe County accepts **household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics (e-waste)** every Friday, except holidays, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., at a special drop-off area at the Landfill (see map on this page).



Each week, we accept e-waste from residents at no charge; however, **each resident is limited to 3 televisions and 3 computer monitors per month.** E-waste includes computers, televisions, and related equipment, as well as cell phones. Businesses of Buncombe County are required to make arrangements ahead of time and may also drop off electronics; businesses will be charged a fee of 30 cents per pound. Special packaging is likely required and the Solid Waste Office must be contacted prior to your visit.

HHW is accepted from Buncombe County residents for \$2 per gallon for paint-related material (limit of 20 gallons of paint per visit), such as paint thinner, kerosene, gasoline, and paint. Other materials, such as lawn and garden chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and automotive batteries, are accepted at no charge.

Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or current utility bill, is required. For more information, call 250-5462 or 250-5460.



Attention, City of Asheville Residents!

If you live inside the city limits of Asheville and have questions about garbage or recycling pickup, please call Asheville City Sanitation at 259-5857.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

**Buncombe County
Solid Waste Department
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828-250-5460
www.buncombecounty.org**

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CONTENT, USING SOY INKS

Drop-Off Facilities at Landfill

You can drop off all of these items for recycling at the Buncombe County Landfill at no charge:

- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Magazines and catalogs
- Office paper and mail
- Corrugated cardboard
- Co-mingled recyclable containers, including plastic bottles (milk jugs, soft drink bottles, laundry detergent jugs, shampoo bottles); aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; and steel cans
- Yard waste, including leaves, grass clippings, brush, and trimmings
- Lead-acid batteries
- Motor oils
- Tires
- White goods, including stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, and all metals
- Empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers
- Empty propane tanks (20-pound, gas grill type ONLY)

You can drop off household trash at the Landfill. There is a fee to dispose of trash.

The Landfill is open to accept trash and recyclables Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Transfer Station Recycling

The Transfer Station, which is located just off Brevard Road, is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During all open hours, residents can drop off these recyclables at no charge:

- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Office paper and mail
- Magazines and catalogs
- Corrugated cardboard
- "Blue Bag" or co-mingled recyclable containers, including plastic bottles and jugs; aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass; and steel cans
- Appliances ("white goods") and other metals

Paper or plastic? No, thanks!

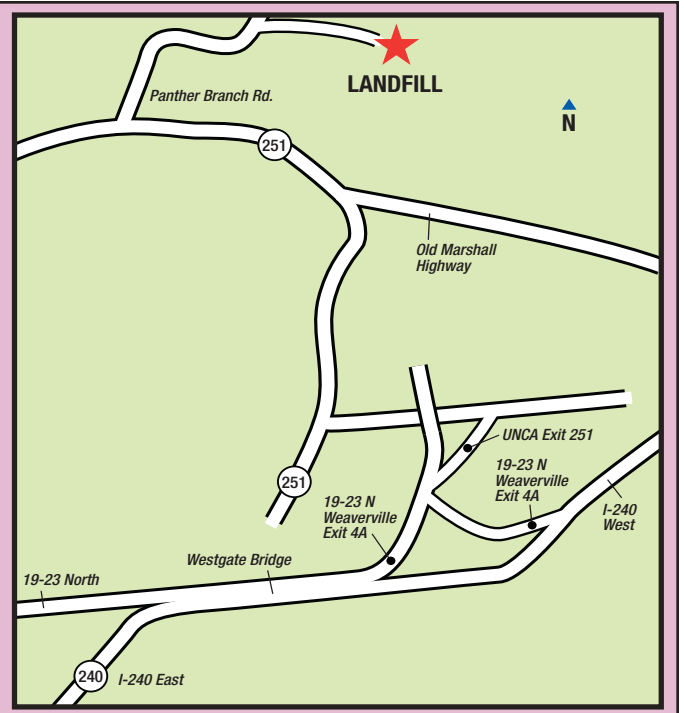
Reducing your waste is easy—stop accepting the free paper and plastic bags at the store. Once you get home to put away your groceries or other purchases, you are stuck with these bags. The bags are reusable, but a lot of them just go into the trash. Plus, many of the lightweight plastic bags end up on our roadsides or hanging from trees as litter.

You probably already have several canvas bags that you can reuse. Put some



Directions to the Buncombe County Landfill:

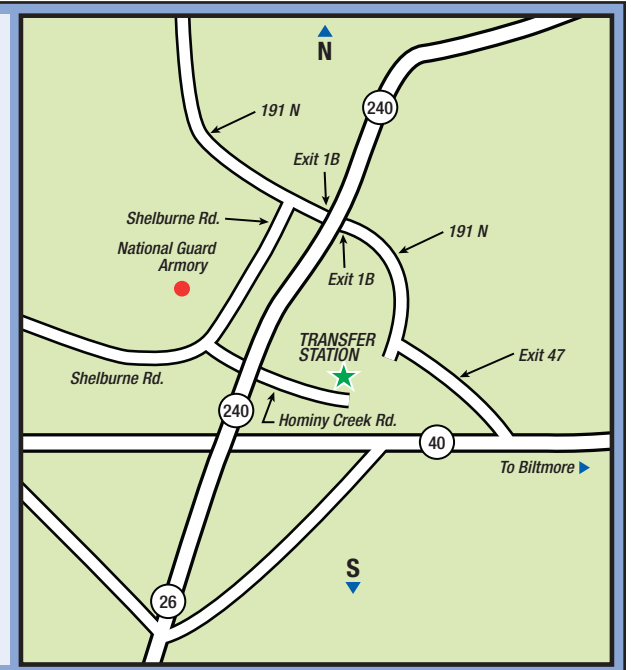
From I-240 East or West, take Exit 4A to 19/23 North. Travel 1 mile and then take UNC-A exit. At the end of the exit, turn left. Go to traffic light and turn right onto 251 North. Continue on 251 North for 9 miles to Panther Branch Road. Turn right onto Panther Branch Road and travel 1/10 of a mile to the Buncombe County Landfill, which is located on the right. The new landfill is 6 miles north of the old landfill.



Directions to the Transfer Station:

From I-240, take exit 1B (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. Turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.

From I-40, take exit 47 (Brevard Road/Hwy. 191). At the traffic light, take Highway 191 North. After crossing I-240, turn left onto Shelburne Road. Turn left onto Hominy Creek Road. The Transfer Station will be on the left.



• Lead-acid batteries
We also accept reusable corrugated cardboard moving boxes and shipping cartons. Please break down and flatten the boxes for storage.

Plus, you can drop off "sharps," such as needles and lancets, used at home for personal medical care.

If you have questions, call the Transfer Station at 250-6205.

CLIP & SAVE

Important Phone Numbers for County Residents

Junk Motor Vehicle Officer – Roger Presley	828-250-5470
Mobile Home Removal – Roger Presley	828-250-5470
Environmental Control Officer – Rick Ramsey	828-250-5471
Environmental Control Officer – Jane Cole	828-250-5472
Environmental/Bioreactor Manager – Kristy Smith	828-250-5473
Buncombe County Landfill	828-250-5462
Buncombe County Transfer Station	828-250-6205
GDS – Residential Trash Pick-up	828-253-3929

Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents

Asheville City Sanitation – Trash Pick-up	828-259-5857
Curbside Management – Recycling	828-252-2532
Asheville City – Recycling Division	828-259-5936