

The Green Print

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. React.

October 2012

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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

Miscellaneous Recycling Facts

Clothing and household textiles currently make-up 4.67% of the waste stream.

Recycling textiles protects the environment from exposure to tons of harsh chemicals, waste products and waste water used in the manufacturing vs. recycling process of clothing.

Recycling vs. manufacturing has many "green" benefits when compared to manufacturing from virgin materials such as:

- Carbon Footprint Reduction
- Clean Air Preservation
- Reduced Energy Consumption
- Water Conservation
- Woodland Conservation

See page 3 of this newsletter for more information on textile recycling and remanufacturing.



Do You Have Recycling Questions?

As winter is approaching and 2012 is coming to a close, fall clean up and cleaning out activities, as well as home/yard preparations for the winter, seem to fill up a lot of our time.

The following pages of this newsletter include some tips on winterizing your home and car that will hopefully keep you warmer and safer throughout the colder months ahead.

Below is a listing of organizations that can provide answers to most, if not all, of your recycling questions. Whether you want to finally clear out the old downspouts that you have been storing in the rafters of your garage or finally get rid of the burned out compact fluorescent light bulbs that have been accumulating in your basement, there is a company that can manage them properly for you.

www.earth911.com – enter what you want to recycle and your location and the nearest recycling center will be displayed.

www.milwaukeecycles.com - for City of Milwaukee residents. Listing of what is collected by the City of Milwaukee and the collection schedule.

www.waukesha.gov/defaultwc.aspx?id=39785 – for Waukesha County residents. Listing of what is collected and the location of drop off sites for the larger items.

Winter is Coming!

Colder weather is right around the corner. Here are tips to help you prepare your home for winter:

Furnace Inspection - Call an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and clean ducts. Stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly. A well maintained furnace can save up to 5% on heating costs.

Get the Fireplace Ready - Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds. Make an appointment to get the chimney cleaned.

Check the Exterior, Doors and Windows - Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed entry points around pipes; seal them. Use weatherstripping around doors and caulk windows. Simple leaks can waste 5-30% of your energy use.

Inspect Roof, Gutters & Downspouts - Adding extra insulation to the attic will prevent warm air from creeping to your roof and causing ice dams. Check flashing to ensure water cannot enter the home. Clean out the gutters to clear away debris.

Check Foundations - Rake away all debris and edible vegetation from the foundation. Seal up entry points to keep small animals from crawling into the house.

Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors - Change batteries when daylight savings ends. Install a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace and / or water heater. Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they work.

Prevent Plumbing Freezes - Locate your water main in the event you need to shut it off in an emergency. Drain all garden hoses. Insulate exposed plumbing pipes. If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.

Prepare Landscaping & Outdoor Surfaces - Plant spring flower bulbs and lift bulbs that cannot winter over. Seal driveways, brick patios and wood decks.

Prepare an Emergency Kit - Buy indoor candles and matches / lighter for use during a power shortage. Store extra bottled water and non-perishable food supplies (including pet food, if you have a pet), blankets and a first-aid kit in a dry and easy-to-access location.

Taken from Preparing Your Home for Winter at www.About.com

Dates to Remember:

Daylight Savings Time Ends	November 4, 2012
Election Day	November 6, 2012
America Recycles Day	November 15, 2012
Veterans Day	November 11, 2012
Thanksgiving	November 22, 2012
Hanukkah	December 9, 2012
Christmas	December 25, 2012
Kwanzaa	December 26, 2012



Milwaukee County Winter Farmers' Market

Season 4 begins on November 3, 2012
and ends on April 13, 2013

(No markets November 24 and December 22)

Indoor Market, Free Parking

8 – Noon

For a complete list of vendors, products and/or to sign up for the weekly newsletter, please go to www.mcwfm.org.

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Permeable Parking Lot Nears Completion

The parking lot at the Milwaukee County Sports Complex needed to be expanded. But increasing the size of the lot would mean more storm water runoff and associated pollutants getting into the nearby Root River. The solution: the reconstructed parking lot incorporates a durable, but permeable, surface over much of the expanded area, which allows the storm water to seep into the ground and the solid matter and other pollutants are filtered out in the runoff.



Green Your Holiday Meals

Americans will spend billions on feeding their guests this Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's Eve, with most of that money going toward food. Wouldn't you like that money to go back into your local economy? Here's how you can buy locally, save some time, and give some love back to the environment during the holidays.

