



# Sullivan County

# Recycling Newsletter

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

WINTER 2008 - 2009 B

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Recycling Rumors**
- **Your Question Answered**
- **Recycling Summary**
- **Don't Flush Meds**



## Recycling Rumors...

### The County doesn't really recycle—or does it?

Sullivan County has a mandatory recycling program that has been in effect since 1992. The County's program accepts recyclables of many kinds (see the [Recycling Summary](#) on reverse page for specifics). Contaminants mixed with recyclables must be thrown away—occasionally resulting in

the appearance of recyclables being thrown away as well. We make every attempt to process all recyclables for market and sell them to the highest bidder.

Our recycling operations are supervised directly by the Sullivan County Division of Solid Waste and the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, with additional oversight provided by other departments in County

Government. Recyclables are sold to private vendors with all proceeds deposited directly into the County's General Fund.

See recycling in action and help put a stop to unfortunate rumors today! Schedule a Recycling Center tour for your group to learn more. Please call 845-807-0290 for additional information.

## Your Question Answered...

Q. What can I do with metal coat hangers, pie tins, aluminum foil and metal pull tabs and tops from cans?

A. All non-toxic metal items—even small parts, foil, coat hangers, clean (uninsulated) wire, pie tins and small pieces of metal—are fully recyclable in the Sullivan County Recycling Program in the [Scrap Metal](#) category! Ditto for that old metal door handle/lock set, empty metal paint can, mangled paper clip, worn lawn mower blade, aluminum window blinds, rusty saw, metal eye glass frames, brass fittings, copper shavings,

nails, broken metal stapler, old pocket knife, plugged fountain pen, and other unwanted, non-toxic metal items. All may be recycled at no charge in the Sullivan County Recycling Program!

An employee at the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello has even made the effort to remove and save used staples for recycling—and after years of pulling, she has saved several pounds of metal from the landfill! There is virtually no limit to the type of metal that may be recycled in the Sullivan County

Recycling Program: Save small bits of metal in an unwanted metal container, and simply place your recyclable metal into the Scrap Metal container at any County Transfer Station when its full. Its that easy!

Please save any toxic and hazardous metals—like lead or mercury- for our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events held each year. Even these metals are recyclable, but they must be handled by special arrangement to avoid contamination of the environment and harm to staff.

## NYSDOH & NYSDEC Guidelines: Don't Flush Medications...

In the past, it was recommended that unused medicines be simply dumped down the drain or flushed away in the toilet. However, traces of these drugs may turn up again in the water we drink—including water from municipal water supplies, private wells, and surface waters like ponds, lakes and streams. Sanitary sewage collection and treatment systems do not

render these products harmless to the environment. Presently, the best way to dispose of unwanted medications is to mix pills, liquids and powders with cat litter and a small amount of tap water and place this mixture with your regular household trash for disposal. Syringes, "sharps" or other devices from household users should be securely placed in detergent or

bleach bottles, labeled as Household Medical Waste, tape cap tightly closed and place with household waste for disposal.

**DO NOT RECYCLE PLASTIC BOTTLES CONTAINING "SHARPS" OR MEDICAL WASTE FOR ANY REASON! THROW THESE AWAY!**

# 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 form this category
- **Plastic Bags**—Film plastic shopping bags
- **Portable Consumer Batteries**—AA, AAA, C, D, and 9 volt style batteries
- **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 lamps
- **Textiles**— unwanted clothing
- **Leaves-Compost**— Deciduous leaves, pine needles, corn stalks, and brown (kraft) paper compost bags
- **Used Motor Oil**— Motor vehicle engine oil and transmission fluid
- **Antifreeze**— Vehicle glycol-type coolant
- **Cell Phones**—Handheld cellular telephones



## Upcoming Events:

- **LitterPluck 2009**
- **Earth Day 2009**
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in 2009!**



## Even the Government Center Recycles!

Sullivan County Government Center employees have come up with some novel ways to reduce the amount of trash they produce while reusing and recycling much of what is left. Planning Division staff have created a "Snack it In-Pack it Home" program for compostable food waste generated during the work day. Each week, a different staff member collects food waste from a central receptacle in the office and takes it home to make compost. That way everyone shares housekeeping responsibilities while benefiting

from valuable compost in a few months' time.

Public Works staff have been collecting recyclables from throughout the Government Center for many years, and since 2007 have weighed every load of recyclables carted off to the County Recycling Center in Monticello. In 2008 alone, **over 36 tons** of paper, plastic and metal have been recycled from the building!

When visiting the Government Center, please be sure to use the public recycling containers positioned throughout the building for your recycling convenience.

## 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 845-807-0290. Our email address is: [recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us) Visit us on the web at: <http://www.scgnet.us/index.asp?orgid=275&storyTypeID=&sid=&>

*This newsletter is published quarterly by the Sullivan County Division of Solid Waste, and has been made possible by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*