

www.ppgbuffalo.org
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Recycling: an Easy Way to Save Money, Create Jobs and Help the Environment

August 10, 2012

Recycling Saves the Taxpayers Money

The City has to pay to dispose of its garbage, but it gets paid a rebate for its recyclables. For this reason, the City saves about \$150,000 for every 3,500 tons of waste recycled, and every one percent increase in the recycling rate saves the City between \$70,000 and \$100,000. That means that every time you recycle something instead of throwing it away, you're helping to keep taxes and fees lower.

Recycling Can Save You Money

Most people in Buffalo use a large garbage tote, which results in a city user fee of \$170.24 per year. By reducing waste and recycling more, you should be able to switch to a small garbage tote, which costs \$145.36 per year, for a savings of \$24.88 per year. Call 311 to switch to a small garbage tote.

Recycling Creates Jobs

Landfilling creates one job for every 10,000 tons of waste. Recycling creates ten jobs in processing and 25 jobs in manufacturing for every 10,000 tons.

Recycling Saves Energy

By recycling 30% of our waste, Americans save the equivalent of 11.9 billion gallons of gas and reduce the greenhouse gas equivalent of taking 25 million cars off the road. Recycling aluminum is 95% more energy efficient than using raw materials.

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Recycling Reduces Pollution

Producing recycled white paper creates 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution than using virgin fibers.

Using recycled cans instead of new ore for aluminum cans produces 95% less air pollution and 97% less water pollution.

Landfills are one of the largest sources of human-caused methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Roughly 20% of the sites on the Superfund list are solid waste landfills.

Other Ways to Reduce Waste

Stop Junk Mail

Junk mail is an environmental hazard as well as a nuisance. More than 2 million tons of junk mail end up in landfills each year. You can eliminate most of it by visiting www.directmail.com and signing onto the national Do Not Mail list. You can also choose which catalogs to receive and which not at www.catalogchoice.org.

Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn

Almost one sixth of the materials in the nation's landfills is yard waste. Don't send your grass clippings to the landfill; simply leave them on the lawn, where they help nourish your soil.

Compost Your Leaves and Trimmings

Similarly, there is no need to throw out your dead leaves. Start a compost bin in your back yard and put the leaves and other lawn and garden waste in it.

If you are going to throw out your dead leaves, make sure you follow city law by placing them in separate, clear plastic bags by your curb; do not mix them in with your garbage. Several times a year, during peak season, the City will send separate trucks for yard waste and have it composted, rather than sent to the landfill.

Urban Roots
428 Rhode Island St.
362-8982
www.urbanroots.org

Compost Your Food Waste

Roughly 14% of nation's waste is food scraps. They, too, can be composted. Many stores, such as Urban Roots, offer indoor and outdoor containers to compost food or yard waste; options include closed top bins with turning units, staking bins, and bins with flip tops. Urban Roots also

offers workshops to teach you the best ways to make compost.

Consider Compost Pick-up with the Farmer Pirates

For a small fee, the Farmer Pirates Compost Crew will provide you with a compost bucket and lid. You fill the bucket with food waste like fruits, vegetables, egg shells, etc. Every two weeks, you leave the bucket outside, and the FP Compost Crew will come pick it up and leave you with a clean bucket.

Farmer Pirates
www.farmerpirates.com

Recycle Your Electronic Waste

You can't put electronic waste in your garbage or recycling. However, you can take it for free drop-off to 1120 Seneca St. in Buffalo, Monday through Friday from 8am to 3pm. Common electronic waste items include TVs, radios, computers, printers, microwaves and more.

To donate or buy used building materials, such as doors, windows, lighting fixtures, and plumbing fixtures:
Buffalo Reuse
296 E. Ferry St., 882-2800
ReUse Action
980 Northampton St., 894-3366

Recycle Special Materials

Many other items can be re-used or recycled instead of thrown out – whether it's car tires, old clothes, broken bicycles, old eyeglasses, rugs, and even hazardous chemicals. For a complete resource list, see "How To Recycle in Buffalo Niagara," available from the Partnership for the Public Good, www.ppgbuffalo.org. Or visit www.earth911.com to find recycling options near you.