

A Quarterly Newsletter of



Buncombe County Solid Waste Department

828-250-5460

www.buncombecounty.org/green
Fall 2010



Where do our recyclables go?

We hear this question so often that we thought we'd answer it here. In Buncombe



County, our recyclables are collected and processed by several companies. Once your recyclables are picked up at the curb or from the convenience centers, they are sorted by type, baled into large cubes, and then shipped to manufacturing plants to be turned into new products. Paper, plastic, and metal are baled to save space during shipping.

Transporting recyclables to market can be expensive, especially with the heavier materials like paper and glass. That's why a successful recycling program depends on

having nearby markets. Most of Buncombe County's recyclables travel no more than five hours to a manufacturing plant, with the closest only 90 miles away. This keeps the cost of recycling down and allows us to collect a broad range of materials.

Here's what our recyclables are becoming:

- ◆ Plastic drink bottles and 2-liter jugs become carpet and new plastic bottles.
- ◆ Milk jugs are turned into plastic lumber and curbside recycling bins.
- ◆ Newspaper is turned into new paper.
- ◆ Shredded paper becomes paper towels and bathroom tissue.
- ◆ Mixed paper goes to a plant where it is used in hydro-seed and insulation products.
- ◆ Glass bottles and jars become new glass bottles and jars.
- ◆ Aluminum cans are turned into new cans.
- ◆ Steel cans are turned into a variety of new steel products, from cans to bikes to cars.
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard becomes new corrugated cardboard.

Reuse for fall leaves

As autumn arrives, we anticipate cooler temperatures and beautiful colors. We get those, along with an abundance of fallen leaves. As you begin your annual autumn yard cleanup, plan to reuse the fallen leaves in your yard.

Here are three ways to reuse your fall leaves:

- ❖ Use your mulching mower to shred the leaves onto your lawn. The small leaf parts will decompose by spring. In the meantime, they will protect your grass roots from harsh temperatures and provide valuable nutrients to your lawn. If you don't have a mulching mower, you can simply remove the bagger attachment on your mower and insert the chute cover, if needed. You want the leaf parts to be small, so you may need to go over the lawn more than once. Your lawn should not look as though it is buried in leaves. Instead, the leaves should be "dusted" over the grass.
- ❖ Rake your leaves and then layer them onto your garden or flower beds. Or, pick up leaves with your bagging mower and put these shredded leaves in a layer onto gardens and flower beds. Whether the leaves are whole or shredded, the layer should be no more than 2 to 3 inches thick. These leaves will serve as mulch, protecting helpful insects, bacteria, and fungi from the colder winter weather and keeping moisture in



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the soil for spring plants. In the spring, mix the decomposing leaves into the soil to fluff it up with organic matter.

- ❖ Add fall leaves to your compost bin or pile. Mix over-ripe fruits and vegetables and grass clippings into the compost pile or bin to help the leaves decompose more quickly. If you would like to learn more about backyard composting, contact our office.

And, 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 those who are vulnerable, including children, the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties. Burning can also put nearby properties at risk.

Did you know?

- ◆ Once an aluminum can is recycled, it can be part of a new can within six weeks!
- ◆ Recycling a glass bottle causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than making a new bottle from raw materials.
- ◆ Recycled-content paper creates 35% less water pollution and 70% less air pollution than making paper from new materials. Plus, it also requires that fewer trees be cut down!
- ◆ Over 500 North Carolina companies use the recyclables you recycle to make new products.

Put items to good use

Most of us had a parent or grandparent who would often say, "Well, you can still use that—it's perfectly good." Or maybe you are the one who reminds others to keep using things that are "perfectly good." When you extend the life of an item, use it over and over again, or find a new and novel use for it, you are reusing, which keeps perfectly good stuff out of landfills.

Here are some easy ways to reuse:

- Instead of disposable containers or plastic bags, choose reusable containers for leftovers and lunches. Washable containers can be used for years without being replaced—saving you money and reducing your waste!
- Fix broken items. To make many repairs, a small tool kit, some wood glue, or a needle and thread may be all you need.
- Rent what you will need for only a short period of time. Whether it is tables for a big party, a chipper-shredder for limbs you pruned from your crab apple trees, or a carpet cleaner, rental is a great way to get what you need when you need it without having to pay the full purchase price or find space to store it while it isn't in use.
- Borrow books, movies, and other media

from the local library.

