



# WASTE NOT

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

Summer 2020

## Did You Join in "Plastic Free July?"

Have you ever thought about plastic? Have you ever noticed all the different uses for plastics and the fact that you could easily identify hundreds of items made from plastics in your daily life? More people are noticing the world's plastic pollution problem and are actively trying to reduce plastic waste.

Plastic Free July ([plasticfreejuly.org](http://plasticfreejuly.org)) is a global movement challenging people to be part of the plastic pollution solution by choosing to refuse single-use plastics. What are single-use plastics? Single-use plastics are items that are commonly used once and discarded. Items such as straws, plastic ware and plastic bags are just a few. Aside from plastic grocery bags and plastic beverage containers, most single-use plastics cannot be recycled and end up in landfills or even as litter and pollution.

Many people think if they are recycling their plastic bags and water bottles then it's not a big deal to buy or use them. Reducing the use of plastics altogether is actually more beneficial. Remember the "Three R's." Reduce, Reuse and Recycle? It's not a coincidence that recycle is last. Reducing your waste and re-using items should come first.

It's not too late to get started! Like any challenge or goal, start small to be successful. Perhaps stop buying bottled water. Commit to using one of those reusable drink containers that you have stored in the cupboard from now on.

Say no thanks to the plastic straw. Make sure you request "no straw" when ordering your drink. Many sustainable options are available if you do need a straw. BYOS (Bring Your Own Straw) made of stainless steel, bamboo or even foldable reusable straws to keep in your purse, pocket or car.

Abstain from putting your produce in a plastic bag at the grocery. Some items simply don't need to be bagged. For instance, larger produce like melons, broccoli, bananas or just a couple apples really don't require a bag. Nor do already bundled items like parsley or cilantro. Remember to let the cashier know you would prefer your produce not be bagged, as well.

So what do you say? Are you up for the challenge? You can choose to refuse single-use plastics and perhaps be inspired to find great alternatives that may become lifetime habits. Feel free to post what you're doing on the Coshocton County Recycling & Litter Prevention Facebook page. Small changes can add up to big differences!



## Despite COVID, County Recycling Drop-off Numbers Up

From January through June 2020, collection numbers at the County Recycling drop-off sites are up 3% from 2019 January-June totals. As of June 30, 2020, 280,640 pounds (over 140 tons) of recycling have been recorded. Concurrently, recycling numbers at County Buildings and schools have seen a marked decrease due to COVID19 related closures.

As we all look forward to getting back to "normal," recycling numbers are anticipated to return to more normal collection numbers. Cleaner recycling is being achieved with the help of new signage on the bins with the reminder "Don't Bag Recyclables." All County drop-off sites have signage indicating what materials are accepted in the bins. Any questions as to what and how to recycle items should be directed to the Coshocton County Recycling & Litter Prevention Office.



### Recycle Often. Recycle Right.

1. Recycle all empty bottles, cans and paper
2. Keep food and liquids out of recycling
3. Keep loose bags out of recycling
4. Household recycling only— no masks or gloves (PPE), hoses, plastic toys, Styrofoam, cups/lids/straws, etc.

[Recycleoftenrecycleright.com](http://Recycleoftenrecycleright.com)

Check out our interactive County map showing what and where to recycle in Coshocton County:  
[www.coshoctoncounty.net/recycle](http://www.coshoctoncounty.net/recycle)

*Coshocton Clean-up Day Kudos! Over 100 people pitched in on June 20th to pick up TWO TONS of litter in Coshocton. We thank you for your efforts!*

## Litter Collection Report from April-June 2020

Litter Control Supervisor, Mike Carroll, picked up and disposed of 48 bags of trash, equating to about 1700 pounds. Due to COVID19 restrictions, County Jail Trustees were unable to be utilized to help clean-up efforts.

Over 100 tires were collected as well as five televisions, 12 mattresses, four couches, a reclining chair and one-half truckload of construction material. Several dump sites were cleaned and the debris disposed of properly.

Deputy Cichon investigated 15 reports of illegal dumping and issued 3 citations during that time.

### Littering and Illegal Dumping - Ohio Revised Code 3767.32

Dumping waste, such as discarded trash, oil, appliances, scrap tires, furniture and other items, on private or public land and waterways is strictly prohibited by Ohio law. In addition to being unsightly, illegal dumps can pose health and safety hazards to people and wildlife. Ohioans must use licensed disposal facilities and insist that contracted waste haulers dispose of trash safely and legally.

ORC 3767.32 also prohibits unauthorized persons from knowingly placing litter and household wastes in a private litter/trash receptacle, unless he or she has authorization to use the litter/trash receptacle or the waste materials were generated on the public property where the receptacle is located. This protects property owners from having to pay for wastes illegally dumped into their litter/trash receptacles.

**Do not throw your trash in a receptacle you do not pay for!**



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