

The Green Print

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. React.

April 2012

Volume 1, Issue 2



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 Facts

Americans use 4 million plastic bottles per hour, but only 25% of plastic bottles are recycled.

Plastic bags and product wraps (known collectively as "plastic film") are commonly recycled at the many collection programs offered through major grocery stores.

Recycling 1 ton of plastic saves 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space.

For more facts and information, check out www.Earth911.com.



"Do The Math!"

Can you save cash and be environmentally friendly at the same time? Resource conservation is about avoiding needless waste. Just do the math.

Tap Water vs Bottled Water

Tap water: \$1.00/1,000 gallons

Bottled water \$1.50/liter = \$6,000/1,000 gal

Filling your own water container instead of buying bottled water saves you 99%!

CFLs vs Incandescent Bulbs

For a home replacing eight (8) 60-watt incandescent bulbs with 8 CFLs and over 10,000 hours of use, the cost of the bulbs + electricity is \$219 for the CFLs vs. \$918 for the incandescent bulbs. That's a savings of over 75%! (see www.thesimpledollar.com Nov 21, 2011)

Phantom Power Costing You \$?

Chargers for cell phones, digital cameras, power tools and other gadgets draw energy even when they're not in use. Appliances like televisions, computer monitors, and DVD players can also draw power whenever they're plugged into an outlet. All together, phantom energy can account for about 10 percent of an individual home's electricity use. It might not sound like much, until you consider that **cutting out that 10 percent will get you over a month of free electricity every year.** Plugging bundled devices- think TV, DVD player, and DVR, or computer, monitor, and printer- into the same power strip and then turning off the power strip will do the job. (From HowStuffWorks.com, 3/21/12)

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Spring Cleaning the Natural Way!

Save money and the environment by making your own cleaning agents from natural, nontoxic ingredients. Making your own cleaning agents will save you a fortune in cleaning supplies, simplify your cleaning routine, and go a long way toward protecting the planet. Here's a list of some of the basic ingredients you will need:

- Baking soda: Acts as a water softener, odor remover, and scrubbing agent.
- Castile soap: Use as an all-purpose cleaner to cut grease and disinfect throughout the whole house.
- Lemon juice: Can be used as an all natural bleach, deodorant, stain-remover and grease-cutter.
- White vinegar: Kills bacteria and eliminates odors. It also works to remove mildew, wax buildup, lime buildup, and grease.

General cleaners: For most household cleaning, use a simple mix of vinegar and water to remove dirt and germs. You can use this mixture to clean windows, floors, and countertops. Add a sprinkle of baking soda for scouring power to clean toilets, sinks, and bathtubs.

All-purpose disinfectant: Mix two teaspoons borax, four tablespoons vinegar, and three cups hot water in a spray bottle for an all-natural, all-purpose disinfectant. Need to cut through kitchen counter grime? Add one-quarter teaspoon liquid soap to the mixture.

Furniture polish: Mix a one-to-one ratio of olive oil and vinegar to clean and polish wood furniture.

Windows: Mix three tablespoons of vinegar with one quart of water in a clean spray bottle. If the windows are really dirty, mix of one-half tea-spoon of liquid soap, with three tablespoons of vinegar, and two cups of water.

Floors: To get floors clean without harmful chemicals, add one cup of vinegar per pail of hot water. For linoleum floors, combine one-quarter cup washing soda, one tablespoon of liquid soap, one-quarter cup vinegar, and two gallons hot water. But do not use this formula on waxed floors.

Taken from: How to Make Your Own Green Cleaners by Jenn Savedge, Blog

Dates to Remember:

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| Great American Cleanup | March 1-May 31, 2012 |
| Cleanup Community Kickoff Day | April 21, 2012 |
| Earth Day | April 22, 2012 |
| Environmental Awareness and Recycling in the Workplace Seminar | April 24, 2012 |
| State Arbor Day | April 27, 2012 |



The Basics of Composting

Composting is an economical, non-toxic way to nourish soil. By composting, less material congests our landfills not only because of the packaging conserved by not buying commercial fertilizers, but because we are utilizing our natural waste to grow life. Composting allows any individual to make use of their food scraps, and other materials—even autumn leaves can be composted. There are no negative externalities associated with composting, only environmental positives, not to mention fresh, organic soil to promote healthy plants.

