



# The Green Scene

An e-mail publication of  
The Mahoning County Solid Waste District

Volume 1, Issue 4

Fall 2009

RECYCLING DIVISION OF  
MAHONING COUNTY

DAVID LUDT,  
JOHN MC NALLY, AND  
ANTHONY TRAFICANTI,  
COMMISSIONERS

JIM PETUCH  
DIRECTOR

## Inside this issue:

Fall Events 2

New Site in  
Poland 2

Holiday Recycling  
News 3

KAB Updates 4

CFL Recycling 4

TV Recycling 5

YSU re:CREATE 6

## Get Ready for “Curbside Madness”

The District is sponsoring the first-ever curbside recycling contest whereby communities are competing on a per-cap basis, and the top three winners will receive prizes. In order to celebrate America Recycles Day which is November 15<sup>th</sup>, we decided to make it our kick-off date for the three-month contest. Austintown, Boardman, Canfield, and Poland townships, and the cities of Campbell, Struthers, and Youngstown, and the villages of Lowellville and New Middletown – are competing to see which one can ramp up

their curbside recycling to win first place! District staff will attend trustee and city/village council meetings during October to inform the communities of the challenge and provide technical assistance. Competing communities will have the availability of curbside bins in their government center if they so choose. This will make it more convenient for new participants to get a bin and start recycling. Thanks to an agreement with Allied/Republic, curbside recycling is free and convenient in Mahoning County. The District’s curbside

recycling rate has begun to climb although we are below the national average, thus we need to get more participation. Residents in the communities listed above that would like to begin curbside recycling should call the District at 330-740-2060. We hope Curbside Madness will be the motivation for those currently not participating to get a new bin and start recycling.

~ Jim Petuch, Director



## “Go Green” Membership Drive Continues

If you would like to become an official member of the Green Team, here is your chance. All you have to do is pledge to “Go Green” by promising to **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE & NEVER LITTER**. If you are committed to this cause, contact the Green Team via phone or e-mail and we will send you a membership card along with a small token of our appreciation.

To date, our membership roster contains over **2,100** names and is still going strong. If you would like to join us in this Earth-friendly endeavor, please contact the Green Team at 330-740-2060 or [www.greenteam.cc](http://www.greenteam.cc) so that we can record your commitment and add your name to our growing list.



## Recycle Ohio! Fall Fun



### Environmental Quote

“If love and peace  
can prevail on  
earth, and if we  
can teach our chil-  
dren to honor na-  
ture’s gifts, the  
joys and beauties  
of the outdoors  
will be here  
forever.”  
~ Jimmy Carter

October is “Recycle Ohio! Month.” This is an exciting time for various local communities to participate in Green Team activities and to express their thanks to the many citizens who support their recycling efforts. Have fun participating in the events below and help your environment while doing it.

- **October 1- November 1:** When you recycle in Springfield Township/New Middletown, you get a chance to win a \$50 Sparkle gift certificate!
- **October 2:** Join WKBN’s “Caring for the Community” and Mary Gresh of the Green Team for a litter clean-up in Boardman.
- **October 3:** Join Jim Petuch, director of the Green Team, and the Canfield Rotary for a litter clean-up of Route 46 in Canfield.
- **October 3:** Bring your unwanted tires to the Covelli Centre from 9am-1pm. (330-744-

7526)

- **October 6:** Join the Austintown Garden Club for a litter clean-up of S. Turner Rd. Contact Mary Shall at 330-793-7942.
- **October 10:** Join Boardman Township at the Administration Building on Market Street for a recycling open house and a free Green Car Wash from 11am-3pm. Call Dave Wilson at 330-726-4190 for details.
- **October 10:** Youngstown residents may pick-up their biodegradable leaf bags at the Covelli Centre from 9am-1pm.
- **October 14:** While picking up your leaf bags, enjoy the City of Struthers’ Open House at City Hall. (330-755-2181, ext. 138)
- **October 17:** Enjoy rocket launching, food, music, and crafts at Beloit’s annual “Go Green” Festival from

11am-8pm. Make your rockets on **October 3** at #2 fire station. Call Jim McNatt at 330-938-3221 for more details.

