August 14, 2013
Volume 1, Issue 9

Inside this issue:

Recycling Events	2
No Recycling?!	3
Just the Facts	3
Recycled Clothing (Stump the Grump)	4
Repreve	4

Hosting an event and need a bin?

Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling wants to loan you a recycling bin (or 60) for your next event!

Give us a call at (715) 232-4017 to get your event on the calendar. The bins are light weight, easy to identify and come with bags.

Need a little extra pizzazz? The recycling trailer is available and Dunn County's recycling mascot ReCyclone loves a good event!

There is a $100 deposit for bins and a $200 deposit for bins and the trailer (ReCyclone's free - just ask!). We've never had to retain a deposit so keep the trend going and take good care of them.

Lastly, for best results, every recycle bin should have a trash can by it's side. This reduces the amount of contamination in each receptacle and keeps the most materials out of the landfill. This also saves you from digging in the trash and collecting those wrongly tossed bottles.

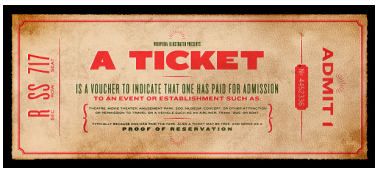
Con•tam•i•na•tion [*kuh* n-tam-*uh*-**ney**-*shun* n]
1. impure or unsuitable by contact or mixture with something unclean, bad, etc. *to contaminate a recycle bin with garbage*

2. something that contaminates.

Large Events

As the Recycling Specialist for Dunn County I can talk until I'm blue in the face and many organizations and residents still ignore the need to have recycling at their events. Not only is recycling mandatory by all Wisconsin citizens, visitors, organizations, businesses, and households, it also creates a better image for the event and the organization responsible for the festivities.

It's easy for a planning committee to overlook recycling at larger events because they typically don't receive feed back from the general public requesting it. Unless a professional in the recycling field and event attendees speak up, many events don't feel recycling is worth the extra effort



and expense. As the founder of Earth Day, Wisconsin's own Gaylord Nelson said, "The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard." A little extra cost today for an extra recycling dumpster will be felt years down the road when the landfill isn't full and our resources aren't as depleted. It will also boost the image of an organization as one willing to support sustainable goals.

So the next time you're running a race or jamming out to those Country tunes take the time to tell a bartender, someone running the gate, or someone behind the ticket counter that you'd really like to see recycling offered at future events.

Stump the Grump

What does "Recycled Content" in clothing mean?

Answer on page 3.

Dunn County Solid Waste Division * Editor: Recycling Specialist, Amanda Dent
www.facebook.com/dunncountyrecycling * 715-232-4017
To unsubscribe from this newsletter please e-mail adent@co.dunn.wi.us.

Where have you seen recycling?

Nature Valley Grand Prix Bike Race - Menomonie

Freedom Fest - Menomonie

Dunn County Fair - Menomonie

Pickle Fest - Boyceville

Solstice Party - Colfax

Not Recycling?!

If an event doesn't offer recycling what can you do? If possible, bring the bottle or can home with you. Keep a small plastic bag in your vehicle for those times when there is no recycling and then bring the containers back home for proper disposal.

Remember if you crush the container you can get more in your bag or purse.

Lastly, speak up! Recycling isn't going to be available if you don't ask. This can be done in a form of e-mail, letter to the editor, phone call, or directly to an event volunteer or worker. And remember, the more people who speak up, the more likely a change may occur.

Solid Waste board member, Ron Welsch (left), and Recycling Specialist, Amanda Dent (right), hold up examples of Ron's homemade event recycling bins. Ron made these bins by cutting out the bottom of 5 gallon buckets and placing a hole in the lid that secures a clear bag. S-hooks are attached to the handles so the bins can be easily hung using a shepherds' hook or directly to the side of a trash can.

Above, ReCyclone advocates recycling at the Polk County Fair.

The Facts

What's the big deal if one bottle doesn't get recycled?

One bottle may not seem like a lot but then how many other people throw 'just one bottle' away? How many times do we throw 'just one bottle' away?

Recycling materials saves natural resources: gasoline, petroleum, coal, water, aluminum ore, mountain tops, trees, etc… It also reduces greenhouse emissions, water pollution, carbon output and more. Lastly, recycling creates more jobs keeping our friends and families employed then a landfill can.

I've compiled some energy saving facts for common recyclables.

Plastic Bottles

☺ Recycling one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes.

☺ Plastic takes over 700 years to break down, but it never really goes away because plastic isn't a naturally occurring element on Earth. No matter how small the pieces get broken down into it will always be plastic.

☺ It takes 2/3 less energy to produce plastic from recycled materials then it does from virgin ones.

Aluminum Cans

☺ Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to watch TV for 3 hours.

☺ It takes aluminum 80 - 100 years to break down.