Much of your holiday meal can be found locally and in season thanks to local growers at indoor farmers' markets ([see article on previous page](#)) and many grocery stores now feature locally grown items. Buying locally not only puts money back into your region's economy, but it also reduces your food's carbon footprint. When shopping at your favorite grocery store, look for stickers and signage that tell you where your produce is from - and if it's organic - before you choose.

Millions of turkeys are consumed throughout the holidays. Consider purchasing a Heritage turkey or an organic turkey. These birds are raised naturally, fed organic food, and allowed to grow at a normal, healthy rate. The natural slow-growth method means the turkeys are better for you and your family, plus they taste a lot better! Click on this website for more info on where to purchase Heritage turkeys. <http://www.slowfoodwise.org/regional-foods/heritage-turkey-project/>

Last, but definitely not least, you can even make environmentally responsible choices when buying alcohol. There are many breweries and wineries adhering to organic, environmentally-conscious standards when producing their products. Check your favorite store for local brews and wines.

From www.Earthshare.org.

Textile Recycling

Donate. Recycle. Don't Throw Away.

Recycling does not stop with cans, glass and paper. Clothing and other textiles can be recycled as well. Textile recycling companies work mostly in volume with organizations that are recycling hundreds of pounds of clothing at one time. Those organizations are able to raise funds through this collection. However, it is always beneficial for individuals to consider recycling their textiles.

The used clothing industry provides lower income people around the world with affordable clothing. Clothing that is damaged is recycled into wiping rags. Clothing and textiles not suitable for wiping purposes are processed back into fibers that are then remanufactured into paper, yarn, insulation, carpet padding, sound proofing, etc.

Not only can clothing be recycled, but shoes can be recycled too. They are broken down and reprocessed into sports and playground surfaces such as running tracks and tennis courts.

What Happens to My Clothing?

45% of donated items are worn as second hand clothing.
30% of donated items are recycled into wiping cloths.
15% of donated items are reprocessed into fibers.
5%* of donated items are unusable.

*This number is shrinking, as more processing facilities become zero waste!

Donate your clothing for recycling to your local charity thrift organization. (Examples include Salvation Army, Goodwill, etc.). What cannot be sold in stores is collected and sold to a textile recycler. Your donation will be appreciated, as these organizations greatly benefit from their relationship with recyclers.

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful will also accept your donations of used clothing and shoes. Items can be dropped off at their office (1313 W. Mt. Vernon Ave.).

Information taken from: How Individuals Can Help - from www.milwaukee-textilerecycling.com.

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Start Thinking About Your New Year's Resolutions

Fight the winter blues by volunteering this year. Could be a New Year's resolution! There are many great organizations that can only operate with the help of volunteers. Whether you can only help out once or are able to make a weekly time commitment, there is a spot for you. Below are a few websites that can put you in contact with an opportunity that fits your interests and time.

www.volunteermilwaukee.org

<http://voices.yahoo.com/volunteer-suggestions-milwaukee-wisconsin-139076.html>

www.volunteerwaukesha.com

Have a Happy (and Green) Holiday Season!

Milwaukee "Power Pack" offers Solar Power Opportunity

The City of Milwaukee's solar program - Milwaukee Shines - is currently offering a one-of-a-kind solar purchase program. The Milwaukee Power Pack provides low cost solar installations for home or business owners in the Milwaukee area, while supporting local manufacturers.

By coupling local products with consumer education, a trained local workforce, and state and national incentives, the Milwaukee Power Pack offers record low costs of solar electric installations in the Milwaukee area.

The pilot program runs through the end of 2012, and is open to any home or business owner in southeast Wisconsin. For residents of the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Shines also offers a low-interest loan program to finance the balance of a system cost.

Details on the program (including cost estimates) can be found by calling 414-286-5593 or online at www.MilwaukeeShines.com.

Reduce and Reuse this Holiday Season!

- Send your holiday greetings in electronic form. E-cards can be enhanced with sound and animation and they create no physical waste.
- If you use traditional gift wrapping, avoid wrapping gifts in materials that are not recyclable or reusable, such as foil or metallic papers. Always buy recycled-content wrapping paper.
- If you send holiday cards, buy recycled-content cards and envelopes. Or make your own cards or gift tags out of last year's cards and the wrapping paper you saved.
- Remove your name from the mailing list of any catalog you no longer wish to receive.
- Shipping a gift? Reuse the foam peanuts from another package, or use unbuttered popcorn for packing.
- Rechargeable batteries and a battery charger are a great way to cut down on the consumption of batteries.
- Recycle your tree and wreath.

For more tips and info go to the following link:
<http://www.holidayrecycling.com>