

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



**Buncombe County Solid  
Waste Department**  
**828-250-5460**  
**Spring 2005**



# Recycle at the curb with ease

Do you have curbside trash collection? If so, you have curbside recycling service, too! With curbside recycling service, your nearest "drop-off center" is as convenient as the end of your own driveway on trash day.

Each week, a single GDS truck comes through your neighborhood to pick up recyclables and trash. The rear compartment of the truck is divided into two sections—the front for recyclables and the back for trash. All you need to do is to set your Blue Bags next to your trash containers. The GDS staff does the rest!

To make sure that your recyclables end up in the recycling portion of the truck, follow these simple instructions:

- Place all of your recyclables into a translucent blue recycling bag. This makes it clear that these materials are meant for recycling—and won't head to the landfill!
- Recycle all of these items in your Blue Bag: glass food jars and beverage bottles; metal food and beverage cans; all white and yellow milk jugs and all plastic drink bottles with a #1



- or #2 inside the recycling symbol (shown), including soft drink, liquor, juice, mineral water, and sports drink bottles; newspaper with inserts; magazines; catalogs; and phone books.
- Before you put recyclables into your Blue Bags, always remove and throw away all caps and lids from containers; empty, rinse, and drain all containers; and flatten all plastic bottles and jugs.
- Set your Blue Bags next to, NOT inside, your trash container. The



GDS staff will put everything that is inside the trash container into the back portion of the truck with trash. Only Blue Bags that are set on the ground next to your trash container will go into the front, recycling portion of the truck

If you have questions about the curbside recycling program or your regular garbage service, call GDS, Inc. at 828-253-3929.

If you don't have curbside recycling service, you can recycle at the Transfer Station or Landfill. For more information about those recycling opportunities, see Page 4.



## Items NOT accepted for recycling

- NO plastic bags
- NO margarine or yogurt tubs
- NO plastic toys
- NO shampoo or detergent bottles
- NO glass dishes
- NO light bulbs
- NO cookware
- NO mirrors
- NO window panes
- NO broken glass of any kind
- NO aluminum foil
- NO aluminum pans or pie plates
- NO egg cartons
- NO fast food cartons
- NO meat trays
- NO motor oil jugs
- NO hazardous waste containers
- NO yard debris
- NO hazardous materials (paint, antifreeze, motor oil or their empty containers)

# Where do your Blue Bags go?

Blue Bags full of recyclables are delivered to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) operated by Curbside Management, Inc. This MRF is located just north of Asheville in Woodfin.

A MRF is a facility that receives, sorts, processes, and markets recyclable materials. When trucks arrive at the MRF, they dump Blue Bags, which include cans, bottles, mixed paper, and newspaper, as well as broken down corrugated cardboard, onto a platform. Machinery scoops up the bags, ripping them open, and loads the material onto a conveyor belt. This conveyor belt sends the recyclables up an 18-foot incline where several workers sort materials.

After being sorted by type, most of the recyclables are baled into giant cubes. These bales are stacked to await shipment to a manufacturer. Glass containers go into gaylords, which are open-top bins, for shipment to manufacturers.

Curbside Management, Inc. has been processing area recyclables since 1991. In

2003, the company moved into the new state-of-the-art MRF, which includes an observation deck and educational resource center. School groups, businesses, residents, and interested citizens are welcome to visit the MRF and see recycling in action.

To schedule a tour or for more information, call Dave Johnson at 828-252-2532.



## Did you know?

- Americans make up only 5 percent of the world's population, but we produce 50 percent of the world's trash.
- Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild the entire U.S. commercial air fleet.
- Americans toss out 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.
- Americans throw away the equivalent of almost half a million trees every week just by disposing of the Sunday newspaper.
- The North Carolina Senate and House have made recycling an integral part of the state's solid waste management plan by passing legislation encouraging communities to recycle.

