

The Green Print

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. React.

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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



Milwaukee County is kicking off a new recycling campaign: **Recycle Like There IS Tomorrow.**

Informational signs are being placed in County facilities to promote increased recycling in our facilities and help clarify what can and cannot be recycled. Below are a few FAQs:

What can be placed in the recycling bins? The bins should be labeled as to what can be placed in them. Some buildings have blue bins for single-stream mixed recyclables which includes paper, magazines, cans, glass, and plastic bottles - all in one container.

Other buildings may have separate bins for types of paper (possibly one for office paper, one for mixed paper, one for cardboard), then a separate bin for glass and plastics. Most departments recycle other items as well such as batteries, light bulbs, scrap metal, etc. which are taken care of on an as needed basis.

Why are the recycle containers different in some county buildings? Departments continue to use the bins that they have been using and only replace a bin if it has been damaged or can no longer be used for some other reason. There are some departments (General Mitchell International Airport, Parks, Zoo, etc.) that have specially designed bins.

Why can I recycle more/less items at home than at work? What you are able to recycle at home depends on the city/village/municipality in which you live. They all have different rules depending on who they contract with to pick up the recycling.

Why do some departments separate paper and some don't? Some departments separate paper at the collection point (i.e. separate bins are used in the offices, hallways, etc.) whereas other departments separate the paper after it is collected, but before it is picked up by the hauler. Time and staff are the factors that influence this procedure. Depending on the volume of recyclables collected at a given facility, it may be economically advantageous to source separate these materials to derive more revenue from the recycled materials.

Can I put #5 plastic in the recycle bin? Yes. Milwaukee County now recycles plastics #1, #2, #4, and #5.

Check with the Recycle Coordinator in your department if you have questions.

US Water Consumption Facts

- Landscaping accounts for 20-50% of all residential water use. (American Water Works Association)
- A leaky toilet can waste more than 200 gallons of water per day. (EPA)
- Half of all water use inside your home takes place in the bathroom. (EPA)

For more facts and information, check out www.Earth911.com. To see how you can lower your water use, read the tips on the next page.

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Water Conservation

Why should I Use Water Wisely?

- To save money on your water and utility bills
- To protect our natural resources
- To help reduce sewer overflows and basement backups

Tips for conserving water in the bathroom:

1. Install low-flow toilets that require only 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Older toilets (pre 1994) use 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush.
2. Replacing old toilets with new models can save the typical household 7,900 to 21,000 gallons of water per year, saving both water and energy.
3. Fix leaky toilets, the most common source of leaks in the home. To check for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after 15 minutes the dye shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.
4. Fix leaky faucets. Use the drip calculator to estimate how much water you're paying for, but not using at all.
<http://www.anycalculator.com/drip.htm>
5. Take a short shower instead of bath and save an average of 20 gallons of water.
6. Install a water-efficient showerhead with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons per minute.
7. Install aerators on your faucets to reduce water use by as much as 4%.
8. Don't let the water run while you're brushing your teeth or shaving.

Tips for conserving water in the kitchen:

1. A full dishwasher is more efficient than washing the same load by hand.
2. Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher.
3. Clean vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water rather than running tap water.
4. Install aerators on your faucets to reduce water use by as much as 4%.

Tips for conserving water outside the home:

1. Don't over water your lawn. Lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter.
2. Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation.
3. Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.
4. Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. The application of fertilizers increases the need for water.
5. Plant native grasses, shrubs, and trees. They do not need to be watered as frequently and usually survive a dry period without any watering.
6. Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk. Cleaning a driveway can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
7. Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. Your garden hoses can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.

For more tips go to www.everydrop.org



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New Green Roof at Mitchell Park Conservatory

A green roof is being placed on top of the flat roof of the building connecting the beehive-shaped glass domes at Mitchell Park. The green roof is composed of a thin layer of soil and vegetated with a class of plants called sedums that flower but maintain a low profile.

Green roofs help to reduce the volume of storm water runoff to sewers and also help reduce energy costs via their insulating effect. Because the roof is not accessible to the public, an educational kiosk will be constructed inside the building to show how the green roof was constructed and the associated benefits.