- Rent movies and video games from a local store or an Internet service.
- Download music onto your iPod or MP3 player and books onto your e-reading device.
- Set up a neighborhood "swap meet." This is a great way to meet your neighbors and trade what you don't need for something you do need.
- Sell working and usable items that you no longer want or need at a garage sale, through classified ads (in the newspaper or online), or to a secondhand store.
- Buy from resale stores, such as thrift stores, antique shops, and used bookstores.



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Getting and giving

The Freecycle Network is made up of 4,834 groups with 7,341,000 members across the globe. People



who belong to this network, "freecyclers," are part of local, online communities devoted to one thing—keeping stuff out of landfills by giving it away. Freecycle is a nonprofit network of people giving away (and getting) stuff in their own towns.

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. Membership in local groups is free, and it is easy to join,

usually just requiring an email or two to get started. 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 give away and get office and school supplies, clothes and shoes, sports equipment, books and magazines, toys and games, home decorating items, furniture, computer accessories, sheets and towels, CDs, DVDs, and so much more.

To join the local Freecycle group, go to www.freecycle.org and search for Asheville.

Attention Weaverville Residents

The residential recycling information brochure contains important information about recycling and phone numbers. However, the phone numbers for the Buncombe County Transfer Station and Landfill are incorrect. Please call the Buncombe County Transfer Station at 828-250-6205 and the Buncombe County Landfill at 828-250-5462.

WHAT DO I NEED?

OFTEN WHEN LOOKING AT A MASS OF THINGS FOR SALE, HE WOULD SAY TO HIMSELF, "HOW MANY THINGS I HAVE NO NEED OF!" – SOCRATES

Yes, over 2,400 years ago, the philosopher Socrates was going to the market and finding many things offered that he didn't really need! How many times have you had that same feeling? You were at a store, you had an item in your hand, you were headed toward the checkout, and suddenly, you thought, "I don't really need this."

When it comes to shopping for things we may want, but don't necessarily need, it's a good idea to think before heading to the checkout counter. The Center for a New American Dream's Conscious Consumption program invites all of us to ask these questions as we shop:

- Is this something I need?
- Do I already own something that could serve the same purpose?
- Can I borrow one, find one used, or make one instead of buying new?
- Was it made locally?
- Was it made with environmentally preferable materials?
- Will it serve more than one purpose?
- Will it be easy and cost-effective to maintain?
- Does it come in excessive packaging?
- Can I recycle or compost it when I'm done with it?
- If I'm still not sure, can I wait a month before deciding whether to buy it?

In asking and answering these questions, we will ultimately decide to buy many things that we want. But when we do so, we'll be selecting them for their utility or for their capacity to enrich our experiences and enjoyment. Instead of buying on impulse, we'll be buying with intention.

When we choose to consume more consciously, we will probably also save money and create less waste that we must reuse, recycle, or dispose.



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Could I buy something used instead of something new?



One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? Here's an idea—give up bottled water. If you buy one bottle of water a day from a vending machine or store, you are spending at least \$500 more per year than you would spend for the same amount of tap water. Even if you are buying water by the case on sale, you're probably spending an extra \$50-95 per year. Aside from the cost, what about the waste? At a bottle a day, that is 365 water bottles. If you were getting all of the water you need per day – about 64 ounces – from bottles, you would be using and discarding four bottles a day, which is 1,460 bottles per year per person!

Instead of buying bottled water, fill your own reusable bottle, use a glass, or get a drink at the water fountain. If you are using a refillable bottle, be sure to wash it with hot, soapy water between uses, or, if it is dishwasher safe, put it in the dishwasher. If you are worried about germs, label the bottles so that each family member has his or her own bottle. If you don't like the taste of your tap water, purchase a water-filtering pitcher and keep it in the fridge.