- **October 17:** Appliance & Electronics Drive at Youngstown Iron & Metal from 9am-1pm.
- **October 24:** Berlin Township Electronics Drive from 10am-2pm at the Town Hall on Route 224.

And in November . . .

### November 15 kicks off CURBSIDE MADNESS!

- **November 15:** Share your holiday decorations with others at the Holiday Sharing Table at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebring.
- **November 18:** Join Austintown Park and The Green Team for their “Green Holiday Workshop.”

If you have any questions on these events, call the number given or contact the Green Team at 330-740-2060.

## Poland Township's New Recycling Site is a Winner!



Mahoning County Dignitaries  
at Poland Twp.  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On September 9, 2009, the Mahoning County Commissioners and Poland Township Trustees and Recycling Coordinators cut the ribbon on the new recycling site located at the Road Dept. on Clinigan Rd.. With a cement pad over 100 ft. in length, and the capability of housing six bins—the overflow

and capacity problems that we had with the prior site will be alleviated. The District provided funding for the pad, and the trustees funded the beautiful fence. I encourage area residents to use the site as it is open Mon. - Sat. during daylight Hours. This is a great addition to the District’s

drop-off recycling program, and we are especially thankful for the dedication of the trustees and recycling crew. Poland Township’s recycling rate is very impressive and will now reach even further heights.

~ Jim Petuch, Director

## Greening the Holidays

When you think of the holidays, do you think about the fun you'll have spending time with loved ones or do you think about the effort you'll expend combating crowds at the mall? If it is the latter, don't worry. The Green Team can help make the season less stressful and more Earth-friendly by following the 3 R's—holiday style.

The first of the 3 R's is REDUCE. Tips for reducing holiday waste include:

- Using a canvas or Eco-spun tote bag for holiday purchases.
- Choosing real dinnerware for holiday entertaining.
- Purchasing a live Christmas tree that can be planted later.
- Sending electronic greeting cards.
- Selecting rechargeable batteries.
- Using a travel mug to contain those tasty warm winter beverages.

Reducing waste also means that you should avoid excess packaging. Packaging accounts for one half of the material that is routinely thrown away, and never is this more evident than during the holidays. To curb

packaging waste consider purchasing a gift card. Gift cards are available for movie theaters, restaurants, beauty salons, and day spas. A nice idea for the teenager on your list may be a gift card for gasoline or a prepaid phone card. For a more personal touch consider a gift of your time or talent. Maybe someone on your list could benefit from your dog-walking, babysitting, or house-cleaning skills. Perhaps you have a knack for baking, knitting, or scrap-booking and can whip up something homemade. For the person on your list who has everything, consider a gift to the environment. You can adopt an endangered species or purchase acreage in the rainforest. The organization you choose will send the gift recipient an adoption or ownership certificate. If you would like to keep matters closer to home, consider purchasing a backyard birdfeeder to aid our fine feathered friends or make a donation in someone's name to a local charity. Remember, the holidays are a time of giving, and a heartfelt Earth-friendly gift benefits everyone. After you have *reduced* your holiday waste, it is time to REUSE. Gift bags, boxes, and name tags can be saved and used year after year. Other

holiday re-use strategies you may apply are:

- Transform a paper shopping bag into a lovely gift bag by decorating it with last year's greeting cards.
- Convert a used mayonnaise jar into a night light by filling it with potpourri, adding a short string of light and covering with a doily.
- Organize a used book exchange at your child's school. A good book certainly has more value than the trinkets that are traditionally purchased for school gift exchanges.
- Take molded Styrofoam and Styrofoam peanuts back to the shipping store for re-use

After you have exhausted REDUCE and REUSE, it is time to RECYCLE. During the holidays, in addition to accepting the usual cans, bottles, paper and boxes, the Green Team accepts greeting cards, gift-wrap and cut trees at designated drop-off sites.

I hope these tips will give you pause for thought and help you enjoy a stress-free, Earth-friendly holiday.

~ Kim Lewis



### Holiday Recycling Drives

Each year during the holiday season, an extra 5 million tons of waste is generated --- 25% more than usual! To address this issue, the Green Team is sponsoring two special recycling drives.

Wrap It Up Again! is the wrapping paper and greeting card drive scheduled for December 26 through January 15 at our recycling drop-off sites. Remember to remove all ribbons and bows and to exclude foil wraps.

The Christmas Tree Recycling Drive will be held December 26 through January 31 at designated recycling drop-off sites. Trees will be donated to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for use as wildlife habitat.

Last year Mahoning County diverted over 4,000 lbs. pounds of wrapping paper and greeting cards along with 25,230 lbs. pounds of Christmas trees from the waste stream. Let's make this year an even bigger success. Remember---every little bit counts.

## Wrapping Up A Green Holiday Workshop

The holiday season will be here before we know it. Join the Green Team during our annual holiday workshop to learn how to make the holidays more relaxing, more enjoyable, and more Earth-friendly!

Environmental Educator Kim Lewis will kick off the evening with a presentation on how to avoid the trappings of holiday over-consumption. Next,

Green Team Director Jim Petuch will lead us in a musical program singing quirky recycling lyrics set to traditional holiday tunes. Afterwards, we'll enjoy refreshments and participate in making recycled crafts that will feature festive holiday decorations and colorful gift-wrap. Please sign up soon. This is a wonderful opportunity to create economical, waste-

reducing holiday crafts during an evening full of fun.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at Austintown Park's Stacey Pavilion from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$5.00 is required by calling the park office at 330-793-0718.





***Litter from a  
Motor Vehicle  
ORC 4511.82***

*Littering from a  
motor vehicle is a  
minor misdemeanor  
and can result in  
fines up to \$100.*

*The driver of a  
motor vehicle can  
be cited if a  
passenger litters.*

*The driver can also  
be cited if litter  
simply falls or blows  
from the vehicle.*

## Keep the Mahoning Valley Beautiful's "Great American Cleanup" 2009 Success Story

Keep America Beautiful is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their local community environments. Since 1953, Keep America Beautiful has been the nation's leading community improvement organization successfully implementing an effective, systematic strategy for reducing waste, preventing litter and beautifying communities nationwide.

The Great American Cleanup, is Keep America Beautiful mission in action. Each year over 3 million volunteers work together to improve the quality of their lives and make their neighborhoods cleaner, safer and more beautiful places in which to live, work and play.



Great American Cleanup volunteer efforts target areas of greatest need in each community...getting the job done coast-to-coast! From March 1 through May 31, over 30,000 clean-up, green-up and fix-up events took place in over 17,000 communities in all 50 states, plus Washington, D.C.

Great American Cleanup activities include: litter clean-ups; building restoration; school & community playground renovation/

construction; community improvement and beautification; park clean-up & renewal; roadway clean-up & beautification; river, lake & seashore clean-ups; youth environmental education; reduce, reuse, recycle and litter-free "green" events.

Locally, Keep the Mahoning Valley Beautiful conducted 47 activities with 1450 volunteers contributing 100 hours of their time to preserve and protect our environment. Over 17,640 pounds of litter and bulky waste, including 3787 tires, were cleaned up from 115 miles of roads, 16 miles of railroad tracks and 4500 acres of parks and public lands. There were also 340 community service or court ordered workers assigned to litter clean up duty during the Great American Cleanup.

## Shedding Light on CFL's

There has been a lot of controversy lately about the mercury contained in compact fluorescent lights (CFL's). And while everyone is concerned about the hazards associated with mercury, this issue really needs to be put into perspective. According to a recent article in Popular Mechanics, coal-fired power plants emitted more than 50 tons of mercury into the air in 2006. That's more mercury than is contained in 9 billion CFL's. The truth of the matter is that the environmental benefits of converting to CFL's far outweigh the risks.

According to the US EPA ENERGY STAR website, the benefits of using CFL's are many. Consider this:

- ENERGY STAR CFL's use 75% less energy than the standard incandescent bulb and last up to 10 times longer.
- ENERGY STAR CFL'S save about \$30.00 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime.
- ENERGY STAR CFL'S produce about 75% less heat which can reduce energy costs associated with home cooling. If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than

800,000 cars.

It is hard to dispute the facts. But what about the mercury? What are the disposal guidelines for CFL's? CFL's can be recycled at any Home Depot Store, free of charge. It is just that simple.

I hope I've shed some light on the subject of compact fluorescent lights. If you would like to learn more about this subject, please refer to the EPA ENERGY STAR website at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



## The Challenges of Unwanted TV Sets

According to the U.S. EPA, Americans own nearly 3 billion electronic products. That's a lot of stuff which has one essential commonality – they are all terminal. Clock radios, TV sets, and definitely computers malfunction and eventually are unusable, and they need a final resting place which is usually a landfill. The EPA estimates that between 26 – 37 million computers became obsolete in 2005, and 304 million electronics were removed from US households that year with about two-thirds still in working order.

In 2007, 27 million TV sets were discarded and approximately 6.4 million were recovered for reuse/recycling. That leaves a massive amount entering landfills. Traditional TV sets contain a CRT or cathode ray tube which contains lead and other harmful materials. The lead was a necessary component as it prevented radiation from seeping through which is extremely dangerous. TV sets and CRT computer monitors are included in most electronic recycling drives; however, dismantling them is very challenging and labor-intensive. In short, CRT devices are not

Cost effective in the recycling arena and thus the need for an acceptance fee at most recycling centers and at community drives. Over half of the CRT products recovered are shipped overseas to outlets that either repair the units for reuse in other countries, or dismantle and remove the components for recycling purposes.

So what needs done? First, manufacturers should step up to the plate and assume end-of-life responsibility for these products. Some have and are listed on the US EPA website; however, most have not and this causes a challenge for millions of folks who want to be environmentally responsible. Many communities such as Mahoning County, hold e-drives for the acceptance of computers, monitors, printers, TV sets, and related products; however, there are very few recycling processors interested in accepting the materials since the recycling of electronics as a whole is not very profitable. Certainly a processor only accepting computers without the monitors is making a profit, but when the monitors are added, it puts a halt on cost-effectiveness.

So what do we do? Prior to looking for recycling or landfill options for CRT devices, people should determine how workable the item is. Many times a TV set that doesn't work to the owner's standards would be greatly appreciated if donated to a needy family that has no set. True, they would need a converter box; however, with coupons these devices are relatively inexpensive. CRT units last many years as evident by the 30-year old TV sets being brought to many e-drives. Even when they don't work, it is usually something minor and not directly related to the CRT itself, thus it can be repaired at several outlets and then be put back to use. Best Buy offers an electronics recycling program, and TV sets up to 32" (measured diagonally) are accepted for just \$10.00, and a gift card is given to the recycler. TV sets over 32" will require removal and a higher fee; however, it is free if a new TV set is purchased and delivered. In my wishful and always optimistic thinking, I hope that all national stores and outlets that sell electronics and TV sets decide to commence a take-back program

similar to Best Buy's.

Several states have banned TV sets from entering landfills or incinerators, thus they have mandatory reuse/recycling for these potentially harmful items. Lead and other hazardous components are released as the TV sets, along with the rest of the trash, are compacted. In short, TV sets and electronics do not belong in landfills or incinerators.

The dilemma is clear, CRT items are harmful to the environment when not handled or disposed of correctly, and yet cost money to recycle. I know that entrepreneurs are working on developing more cost-effective and efficient ways to handle CRT products, but until that time arrives, we should do the environmentally responsible thing and pay the fee charged by companies or processors in order to keep these items out of landfills and incinerators. It's a small price to pay in order to protect our precious planet.

~ Jim Petuch  
Director

The chart below demonstrates the challenges for recycling CRT devices such as TV sets.