*By reducing, reusing, and recycling material today, we will most certainly leave a more manageable world for our children and grandchildren!*

# Gargantuan garage sale

Do you still have the trumpet you used to play? What about the hand-me-down couch from Grandma's house that you no longer need? Or, is it craft books on a long-since abandoned hobby? We all have items in our house that we store for no good reason. Maybe you haven't gotten rid of these items because a garage sale seems like a lot of work or you don't have a truck in which to load the couch to deliver it to a charity.

No more excuses! The Internet is making it easier than ever to sell, trade, or give away things that you no longer want or need. It's like a huge nationwide garage sale. At auction sites, such as eBay, you can invite bids on your used stuff. At waste exchange sites, you can make arrangements to swap or, sometimes, sell your goods. At donation sites, you can learn how or where to drop items off. Or, you can post items that you would like to give away and wait for a taker, whether that is an individual or a charitable organization. No matter the method, ensuring that your good stuff gets reused is no more than a few mouse clicks away (see box).

Each of the sites devoted to reuse has its own rules and requirements. To post at the site, you often have to register or become a "member of the community." In most cases, there will be a few simple steps that connect you and your goods with the rest of the folks in cyberspace. Don't be daunted by the sign-up procedures. Once you're registered, participation is usually simple.

Getting reusable items into the hands of someone else

**The Internet is also a great place to find gently used items that you need. Check out these same sites when you need to shop for something new-to-you.**

who can use them is a great way to reduce your waste. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, about 23.3 percent of our municipal solid waste is actually reusable, including durable goods, such as appliances and furniture, and textiles, including clothes, blankets, and bedding. By the EPA's estimates, only about 16.7 percent of that material is currently being reused. This means the remainder is headed to disposal facilities—for no good reason.

Take part in the world's gargantuan, virtual garage sale.



**W**hen disaster strikes here at home or around the world, the first priority is always ensuring the safety of victims and meeting the basic human needs of survivors and their families. As that initial crisis wanes, communities are left with mountains of debris.

Last year, four separate hurricanes hit Florida during a two-month period, leaving behind 75 million cubic yards of vegetative (limbs, trees, and other plant waste) and construction/demolition debris. That was three times the volume of vegetative and construction/demolition debris in a typical 12-month period. In Florida, this waste was handled at 350 staging areas, many of which were mobilized to respond to hurricane debris only. Cleanup will take a year or more.

Much of the debris from any natural disaster is organic and woody. The vast majority of this material is chipped and turned into mulch. However, cleanup crews and debris site workers must beware of hazardous materials, including household hazardous waste, inadvertently mixed with these materials. As you know, household hazardous waste is so named because it is poisonous, corrosive, reactive, flammable, or explosive. Cleanups are dangerous enough without adding these hazards to the debris piles.

While none of us controls hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, mudslides, wildfires, or other natural disasters, we can each do more to be prepared. One of the ways that your family can be better prepared for any kind of disaster is to reduce the number of hazardous chemicals found in your home.

Here are some suggestions for reducing the hazards in and around your home. Don't buy chemicals that you don't need. If you need a chemical, choose a product that will solve the problem, select the most benign option available, and purchase only the amount you need. Keep leftover chemicals in their original, labeled containers. Never pour potentially harmful chemicals into food or beverage containers for storage. Use up products, or give them to a friend, neighbor, or organization that needs them. Or, call us to ask for safe disposal instructions.

For more information about disasters, disaster debris, and preparedness, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## Something for sale, something to swap, something for nothing?

