

The Green Print

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. React.

January 2012

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1



Not Too Early to Think Spring

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

The Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest organized annual cleanup. It encourages citizens to get involved in their own communities. Millions of volunteers nationwide take part in the Great American Cleanup each spring. The project begins on March 1st and continues through May 31st.

Sign up to be a site coordinator and organize a cleanup in your area or join in other community cleanups. For more information visit www.kgmb.org



In 2007 Milwaukee County's Board of Supervisors and County Executive approved a Green Print resolution, intended to improve the quality of life of County citizens through a plan to conserve natural resources and use energy more efficiently at County facilities.

To learn more about the Green Print Initiatives, go to www.county.milwaukee.gov/DPW/MilwaukeeCountysGreenPrint.htm



Miscellaneous Recycling Fact

Recycling begins with you! Did you know that the #1 recycling commodity for Milwaukee County is paper/cardboard? Take time to determine the location of the recycle bins in and around your office/work area.

Please print only if necessary. Consuming less saves \$ and is beneficial to our environment. Reduce-Recycle-Reuse

Ways to Lower Your Energy Bill

It's wintertime. For many folks in many areas of the country, that means using more energy to combat the cold. And that means spending more money.

Using energy more efficiently can help save you money, but figuring out how to be more efficient is tough. Fortunately, you don't have to do it alone.

Microsoft has an energy-calculating site called Hohm. Just enter your house's street address and Hohm will figure out its estimated energy use based on public records. You can also enter more-specific information for a better estimate.

Hohm provides an energy cost breakdown. That helps you see where your energy is going. It then offers some helpful solutions, including current tax credits for replacing inefficient appliances. Alternatively, it might suggest procedures for sealing up air leaks. There are dozens of things you can try!



You will need to sign in to see the solutions, but it only requires a free Microsoft Live account. If you have a Hotmail account, you can use that.

www.microsoft-hohm.com

Source: The Kim Komando Show
(www.komando.com - 1/5/2012)

Energy-Savings at County Buildings

Milwaukee County has made significant strides to reduce energy consumption in its buildings, including the County Courthouse. Improvements at the Courthouse included changing lights to more energy-efficient versions, upgrading building control systems to turn devices on and off when needed, and adding variable speed drives to motors, which are more efficient. Since the improvements began in 2008, electricity consumption has decreased more than 20%. That translates into an avoided cost of more than \$350,000 per year.

Bottled Water vs. Tap Water

Sales of bottled water have more than quadrupled in the last 10 years. Marketing campaigns showing pristine glaciers and crystal-clear mountain springs have created a public perception that bottled water is "purer" and "healthier" than tap water. However, the truth is that bottled water sold in the United States is not necessarily cleaner or safer than most tap water. Most bottled water comes from the same municipal water supplies as tap water. 25% or more of bottled water is really just tap water, and bottled water quality standards are less stringent than those governing local water treatment plants.

Bottled water also has a higher cost to the consumer and the environment. The U.S. demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually just to produce the plastic bottles. That is enough fuel for 100,000 cars annually.

Those concerned about the cost of bottled water, both financial and environmental, are encouraged to fill reusable water bottles. Washing reusable bottles in the dishwasher will prevent bacterial growth.

(Source: Iowa State University Cooperative Extension Service)

Sustainable Eating

You might find cooking challenging enough, but understanding the importance of incorporating in-season produce is an entirely different lesson.

Choosing produce that's in season means less chemicals, more flavor, and extra money in your pocket. In-season produce can grow more naturally without the use of expensive greenhouses, GM crops or pesticide chemicals, meaning more savory flavor and less damage to the earth.

If you're buying seasonal, you're buying local-- the average meal travels 1,200 miles from a farm to your home!



Supporting local organic farmers helps reduce energy consumption. Energy use on conventional farms is much greater than on organic farms because of their reliance on nitrogen fertilizers and pesticides.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY WINTER FARMERS' MARKET



This market is a non profit organization committed to promoting local, sustainable agriculture in support of small family farms/innovative food businesses. The market gives metro Milwaukee residents and other visitors access to wholesome food in a vibrant gathering place.

Saturday Mornings November 5 -
April 14 at State Fair Park (8am-
12pm)

Visit mcwfm.org for more details.



Ideas? Suggestions?

Contact Steve Keith via Lotus Notes email or at
278-4355

Do Your Part!

Keep Useful Items Out of Landfills

One man's trash is another man's treasure. That old saw is true. People throw away perfectly good items all the time that someone else could use.

Losing weight for the new year? When you get a new, small-sized wardrobe, don't throw out the old one. Replacing your old bicycle? Someone needs it for transportation. There's a good home out there for almost anything.

That's the idea behind Freecycle. This is a collection of people dedicated to giving away things they no longer need. And there is a group near you - all you have to do is sign up.



You can receive e-mail alerts on items or just visit the site and browse. People in your area will post things they want to give away. Find clothes, electronics, even landscaping material. And, of course, you can give things away, too.

www.freecycle.org

Source: The Kim Komando Show
(www.komando.com - 1/1/2012)

E-Cycle Wisconsin



FACT: According to the EPA, electronics are the fastest growing source of waste in the US, generating 220 million pounds of waste each year. The metals used to make certain types of batteries are extremely toxic if not disposed of properly.

E-Cycle Wisconsin is a statewide, manufacturer-funded program that recycles certain electronics used in homes and schools. Individuals, K-12 public schools and Milwaukee Parental Choice Program schools can use E-Cycle Wisconsin to save on electronics recycling. Others may use the program to find responsible recyclers. Many people have important roles to play in making E-Cycle Wisconsin a success.

Consumers are responsible for recycling their used electronics. Individuals, K-12 public schools and Milwaukee Parental Choice Program schools may recycle electronics through E-Cycle Wisconsin.

Visit

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Ecycle/wisconsin.html> for accepted items and locations near you! The E-Cycle Wisconsin program is supported by Wisconsin's electronics recycling law (2009 Wisconsin Act 50), which bans electronics such as TVs, computers and cell phones from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators.