



WASTE NOT

Coshocton County Recycling & Litter Prevention Newsletter
Funding provided by CFLP Solid Waste District

Spring 2019

Complete the Loop

Most of us do a pretty good job of recycling. We collect our cans, bottles, paper and cardboard. We break them down, rinse them out and make sure we're doing our best to recycle correctly. But here's the question; are you BUYING recycled products? There's a school of thought that if you don't purchase recycled items, you're really not recycling well at all.

Actually buying items that are made from recyclables closes the loop on the collected material. That's the point, right? Making something new out of "trash" while diverting it from the landfill. When items made from recycled materials are purchased it creates a demand. Remember, the recycling market is a business. Recycling companies are in the business to produce a product and make money, not only out of the goodness of their hearts. The more we buy recycled, the more jobs are created at collection facilities and recycling plants. An estimated nine workers would be needed for every 15,000 tons of recycling while only one driver is needed to take the same amount to the landfill.

As consumers, it is up to us to encourage companies to use recycled materials by "voting" with our dollars. The more we buy, the more they make, the more raw recyclables are used (and purchased), the more waste is diverted from landfills and the less virgin resources and energy are required. Less environmental pollution is created, as well. For example, producing one ton of virgin paper produces 60 pounds more air pollution and uses 7,000 gallons more water than making one ton of recycled paper.

There are many household products purchased that contain a significant amount of recycled materials. Steel cans or "tin cans" are usually about 25 percent recycled. Glass is infinitely recyclable and many glass food containers are between 25-70% recycled. Take a look at your cereal box or tissue box. Chances are good that the paperboard that makes up the box is also made from post-consumer recycled material. Something as simple as purchasing eggs in a cardboard carton instead of Styrofoam is a great way to buy recycled- and the cardboard carton may be recycled again! Post-consumer content means the loop has been completed. The original material was recycled properly, processed and made into a new product that got stocked and purchased.

So, as you do your grocery shopping and are looking at the labels; check to see if your product includes recycled materials and if it doesn't, consider closing the loop and finding a recycled alternative.

Litter- It's Everybody's Problem!

Unfortunately it's a common sight. As the leaves are coming on and flowers are starting to bloom many of us also notice the amazing amount of litter that is along our roads, in the fields, parking lots and sometimes even in our own yards.

Many clean-up days are held this time of the year and public support and volunteering is generous. Last year, the Big Coshocton Cleanup Day collected 10 tons of litter and debris! We can do our part every day to prevent litter. Here are just a few tips to keep Coshocton County cleaner:

1. Set an example for others by not littering and encouraging others to not litter.
2. Keep a litter bag in your car to hold trash until it can be put in a garbage receptacle.
3. Make sure your trash cans have tight fitting lids.
4. If you see litter- pick it up! Take a bag with you on walks- everyday is cleanup day.
5. If you are a smoker, don't throw your butts on the ground. Carry and use a pocket ashtray.

Local Schools Encourage Recycling

Riverview Local School District and the Coshocton County Career Center are doing their part in reducing waste by recycling items from cardboard and paper in the classroom to cans from the cafeteria. Students, teachers and staff collect recyclables from around the school and deposit them into the roll-off containers placed on site.

In August 2018, Conesville became the 5th school to commit to recycling and collected 1.5 tons in just 3 short months!

2018 Totals

Coshocton County Career Center- 10,260 pounds
Riverview Junior High & High School- 18,500 pounds
Conesville Elementary- 2,680 pounds
Warsaw Elementary- 5,620 pounds

We appreciate your dedication to recycling and reducing waste!



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