



Sullivan County Recycling Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM
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FALL 2009 A

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Water Conservation**
- **Your Question Answered**
- **Recycling Summary**
- **HHW 2009 Event II**



Water—Conservation Saves in Many Ways...

Water has not exactly been in short supply recently in Sullivan County, especially after a series of devastating floods have left many in our community hoping for an extended dry spell. So why bother to conserve something that is seemingly so abundant? Because while we may be at the mercy of the environment to determine how much water we receive, what we eventually do with it is largely up to us.

Clean, pure water is essential for our survival. We use it for consumption, heating and bathing, plus a host of commercial, industrial and biochemical processes that power our society. Each of us has a significant role to play in the conservation of this vital substance. The US EPA has developed the WaterSense® program to help us do for water conservation what the Energy Star® program has done for appliance electrical effi-

cency. By conserving water, whether from a well or municipal water supply, you actually save more than just the water itself.

According to the EPA, American households use an average of 260 gallons of water per day. The WaterSense® Program was unveiled in 2007 to help save 30-40% of the water we now use at home, without sacrificing comfort. Toilets installed prior to 1990 for example typically require 3.5 to 5 gallons (or more) of water to flush. Modern WaterSense® toilets can move bodily waste efficiently with only 1.28 gallons of water per flush (and even less with a dual-flush model), a tremendous savings. Likewise, kitchen & bath faucets and fixtures in use since 1993 deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute (gpm). New WaterSense® aerators and plumbing fixtures can reduce water usage to just 1.5 gpm – a significant reduc-

tion. WaterSense® labeled aerators for many faucet sizes are available today at home improvement stores for much less than the cost of a pack of cigarettes.

New standards are being developed for shower head upgrades as well. The current water delivery rate is 2.5 gpm, with 1.5 gpm a proposed WaterSense® goal. A 15 minute shower at 2.5 gpm uses 37.5 gallons of water; by comparison a 1.5 gpm shower-head would only use 22.5 gallons, and the savings doesn't stop there. By using **less water** overall, **less energy** is needed to pump and heat water drawn from the supply, which saves fuel and lowers climate-changing green house gas emissions as well. It really does pay to have WaterSense®!

For more information about the WaterSense® Program, check out <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.htm>

Your Question Answered...

Q. Are plastic water bottles recyclable in Sullivan County?

A. They certainly are, and should definitely be recycled instead of throwing them away in the trash. Bottled water has grown in popularity in recent years, which has resulted in more bottles being generated to meet this demand. Plastic water bottles are made of polyethylene terephthalate, or #1 plastic, and are fully recyclable in the Sullivan County Recycling Program. The

energy and raw materials used to create polyethylene resin comes largely from natural gas, a petroleum product that is not a renewable resource. By recycling these products much of the energy used to make them in the first place is recaptured and can be turned back into new products at a lower cost than making them from raw materials.

The best way to save money, natural resources and the public infrastructure is to consider using plain old **TAP**

WATER, in a reusable container, instead of purchasing water in disposable containers altogether. Tap water from public water supplies is safe and very convenient. Folks can save even more money and time by not transporting heavy, expensive containers of water from the store. If you use a well, have it tested periodically and fix any problems that occur in order to enjoy a refreshing, money-saving beverage any time you like. Drink up, Sullivan County!

Recycling Summary...



Upcoming Events:

- Fall Municipal Cleanup 2009
 - America Recycles Day!
 Nov. 15, 2009
 - Household Hazardous Waste Events in 2010!



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 must 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
- **Cell Phones**—Handheld cellular telephones
- **Plastic Bags**—Film plastic shopping bags
- **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
- **Portable Consumer Batteries**—AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt style batteries

Successful Second 2009 HHW Event Held...

Sullivan County’s ninth-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event #2 took place on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the County Landfill in Monticello. Forty-eight Sullivan County households were able to safely recycle or dispose of potentially toxic materials free of charge. In all, 4.42 tons of unwanted household hazardous materials were collected at the event, including mercury, chlordane, solvents, oil-based paints, fluores-

cent bulbs, automotive batteries, and even one very old test tube which apparently contained reagent-grade arsenic!

Please call the Division of Solid Waste at 845-807-0290 for additional information about safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals and information about the proper disposal of household toxic materials between HHW collection events.

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