There will be times when you are thirsty and a water bottle is your only, or the best available, choice. Remember to recycle those plastic water bottles!

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Halloween is a "spooktacular" time to reuse. That's why ChicoBag and Green Halloween are inviting children (ages 1-13) to create designs for a reusable Halloween treat bag. All entries must be received by November 5, 2010. The top three designs will be posted on Facebook where ChicoBag's Facebook fans will be invited to vote for first, second, and third place. The winning design will become next year's "un-boo-lievable" and reusable trick-or-treat bag. Winners will receive cash prizes and eco-friendly goodies in a Halloween ChicoBag. For details about the contest, go to http://www.chicobag.com/t-green_halloween.aspx.

To learn more about enjoying a green Halloween, visit www.GreenHalloween.org, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/halloween/>, or www.recycleguys.org/images/seasonal/halloween.htm.



QUOTES REQUOTED

A human being has a natural desire to have more of a good thing than he needs.

Mark Twain, 1835–1910
Following the Equator
American Novelist and Humorist



Thankful, not wasteful

At Thanksgiving, families and friends gather for a feast that kicks off the holiday season. Whether your gathering features board games, football, basketball in the driveway, or movies, chances are, the focus is on the food and the conversation that surrounds it. Make your event this year filled with thanks, but light on waste.

- Use email to invite guests, coordinate food assignments, share recipes, and more. Have a large family or group? Set up a Facebook group or send an Evite online.
- Count heads. Find out who is coming and who is not so that you can plan to have plenty of, but not too much, food. For the meal, you need to plan for about one serving of turkey, four side servings, and one dessert per person.
- Design the menu with care. If no one likes cranberry relish, don't make it. If cornbread dressing was a hit last year, make it and skip the oyster dressing. Go for appetizers that



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are tasty, but light. If you want to introduce an exotic food or ingredient, pair it with something familiar.

- Dress up the house with reusable fall decorations, such as festive tablecloths and vases, or choose edible or compostable decor, such as gourds, corn, pumpkins, apples, oranges, lemons, or fall foliage.
- Set the table with family heirlooms. This is the perfect time for Grandma's china or the cloth napkins that were a wedding gift. If you don't have enough plates, silverware, or glasses, borrow extras from a friend or consider renting what you need.
- Turn down the thermostat as guests begin to arrive. Allow body heat to keep your rooms comfortable. How many times have you had to open a window on Thanksgiving because the house was feeling stuffy?
- Make sure your guests know where to recycle bottles and cans.
- Plan a "Leftovers Party." Invite your friends over for an evening of games and ask each family to bring their Thanksgiving Day leftovers. This is a great way to sample other people's special holiday foods and keep your leftovers out of the trash.

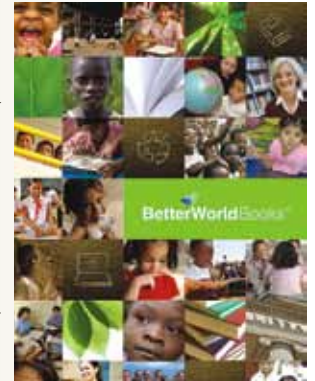
Over the next few months, Thanksgiving is only one of the parties that you'll be planning or attending. The winter months are full of celebrations and get-togethers. From now through Super Bowl Sunday, enjoy your family and friends, feast away, and watch your waste!

Books for a better world

Describing itself as a "for-profit social venture," Better World Books earns money by selling new and used books. However, financial profit isn't the only motive; the company also strives to generate a social profit by contributing to improvements in literacy. Since it was founded in 2002, Better World Books has given more than 2.8 million books to partner literacy programs in the U.S. and around the world and donated over \$8.6 million to fund global literacy efforts. In addition, the company has kept more than 34.8 million books out of landfills!

Reusable books come to Better World Books from book drives for used books and textbooks through a network of over 1,800 college campuses and partnerships with over 2,000 libraries and thrift stores nationwide. These books are either sold, sent to a non-profit literacy partner program, or recycled if unsuitable for use.

Better World Books has more than 6 million titles in stock and offers free shipping throughout the U.S. For more information, visit www.betterworldbooks.com.