### Search these sites

#### Dump & Run

[www.dumpandrun.org](http://www.dumpandrun.org)

#### Earth 911

[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

(Click "Reuse & Recycling Services")

#### eBay

[www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)

#### Freecycle

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

#### Habitat for Humanity ReStore

[www.habitat.org/env/restore.aspx](http://www.habitat.org/env/restore.aspx)

#### i-WasteNot

[www.i-wastenot.com/](http://www.i-wastenot.com/)

#### Reuses

[www.reuses.com](http://www.reuses.com)

#### 2 Good 2 Toss

[www.2Good2Toss.com](http://www.2Good2Toss.com)

#### Throwplace

[www.throwplace.com](http://www.throwplace.com)

#### Waste Exchanges

[www.wastexchange.org](http://www.wastexchange.org)

(Click on "Other Exchanges")

## Worth noting

Since we're coming up on Earth Day, we wanted to share some good news that we've seen, heard, and noted:

- In a commercial entitled "Waste," everyday images of wasteful behavior—from leaving unneeded lights on to letting an unattended garden hose run—introduce this theme: "Maybe we could all use a little less." The ads promote the Honda Accord Hybrid.
- Kinko's stores, which are now part of FedEx, announced in

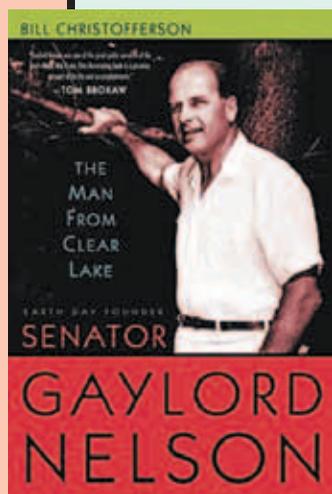
December that the standard paper used at the office and print centers will be 30-percent post-consumer recycled content, a jump from the 10-percent recycled content that the stores had been using. This raises the average recycled content used by the more than 1,100 stores to 26.2 percent overall.

- Recycline makes toothbrush and razor handles from 100-percent recycled plastic. About 65 percent of the plastic to make these handles comes from recycled Stonyfield Farm yogurt cups. Recently, Stonyfield Farm and Recycline recycled the 1 millionth yogurt cup in this partnership. It takes two yogurt cups to make each new toothbrush handle. The yogurt cups must be returned to Stonyfield Farm for recycling. After use, the toothbrushes can be returned to Recycline for recycling. (For details about these recycling programs, go to [www.recycline.com](http://www.recycline.com) and [www.stonyfield.com](http://www.stonyfield.com).)

# Recommended reading for Earth Day

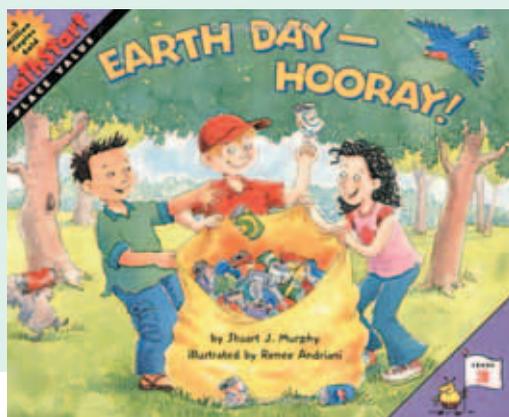
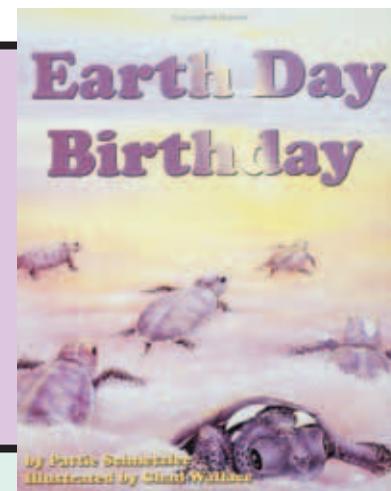
On April 22nd, we'll celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. Visit your local library or media center to learn a little more about Earth Day. While you're there, look for these three recently released books:

A biography that reads like a novel, *The Man from Clear Lake: Earth Day Founder Senator Gaylord Nelson* by Bill Christofferson (University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) tells the story of Gaylord Nelson. A governor of Wisconsin and later U.S. Senator from that state, Nelson is the man behind Earth Day. While in the Senate, Nelson championed the idea of a "teach-in" for the Earth in 1970, dubbed "Earth Day." To everyone's surprise, 10 percent of U.S. citizens took part in that first celebration, picking up litter, cleaning up playgrounds, learning about pollution, and making a difference. After leaving the Senate, Nelson continued to devote his life and career to the environment, serving as the head of the Wilderness Society.



