



Sullivan County RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM
© 2003 - 2008 SULLIVAN COUNTY DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE

SUMMER 2008 A

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **First 2008 HHW Event Held**
- **Your Question Answered... Mixed Paper Recycling**
- **Disposal of Household Medical Waste**



First 2008 Household Hazardous Waste Day Held...

Sullivan County's eighth-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program Event #1 took place on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the County Landfill in Monticello. One hundred twenty nine County households were able to *safely* recycle or dispose of potentially toxic

materials free of charge. In all, several tons of unwanted household hazardous materials were collected at the event, including electronic scrap, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, creosote, solvents, pesticides, oil-based paints and even mercury! Our second

HHW Collection Event of 2008 is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 3, 2008 from 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM at the County Landfill Scale House in Monticello. Please call the Division of Solid Waste at 845-794-4466 x 300 for additional details about this event and pre-registration information.

Your Question Answered...

Q. Are cereal boxes recyclable? How about paper milk cartons?

A. Cereal boxes (and paper TV dinner cartons, paper towel tubes and text books with hard covers removed) are certainly recyclable in our handy Mixed Paper recycling category. Cereal boxes are made of chip board fiber, a type of paper category that now has a stable recycling market demand.

Unfortunately, paper milk cartons and other aseptic drink packages are not yet recyclable

in the Sullivan County Recycling Program. Paper milk, juice and aseptic packaging are made of another unique type of paper fiber, often with complex plastic, wax or aluminum laminates involved which make recycling these products difficult. Recycling markets for these materials are generally located far away from Sullivan County, which increases costs accordingly.

Recycling happens because markets exist that turn old, unwanted stuff back into brand-new items that people desire and

want to purchase. An economic 'loop' is created which enables programs like ours to cost-effectively sell recyclables to a willing buyer, thus moving the materials and creating a financial incentive for us to recycle. In a nutshell, free market forces such as price, quantity and distance to market determine if a particular item should be included in the Sullivan County Recycling Program. We then conservatively adjust the list of mandatory recyclables as new markets for these materials emerge. Markets that remain stable for new items are thus given consideration for designation as a new recyclable material.

Proper Disposal of Household Medical Waste

NO medical waste (especially '**SHARPS**') of any kind can be recycled in the Sullivan County Recycling Program. Period. In fact, New York State regulations permit us to accept only one type of medical waste for disposal in the Sullivan County Sanitary Landfill: 'Conditionally Exempt, Household-Generated Medical Waste' - may be deposited in the Sullivan Co. Landfill, provided it has been secured properly. Follow these preparation guidelines carefully or face unpleasant consequences:

1. Place home-generated 'SHARPS' (syringes, needles) in a rigid #2 (HDPE) plastic bottle with a screw-type lid. Empty bleach or detergent bottles work best.
2. Securely duct-tape the screw cap closed when the bottle is full.
3. Label outside of bottle 'Conditionally Exempt, Household-Generated Medical Waste' with indelible-ink black marker.
4. Place filled, taped and labeled bottle inside a plastic garbage bag for disposal in the landfill. **DO NOT PLACE PLASTIC MEDICAL WASTE CONTAINER IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN!** (It is now a 'contaminated' recyclable, and must be thrown away. The SHARPS-filled plastic bottle is NO LONGER RECYCLABLE. THROW IT OUT.)



Upcoming

Events:

- Sunday, August 3, 2008 Next HHW Event
- Saturday, September 13, 2008 Fall LitterPluck Event
- Fall Municipal Cleanup 2008
- America Recycles Day! November 15, 2008



Recycling Summary...

Most recyclables are FREE—save money by recycling today! Below is a handy list of acceptable Sullivan County recyclables to help you maximize recycling at home and work. Just keep the “like” materials together in their respective categories, and be sure to check with us first if you are uncertain about an item or category designation. Please note that this list applies to materials delivered directly to our facilities, and it may understandably differ from your waste hauler’s specific commercial recycling instructions. The following materials are recyclable in Sullivan County and therefore, should be separated from waste for recycling:

- **Mixed Paper**— recycle old magazines, ‘junk’ mail, telephone directories, chipboard fiber (cereal boxes, TV dinner cartons, paper towel tubes, gray notepad backer), envelopes, school papers and books (with hard covers removed) in this category
- **Newspaper**— Daily newspapers, including glossy inserts
- **Cardboard**— Old corrugated cardboard boxes and brown (kraft) paper bags
- **Glass**— Green, brown, uncolored and blue glass containers, and bottles
- **Mixed Containers**— Steel Cans, #1- #7, plastic containers, and aluminum beverage cans grouped together from this category
- **Scrap Metal**— Old metal furniture, cabinets, piping, appliances, siding, iron, copper, tin, titanium, chrome, brass, steel, aluminum
- **Tires**— rubber vehicle tires, on or off rims
- **Electronic Scrap**— Televisions (all display types) computers, laptops, and monitors
- **Fluorescent Bulbs**— Straight tubes, U-shaped bulbs and compact fluorescent (CFL) lamps
- **Textiles**— unwanted clothing
- **Leaves-Compost**— Deciduous leaves, pine needles, corn stalks, and brown kraft paper bags
- **Used Motor Oil**— Motor vehicle engine oil and transmission fluid
- **Antifreeze**— Vehicle glycol-type coolant

Recycling Really is Mandatory...

Every so often a caller to the Division of Solid Waste asks if recycling is mandatory in Sullivan County. Yes, it is - Local Law #1 of 1992 made it a civil violation to willfully collect commingled trash and recyclables in the same container. In other words, recyclables and waste must be collected separately from one another, for proper recycling and waste disposal to take place. Private haulers using Sullivan County recycling and waste disposal facilities are legally bound by their operating permit to provide for the separate collection (and deposition at County facilities) of designated materials. A hauler misrepresenting the separate collection of designated recyclables from solid waste risks investigation by the proper law enforcement

authorities for breach of contract, theft of service and violation of Local Law #1 of 1992 - which carries a penalty of up to \$5,000 and denial of access to County environmental facilities upon conviction!

Many solid waste and recycling haulers that do business in Sullivan County provide great collection services. But in any case, if you suspect your hauler is not doing the right thing, ask him or her to provide you with written company-specific recycling instructions and a collection schedule. If they are unwilling to provide you with confirmation of their recycling efforts, seek another hauler who will. If you remain uncertain about a hauler's compliance with the law, please don't break the law yourself and throw valuable recyclables away. Instead, deliver them (recyclables are free of charge) to any Sullivan County Transfer Station - we can help you remain in compliance with the law, and offer a safe and cost-effective recycling/waste disposal alternative to unscrupulous means.

Contact Us...

Please feel free to contact us regarding any recycling, composting, and sustainability questions or concerns you may have in Sullivan County. Our offices are located at 91 Landfill Drive, Monticello, NY 12701. Our telephone number is (845) 794-4466. Our Email is: recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us Web: www.scgnet.us/index.asp?orgid=275&storyTypeID=&sid=&

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Sullivan Co. Div. of Solid Waste, and has been made possible by a grant from the NYSDEC