50 Ways to Never Waste Food Again

Unwanted and spoiled food costs a family of four almost \$600 per year. During the holiday season, food waste goes up. Save money on food purchases and reduce food waste with the helpful tips at this website: <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/ways-avoid-waste-food.html>

FAST FACTS

Do oil and compost mix?

As cleanup related to the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues, compost may be part of the solution. Compost provides the perfect environment for bacteria and microscopic organisms that can break down hydrocarbons like those found in oil. This process is called "bioremediation." With bioremediation, changes occur as contaminants or pollutants are metabolized by microorganisms and broken down into harmless, stable constituents, such as carbon dioxide, water, and salts.



Photo courtesy of Matter of Trust

Recycling Stonehenge

If imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, then the prehistoric creators of Stonehenge should be quite pleased. The most famous of the stone circles in England, Stonehenge has been a source of controversy and curiosity. It has also spawned many imitators, including those using recycled materials.

In a recent article, Simone Preuss takes a look at "Seven Stonehenges Made From Recycled Materials." These include "stone circles" made from old cars, foam blocks, British-style phone booths, old refrigerators, decommissioned military tanks, port-a-potties, and snow. Read the article and see photos of these "henges" at <http://1800recycling.com/2010/09/stonehenges-recycled-materials/>.

A blog, *Clonehenge*, boasts "the most complete list of Stonehenge replicas on the Internet" and contains a feature entitled, "The 65 Large Permanent Replicas." Read more about permanent and not-so-permanent Stonehenge replicas at this blog, <http://replicahenge.wordpress.com/>.

Roadside America, a website devoted to offbeat tourist attractions, has a feature on "America Unhinged." Go to www.roadsideamerica.com/set/OVERhenges.html.



© Kevin Saff

for "recycled clothing" or "recycled shoes" online to see some of the options.

Clothing, shoe, and accessory reuse is and has been a big business. Whether referred to as secondhand, vintage, or hand-me-down, they are all the same—a good deal! Plus, used items provide lots of variety and come in every size, style, and color. You'll find never-worn, seldom-worn, and gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories. You probably won't show up at a party in exactly the same sweater as a friend, either!

After textile products have reached the end of their useful lives, they can get second lives as new products. Denim blue jeans are being turned into home insulation. Shoes are being ground up and turned into running tracks and other athletic surfaces. Some fabric products become industrial rags, pet bed stuffing, and even casket liners.



Textile me

Simple Shoes can make the soles for six pairs of shoes from a car tire. Byproducts of coconut husks help wick away sweat in Atayne's running shirts. Fabric made from wood pulp and seaweed is being used for lingerie and loungewear. Fermented maize plant sugars are used to create a moisture-resistant, hypoallergenic fabric for bedding. Plastic soft drink bottles are being turned into polyester that becomes fleece blankets and hoodies. Organic cotton and plastic bottles make t-shirts of all shapes, sizes, and colors. If you are shopping for recycled-content clothing and footwear, you have many choices. Search

WHAT'S UP?

Buncombe County accepts household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics every Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at a special drop-off area at the Landfill, excluding Fridays around a holiday.

Please call the landfill at 828-250-5462 if a holiday is coming up and you want to know the Fridays available for drop-off.

For 2010, this drop-off area will be closed on the Fridays after Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. It will also be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. For 2011, it will be closed Good Friday, and the Fridays before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, as well as Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Each week, we accept electronics from residents at no charge, subject to a limit of three televisions or computers per month. Businesses are able to drop off electronics for a recycling fee, but **special arrangements need to be made prior to acceptance.** Contact the Solid Waste Department prior to arrival. Proof of County residency is required.