*Read and enjoy!*

Written to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," *Earth Day Birthday* by Pattie Schnetzler and illustrated by Chad Wallace (Dawn Publications, 2004) introduces students in preschool through fourth grade to 12 native species of North American animals. The illustrations and lyrics show children and adults how habitats work and help them understand the importance of our country's varied environment.



Kids in first through third grade can learn math place values and learn about Earth Day at the same time in this clever book, *Earth Day—Hooray!* written by Stuart J. Murphy and illustrated by Renee Andriani (MathStart Series, HarperTrophy, 2004). In the book, a group of kids clean up a park and recycle aluminum cans to raise money for the purchase of flowers they want to plant.

## 10 Tips for greener gatherings

In the U.S., the wedding industry is a \$70 billion business, stressing brides, grooms, budgets, and the environment. Add to that the amount of money—and waste—created at other similar types of events, including family reunions, graduation parties, and retirement roasts, and you have a lot of resources devoted to gatherings.

Here are some of the ways to make your gathering or celebration fun and earth friendly:

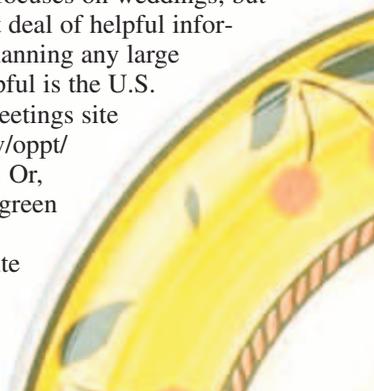
1. Avoid a lot of extra paper in invitations, such as double envelopes and reply card envelopes. If you need replies, request a phone call or include a stamped, self-addressed postcard.
2. Print everything from invitations and programs to thank-you notes on recycled-content paper.
3. Look for used formal wear, costumes, and wedding attire, including secondhand or vintage dresses and accessories.
4. Check into rentals. For years, men have rented tuxes. Why not rent or borrow a dress or suit for the occasion? In pictures, a rented dress can look just as lovely as a rented tux looks debonaire.
5. Select locally or regionally grown flowers, which are often grown with fewer pesticides and always require less fuel and create fewer emissions to deliver to your event.
6. Use washable and reusable plates, cups, napkins, and tablecloths. If you don't have enough for the



number of guests, rent or borrow extras.

Minimize your use of disposables, and you'll minimize your waste.

7. Plan to recycle at the party. Have containers for beverage container recycling near each trash bin. For multi-day events, such as family reunions, be sure to provide newspaper recycling, too.
8. Send leftovers home with guests, or donate leftover food to the needy.
9. Give party favors that are consumable, such as candy, teas, or coffees. Or, avoid party favors altogether. The guests came to share your special day—not to take a gift home!
10. Read more about greening weddings, gatherings, and other celebrations. Look for these books: *Green Weddings That Don't Cost the Earth* by Carol Reed-Jones (Paper Crane Press, 1996) and *Organic Weddings: Balancing Ecology, Style and Tradition* by Michelle Kozin (New Society Publishers, 2003). The website [www.organicweddings.com](http://www.organicweddings.com) focuses on weddings, but contains a great deal of helpful information about planning any large event. Also helpful is the U.S. EPA's Green Meetings site at [www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings/](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings/). Or, type "planning green gatherings" into your favorite search engine and follow the related links.