Vermicomposting is perhaps the most efficient form of composting kitchen waste, as the use of worms and their nutrient waste allows any garden or plant to flourish. "Worm casts (fecal matter) also contain five times more nitrogen, seven times more phosphorus, and 11 times more potassium than ordinary soil, the main minerals needed for plant growth." There are two species used, *Eisenia foetida* or *Lumbricus rubellus*, referred to as red worms, tiger worms, brandlings, angle worms, manure worms, or red wigglers.

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GMIA Adds Natural Gas-Powered Garbage Truck to Fleet

General Mitchell International Airport has made moves to be both cost-effective and eco-friendly by purchasing a compressed natural gas (CNG) garbage truck. The CNG truck is dedicated for airport-related trash pickup. Not only does the CNG truck generate 25% less green house gases compared to a diesel truck, its engine life is longer, and the cost per gallon of CNG fuel is about half the cost of diesel.



Spring is Here! Time for the Great American Cleanup!

The Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest organized annual cleanup & beautification event. It encourages citizens to get involved in their own communities. Millions of volunteers nationwide take part in the Great American Cleanup each spring.

The Wisconsin Great American Cleanup is sponsored by **Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful** (KGMB), Inc., and is part of the national Great American Cleanup program sponsored by [Keep America Beautiful](#) (KAB).

If you would like to join a community cleanup or beautification event in the Greater Milwaukee Area, simply check out the [calendar](#) on the KGMB website (www.kgmb.org). In it you will find the dates, locations and contact information for each cleanup. Also download and read our [GAC Info Page \(PDF\)](#) to find out about Milwaukee County park cleanups, river cleanups, and community cleanup days in Milwaukee County and surrounding communities.

Help us kick off the Great American Cleanup with our Community Kick-Off Day. The 2012 Kickoff Site is Jackson Park - 3500 W. Forest Home Ave (at the boathouse). Registration begins at 8:30.

THINK REDUCE

Milwaukee County departments have made some significant improvements in increasing the amount of material recycled (vs. landfill), but an overall recycling plan should start with reduced consumption. The following are a few tips to reduce the amount of paper consumed in the office environment.

1. Think Before You Ink. The change has to start here. We all have to change how we look at paper. Before you print out anything, ask yourself if it is absolutely necessary. If you have a digital copy of that e-mail, why do you need a printed version?

2. Preview Your Documents. The average employee prints six totally useless pages per day. Walk over to the network printer in your office to see examples of them. The average employee prints 1,410 of these wasted pages per year. And this problem is easy to fix. Just preview it first.

The easiest way to do this is to use the print preview feature in whatever software you are using to print.

3. Print to PDF. It took a while, but PDF truly is a universal portable document format. And just attaching a Word doc to an e-mail is pretty universal too. Send digital files whenever you can.

There are more ways to cut back, of course, including printing on both sides of pages, electronic invoicing, and using multifunction devices to scan rather than copy, but those three steps alone could put a huge dent in paper waste.

Tips taken from: **Three Steps to the Paperless Office** by Dan Costa (www.pcmag.com)

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Boerner Botanical Gardens Wins Intelligent Use of Water Award

Boerner Botanical Gardens was the 2012 winner of the *Intelligent Use of Water Awards*. As part of World Water Day the winners were announced March 22, 2012. Rain Bird Corp. awarded four \$1,500 projects, three \$5,000 projects, and three \$10,000 projects. *Intelligent Use of Water Awards* program recognizes individuals and organizations whose innovation, leadership, ingenuity and dedication to the management and protection of Earth's most precious natural resource through improved landscape water-efficiency raises the standard for outdoor water conservation. The \$10,000 award will go toward expanding the Rainwater Harvesting System with drip irrigation systems and the associated educational initiatives.

SAVE THE DATE!

Environmental Awareness and Recycling in the Workplace Seminar

What: R³ - React, Recycle, Reduce Seminar

When: April 24, 2012, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Where: Zoofari Conference Center, 9715 W. Bluemound Rd. Wauwatosa, WI

Who: Milwaukee County employees, City of Milwaukee employees, their vendors, partners and suppliers as well as area businesses and corporations

For more information please call Betsy at Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (414-272-5462 ext, 301)

Agenda:

Agenda will include a Keynote Speaker to be followed by a Plenary Session.

Topics to be Discussed:

- Single Stream Recycling in the Corporate Environment
- Elimination or Reducing Pollution at the Point of Generation
- Composting in the Corporate Setting
- How Briggs and Stratton manages their corporate environment. Corporate Perspective on How to Transform Your Plant to be Greener
- How to Add Value to your Corporate Green Infrastructure