The following items must be separated out of loads and brought to the electronics recycling area:

- ◆ Calculators
- ◆ Cell Phones
- ◆ Computers, such as monitors (limit three per month), CPUs, and keyboards
- ◆ Copiers
- ◆ Fax Machines
- ◆ Stereos
- ◆ Telephones
- ◆ Televisions (limit three per month)
- ◆ VCRs and DVD Players
- ◆ Video Cameras

Household Hazardous Waste is also accepted on Fridays only. HHW includes:

- ◆ Paint and paint-related items, such as water sealer, paint thinners, enamels, and polyurethane – \$2.00 per gallon with a 20-gallon limit
- ◆ All flammable liquids (gasoline, kerosene, etc.) – Recycling fee of \$2.00 per gallon
- ◆ Pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, motor oil, antifreeze, and lead-acid batteries – No charge
- ◆ Rechargeable batteries, such as Nickel Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride, Lithium Ion, Nickel Zinc, and Small Sealed Lead batteries found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, and remote control toys – No charge for typical household quantities

No hazardous wastes from businesses will be accepted. Bio-hazardous materials, radioactives, and explosives are NOT accepted at any time.

Buncombe County Transfer Station

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.



The Transfer Station accepts residential household waste and recyclables.

Residential household waste must be bagged, and there is a fee for disposal. All other garbage items, including bulky waste, construction and demolition debris,

mattresses, wood, and other oversized items, must be disposed of at the Buncombe County Landfill.

The Transfer Station accepts these recyclables at no charge:

- ◆ Newspaper and brown paper bags

Buncombe County Landfill

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

- ◆ Oil filters
- ◆ Newspaper
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard
- ◆ Co-mingled recyclable containers, including plastic bottles (milk jugs, soft drink bottles, laundry detergent jugs, and shampoo bottles); aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; and steel cans
- ◆ Lead-acid batteries
- ◆ Motor oil
- ◆ 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)

After the holidays, we also accept real Christmas trees at no charge from residents who are bringing trees from their homes. Please remove all of the decorations, ornament hooks, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand. Christmas trees are only accepted at the Buncombe County Landfill. These trees will be chipped and

turned into mulch, so make sure that your tree is totally bare. (Commercial haulers and businesses will be charged the standard yard waste fee for Christmas trees; this fee is \$20 per ton of yard waste.)

You may also recycle tires. Each year, residents may recycle 10 tires without rims at no charge. After that, tires may be

- ◆ Office paper and mail
- ◆ Magazines and catalogs
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard
- ◆ Recyclable containers, including plastic bottles and jugs; aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass; and steel cans
- ◆ Appliances
- ◆ Lead-acid batteries

In addition, you can drop off reusable corrugated moving boxes and shipping cartons for reuse. (Please break down and flatten the boxes.) We also accept medical equipment, such as wheelchairs and crutches, for reuse. Plus, you can drop off "sharps," such as needles and lancets, and non-infectious medical waste from in-home care. Please place sharps and other medical waste in an approved sharps container (available at pharmacies) or in a sturdy, thick-walled plastic jug.

The Buncombe County Transfer Station's hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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.



What do I do with my plastic shopping bags?

Plastic shopping bags are not accepted at the Buncombe County Transfer Station or Landfill for recycling and are not accepted in the curbside programs. You can recycle plastic bags at most grocery stores and

discount department stores, such as Wal-Mart or Target. Look for the plastic bag recycling bin near the front of the store. Remember to remove paper and receipts from the bags before recycling.

You can reduce the number of plastic shopping bags that you need to recycle. First, carry your own reusable shopping bags. Second, reuse plastic bags to pick up pet waste or to line trash cans.



Use one shopping bag to hold the others. This makes it handy to grab a bag for reuse, such as lining a trash can, or to deliver them to the store for recycling.

recycled at \$2 per tire. All tires on rims (even the first 10) are \$2 per tire.

You can drop off household trash, as well as bulky waste, construction and demolition waste, and yard waste, at the Landfill. There is a fee to dispose of trash, bulky waste, and yard waste.

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. If you have questions, call the Landfill at 250-5462.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

**Buncombe County
Solid Waste Department
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CONTENT, USING SOY INKS**

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
Bioreactor Manager – Kristy Smith.....	828-250-5473
Buncombe County Landfill.....	828-250-5462
Buncombe County Transfer Station.....	828-250-6205
Waste Pro – Residential Trash Pick-up.....	828-684-7790

Important Phone Numbers for City of Asheville Residents

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

CLIP & SAVE