Environmental Awareness and Recycling in the Workplace Seminar

The first annual Earth Month seminar was held on April 24th at the Zoofari Conference Center. Sponsored by Milwaukee County and Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful the theme of the seminar was “Environmental Awareness and Recycling in the Workplace.”

Keynote speaker Ryan Griffin, Asset Management Systems, with MillerCoors discussed *Source Reduction: Addressing the Root Causes of Waste*. He was followed by plenary session speakers: Steve Brachman, Waste Reduction Specialist, UW-Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center, Jason Johnson, Municipal Market Manager-SE Wisconsin, Veolia ES Solid Waste Inc., Andy Petraszak, Environmental Engineer, Briggs & Stratton Corporation and Joe Van Rossum, Recycling Specialist/Director, UW-Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center – Madison.

Click on the following link to access the topics presented:

<http://kgmb.org/kgmb/index.php?id=69>

Exhibitors for the event included Veolia Environmental Services, Nassco Inc., CTC Supplies/ Milwaukee Textile Recycling, Remy Battery and Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful.

Summer Car Trip? Easy Tips to Conserve Gas Mileage!

While Driving:

- Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.
- Observe the speed limit. As a rule of thumb, you can assume that each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.21 per gallon for gas.
- Remove excess weight. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your [MPG](#) by up to 2 percent.
- Avoid excessive idling. Idling gets zero miles per gallon.
- Use cruise control. Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.
- Use overdrive gears. When you use overdrive gearing, your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduces engine wear.

Keep That Car in Shape:

- Keep tires properly inflated. You can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent by keeping your tires properly inflated.
- Forget about premium. Unless your owner's manual recommends it, there is no need to buy it. Premium gas sells for an average of 17 cents more per gallon than regular gas. Check your owner's manual for what octane you should be using.
- Keep your engine properly tuned. Fixing a car that is out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve gas mileage by an average of 4.1 percent. If your car has a faulty oxygen sensor, your gas mileage may deteriorate by as much as 40 percent.
- Check and replace air filters regularly. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Please go to www.energycenter.org for more energy saving tips.

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Conserve Water! Install a Rain Barrel!

A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop which you later can use to water your lawn or garden, or to wash your car. Rain barrels should be used in conjunction with other water management practices, such as rain gardens, green roofs, stormwater trees and porous pavement. But using a rain barrel is a great first step to better water quality. For more information, or to order a rain barrel, go to www.kgmb.org.

- Rain barrels help slow down rain runoff so it can drain naturally into the ground. This helps us keep excess water out of sewer systems and keeps rain runoff from collecting pollutants on its trip to nearby waterways.
- Collected rainwater is better for plants because it's not chlorinated although it is mildly acidic, this helps plants take up important minerals from the soil.
- They can provide water during dry weather, or you can set them to slowly release the water over a 1- 2 day period when the rains have subsided.

The Green Print Trivia Contest

Ready? Set? Think Green!



Trivia Contest Rules: Don't google. All answers can be found in the current and past issues of the newsletter.

Prize: A box of GLAD Trash Bags for the 1st ten respondents with the correct answers to all of the questions.

Please submit your answers via email to betsy@kgmb.org.

1. General Mitchell International Airport just purchased a garbage truck that runs on what type of fuel?
2. At what location was the Environmental Awareness and Recycling in the Workplace Seminar held?
3. In what year was the Green Print resolution passed by the Milwaukee County Board?
4. The Intelligent Use of Water Award was given to which Milwaukee County attraction?
5. According to the EPA, what is the fastest growing source of waste in the US?
6. What is the name of the nation's largest organized annual cleanup?
7. Of the 4 million plastic bottles per hour used in the US, what percentage is recycled?
8. What two species of worms are commonly used for vermicomposting?
9. What is the slogan for Milwaukee County's new recycling campaign?
10. What is the name of the electronic newsletter that is distributed quarterly to all Milwaukee County employees?