



# SULLIVAN COUNTY RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM  
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SPRING 2009 A

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Disposal Basics**
- **Your Questions Answered**
- **Recycling Summary**
- **School Recycling**



## Solid Waste Disposal Basics...

### Become Waste \$avy and \$AVE!

Garbage—stuff we no longer want and just throw away, has a cost to manage, even if we think the material is worthless. So, what is the best way to handle all the stuff we no longer want? Obviously, improper or illegal disposal of waste is not acceptable. Try to reduce the amount of trash you produce by buying only what you need, purchase goods locally from area vendors and buy durable items

that can be repaired instead of being thrown away when broken. Reusable items are another great way to save money and generate less garbage—browse the classified ads in area print and online publications, visit thrift shops and the Salvation Army, and watch those great yard sales about to blossom all over Sullivan County! Lastly, recycling offers perhaps the best way to cut down on trash, plus lower greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming as well.

Recycling is mandatory in Sullivan County, so please check the **Recycling Summary** on the reverse page for details. By the time recyclables are eliminated from the garbage can, very little waste remains. Kitchen scraps and yard trimmings should be composted, and household hazardous materials like cleaning products and pesticides should be saved for the County's annual HHW collection events. Please contact us at 845-807-0290 for more ways to prevent waste!

## Your Questions Answered...

**Q.** How can I get rid of stuff that is still good but that I no longer want?

**A.** Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, just as one's trash may be another's treasure. Good, reusable items may be donated to charities or a waste exchange, such as the Hudson Valley Materials Exchange in New Paltz (call Jill Gruber at 845-567-1445 for information). Locally, some communities and houses of worship have thrift shops which are open to the public, and the Internet too is a great resource for offering and finding all sorts of materials. Check out the Free Cycle Network at [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) for more great ideas. And don't forget about the good old yard sale as a way to unload good stuff—earn some cash while preventing waste!

**Q.** Can the compost made from municipal solid waste be used to grow food crops?

**A.** No. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has specific regulations regarding the use of compost produced from decomposed municipal solid waste and sewage sludge. Such matter may not be used to grow food, as a potential for heavy metal and pathogen contamination may exist. Starter materials like aged/composted agricultural waste (cow, horse manure) may be applied to fields early in the growing season in order to produce grazing crops for livestock consumption.

Generally, our farmers know best the type, origin and composition of compost to use for proper agricultural conditioning. For complete information about all types of

crop production, land use and farming in the County, be sure to check out the Sullivan County Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Ferndale. Their telephone number is 845-292-6180.

**Q.** Are rechargeable batteries OK to use in my digital camera?

**A.** In most cases, yes! Rechargeable batteries prevent waste, save money and energy over wasteful disposable battery types. Be sure to check your owner's manual for complete battery and power instructions specific to your camera, but generally manufacturers now encourage rechargeable batteries over disposables. Two rechargeable AA cells literally replace HUNDREDS of disposables, so charge ahead!



### Upcoming Events:

- **Earth Day 2009**
- **LitterPluck**
- **Spring Cleanup**
- **HHW Events**



## 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
- **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

## Recycling in the Classroom...

Sullivan County schools have certainly embraced the importance of green education! Monticello Central School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Michel successfully negotiated a new District-wide recycling & sanitation contract with local hauler Thompson Sanitation of Rock Hill. Recycling cuts down on trash disposal costs, so this contract saves the District significant money and ensures that recyclables collected from every classroom get recycled. Monticello CS is examining other ways to conserve as well, such as composting their

cafeteria waste and adding solar and wind power to the campus!

Not to be outdone, Donna Zuchert's sixth grade class at Roscoe Central School spent the morning of March 13th learning about all things sustainable, from buying locally, saving water and energy, composting, gardening and especially recycling at school and home. An environmental seminar is planned for the 8th grade next, and discussion about a community garden and school compost program are in the works. Great job, Monticello and Roscoe!

## 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 is : [recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us](mailto:recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us)

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