## Brothers take greeting seriously

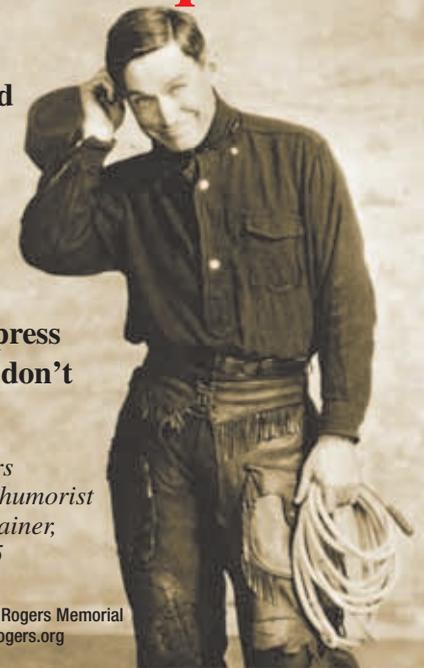
Since 1975, brothers Floyd and Earl Marian have been exchanging the same birthday card. Earl originally sent the Peanuts comic strip card, which carried the greeting: "This is the age of ecology! Don't throw this card away. Recycle it to a friend." Floyd took the message to heart and returned it on Earl's birthday the next month. The tradition has continued to this day, with each brother adding a handwritten line of greeting!

### Quotes Requoted

Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like.

Will Rogers  
American humorist  
and entertainer,  
1879-1935

Photo courtesy of Will Rogers Memorial Museums, [www.WillRogers.org](http://www.WillRogers.org)



# Landfill offers drop-off for residents' trash, recyclables, and more

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

- Lead-acid batteries
- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Corrugated cardboard
- Commingled recyclable containers, including #1 & #2 plastic (milk jugs, soft drink bottles, laundry detergent jugs); aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass bottles and jars; and steel cans
- Motor oils

- Tires
- White goods, including stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, and all metals
- Empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers
- Empty propane tanks

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 1 p.m.

# Use the Transfer Station for convenient recycling

The Transfer Station, which is located on Brevard Road, is now 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:

- Lead-acid batteries
- Newspaper and brown paper bags
- Corrugated cardboard
- "Blue Bag" or commingled recyclable

containers, including #1 & #2 plastic; aluminum cans; clear, green, and brown glass; and steel cans

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.

### 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.

### 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.

# Propane tank recycling available to residents



If you have a new propane tank for your gas grill or turkey fryer, trade in your empty for a full tank or have your empty tank refilled. However, if you have an older tank, you may not be able to have it refilled any longer. Tanks without a safety device, called an "overfill protection

device," can no longer be legally refilled. Instead, these tanks must be recycled. We are now accepting these and other unusable empty propane tanks at the Landfill during regular business hours. This program is for residents only to allow them to recycle tanks used at home.

WHAT'S UP?

### Household hazardous waste and electronics accepted each week at Landfill

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 (see map). Each week, we accept electronics from residents at no charge. Businesses will also be able to drop off electronics, but they will be charged a fee of 60 cents per pound. HHW is accepted for \$2 per gallon for paint-related material, such as paint thinner, kerosene, gasoline, and paint. Other materials, such as lawn and garden chemicals, are accepted at no charge. For more information, call 250-5460 or the Landfill at 645-5311.

**We want your suggestions, questions and comments!**

We are also available to speak to your club or class about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling and composting.

**Buncombe County Solid Waste Department**  
 2229 Riverside Drive  
 Asheville, NC 28804  
 828-250-5460  
 Web: [buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org)

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### Important Phone Numbers for County Residents

<b>CLIP &amp; SAVE</b>	Junk Motor Vehicle Officer — Roger Presley	828-250-5470
	Environmental Control Officer — Rick Ramsey	828-250-5471
	Environmental Control Officer — Jane Cole	828-250-5472
	Hazardous Waste Officer — Denese Ballew	828-250-5425
	Buncombe County Landfill	828-645-5311
	Buncombe County Transfer Station	828-250-6205