☺ One semi truck load of aluminum bales (approx. 24 bales) saves 21.33 gallons of gasoline.

Glass

☺ Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 30 minutes.

A bale of recycled steel cans (like the one ReCyclone's standing next to above) saves enough energy to power a TV for 75,240 hours! That's equivalent to leaving a TV on for 3,135 days or 8.59 years!

☺ It takes over 1,00,000,000 years for glass to break down into silica (sand).

Dunn County Residents

Residents of our County saved 273,000 gallons of gasoline in 2012 just by recycling normal household recyclables!

Recycled Clothing - Stump the Grump

When you donate a pile of old T-shirts to a local charity, they will not be recycled back into T-shirts. The fibers are usually too worn to be made into soft fabric. That doesn't mean, though, that these fibers go to waste.

Cotton, it turns out, is a lot like paper, at least when it comes to recycling. As you may know, paper is made up of fibers and can be recycled back into paper a finite number of times before the fibers become too short and must be downcycled into things like newspaper or tissues. Cotton is similar in that it is made from fibers (it is derived from a plant, after all), and eventually those fibers wear out.

Because the amount of textile waste Americans throw away each year averages out to 70 pounds per person, it's worth understanding what does happen to old clothes, as well as how buying recycled content clothing can help keep waste out of landfills.

The Fate of Donated Clothing

In 2010, the recovery rate for all textiles – which includes things like clothing, shoes, sheets, blankets, etc. – was 15 percent, according to the EPA, and unrecovered textiles amount for almost 5 percent of all landfill space in the U.S. Keeping your old clothing out of the trash can help solve this problem, but the ways that clothing gets reused aren't always clear to consumers.

Once your pile of T-shirts arrives at a charity, it is sorted based on quality. Any clothing that is still in good shape will be resold, either in local secondhand stores or in secondhand markets abroad. The rest of that clothing gets "downcycled", meaning its materials are used for other purposes. According to the Council for Textile Recycling, 30 percent of textiles not resold locally will be made into rags, which are used in many industries for cleaning and other purposes. Meanwhile, 20 percent of these textiles will be broken down into their fibers and made into new products like carpet, insulation or stuffing for car seats. After all of this, only 5 percent of recovered clothing ends up as waste.

So if "recycled T-shirts" aren't made from old, used T-shirts, what are they made from?

"Post-industrial recycled cotton," said Trey Dunham, vice president of corporate communications & marketing for SustainU, a producer of recycled t-shirts. "Which basically means the cotton comes from a cutting room floor in a factory. [...] There's always some waste you can't avoid. Normally, that would go into a landfill. They just throw those scraps away because they tend to be very small pieces."

At SustainU, those cotton scraps are grouped together by color, shredded and broken down into their fibers. This process shortens the cotton's fibers, which makes them less soft. To ensure the new t-shirts will be soft and durable, recycled polyester is added. This polyester is made from recycled plastic bottles, which are chipped, melted into pellets and then sent through a machine that turns them into very fine fibers that look a bit like plastic cotton balls, Dunham explained.

The cotton and polyester fibers are then combed together and spun into thread. From that point on, the materials go through a fairly standard manufacturing process involving knitting, cutting, sewing and eventually adding embellishments like text and images.

"The magic is in the raw material, in getting the recycled cotton and the recycled polyester. After that, it's a pretty traditional process," Dunham said.

Recycled polyester is a particularly interesting material because unlike cotton, its inorganic fibers do not degrade quickly. This means that while cotton clothing cannot be made into new clothing, polyester fabrics can. If you own fleece jackets or performance shirts made from polyester, they may be recycled into new polyester garments, Dunham said.

The U.S.-based company Unifi makes a recycled fiber called Repreve which typically contains post-industrial waste and used plastic bottles. Repreve fibers are used to make items like khakis, car seats and socks. The company also has a textile take-back program for some of their customers that recycles polyester-based fabrics into new fibers.

Whether recycled-content clothing is made from old clothing or from other waste materials, it helps reduce the need for virgin materials while also keeping waste out of landfills. Purchasing items that are less resource-intensive up front and making sure to donate your old clothing are both ways to help limit the environmental impact of your textiles.

-Originally published by Earth 911, "Why T-shirts Can't Be Recycled into New T-shirts." For the original article visit Earth911.org.

REPREVE
RECYCLED FIBER

Repreve is a recycled fiber, mentioned in the above article and it has some pretty amazing facts. Check them out below.

In 2012 US production of Repreve reclaimed over 410 million bottles!

That helped save….

The energy equivalent of 3.8 million gallons of gasoline

The amount of carbon sequestered by 2,934 acres of forest

The amount of Green House Gas emitted from driving over 36.7 million miles (in an average passenger vehicle)

An amount of water equal to daily drinking water for 52,313 people for one year

The amount of resources saved by Repreve is pretty amazing, and they wouldn't be able to make that impact without help from residents like you.