End Market	Tons/Year	% of Total
Resale "as is" or repaired in the U.S.A.	3,000	2%
Resale "as is" or repaired abroad	3,500	2%
Refurbished into specialty monitors in U.S.A.	2,500	1%
Refurbished into new TVs or monitors abroad	107,500	61%
CRT glass made into glass factories in U.S.A.	4,000	2%
CRT glass made into glass factories abroad	24,000	14%
CRT glass to smelters in North America for lead recovery	10,000	6%
Plastic, metal and material recovery from demanufacturing	20,500	12%
TOTAL	175,000	100%



According to the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, electronic material is the fastest growing component of the waste stream.



RECYCLING DIVISION OF MAHONING COUNTY

DAVID LUDT,  
JOHN MC NALLY, AND ANTHONY  
TRAFICANTI,  
COMMISSIONERS

JIM PETUCH  
DIRECTOR

**Youngstown**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

In addition to these great events Youngstown State University is taking other measures to become more green. Please visit <http://www.gogreentube.com/watch.php?v=NDg0NzEx> to find out more.



[www.ysurecreate.com](http://www.ysurecreate.com)

"Don't throw it away or buy it new when you can re:CREATE it!"

### The Holiday Sharing Table

Sunday November 15th 1pm-4pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebring, OH You're invited to donate your unwanted holiday decorations that are still in good condition and/or take home some "new to you" festive decor. It's a great way to give your no longer needed items a new life and get some different items to freshen up your holiday displays. Example of *holiday* items to bring: wreaths, ornaments, fake trees, figurines, window dressings, knickknacks, tablecloths, baskets, outdoor displays etc. For more information contact Sarah Ellis at [seellis@ysu.edu](mailto:seellis@ysu.edu) or call 330-941-2238.



### Volunteers Needed

#### Help the Earth & our neighbors in need at the same time!



YSU Recycling & Habitat for Humanity are looking for volunteers to help collect aluminum cans for Habitat at the YSU football tailgate events. Interested individuals or groups may contact Dan Kuzma at 330-941-2294 or [djkuzma@ysu.edu](mailto:djkuzma@ysu.edu) for more information. All cans collected during the event will be donated to Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning County. Habitat will recycling the cans and use the proceeds to help more disadvantaged families. A schedule of the home games can be found at <http://www.ysusports.com/football/2009schedule.pdf>



### FREE Materials Available in the re:CREATE Room

- What kind of supplies?* Primarily craft supplies are available. Examples: partial cans of latex paint, egg cartons, fabric scraps, cardboard tubes. For a list of materials visit [www.ysurecreate.com](http://www.ysurecreate.com) and click on the Newsletter tab.
- Who can get them?* Everyone is welcome!
- Where do I go?* YSU re:CREATE Room inside Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Entrance at back corner of building on Lincoln Ave. side. 480 Youngstown Poland Rd. Struthers, OH
- When is it open?* Saturdays 9am-4pm (closed all major holidays)
- From who?* Youngstown State University re:CREATE Program is the connector between people with unwanted, usable items and those who need them. re:CREATE is funded by a grant from the Green Team.
- Why?* It's good for the environment, community, and local economy. Items typically entering the landfill are reused instead. Residents, educators, nonprofit groups, and businesses get needed supplies and/or get rid of unwanted but usable items without increasing their trash bill.

#### *Materials Needed ASAP by Green Team educators:*

##### **Film Canisters**

**CDs** Don't need to work, any condition

**Canning/Mason Jars** Any size or color

**File Folders** Hanging or manila

**Lace Tablecloths, Curtains, or Doilies** Tears/Holes acceptable.

**Lids, any color** 1 and 1/2 "diameter (Gatorade/Welch's Grape Juice sized) from bottles. Writing on them is OK

Collection is ongoing and there is no limit on the amount accepted.

#### **Contact Info:**

Sarah Ellis, Manager

330-941-2238

[seellis@ysu.edu](mailto:seellis@ysu.edu)

[www.ysurecreate.com](http://www.ysurecreate.com)

**For a full list of materials available and wanted please visit [www.ysurecreate.com](http://www.ysurecreate.com) and click on the newsletter tab.**