



CLEARFIELD COUNTY RECYCLER

Clearfield County Solid Waste Authority

Summer 2010 Issue

Clearfield County Illegal Dump Survey

PA CleanWays - Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, in partnership with the Centre County Solid Waste Authority and Clearfield County Solid Waste Authority, has released its report on illegal dumps in Clearfield County. This survey only included visible waste observed from a public road.

The survey of the County identified 112 illegal dumpsites containing an estimated 324.25 tons of trash. The survey found that 30 of the 51 municipalities in the County have illegal dumping activity.

Thirty, or 27%, of the surveyed sites were in the vicinity (50 feet and within) of some sort of waterway or body of water. Of those, 12 sites had waste materials directly in the waterway itself. Of the items inventoried at each dumpsite assessed, 95% of the sites contained recyclables, 87% contained household trash, 85% had tires, and 71%

had bagged trash and yard waste. There were a total of 2,022 tires itemized; however, those account only for tires visible at the time of surveying. Many more tires are assumed to be present under buried trash or leaf litter.

Illegal dumping poses a direct threat to the health and safety of humans and animals. Illegal dumping attracts disease-spreading rodents and mosquitoes by giving them a place to live and breed.

Economically, illegal dumps are expensive to clean up. The estimated cost to clean up a site can be anywhere from \$600 to over \$1,000 per ton for clean up and removal.

Full report available on-line at:

http://www.pacleanways.org/IDS/ids_index.html



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ELECTRONICS COLLECTION



The CCSWA will be sponsoring a one-day collection for the recycling of **electronics**. The event will be held on **Saturday, September 11th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the CCSWA’s automotive and appliance recycling site located at the County Jail off US Route 322 in Clearfield.



Small fee of \$5 per item with exception of televisions over 19” which will be \$10 each



SPECIAL EVENT RECYCLING MADE EASY!

- The Clearfield County Solid Waste Authority is excited to announce the availability of recycling containers for your community’s next special event.
- Whether your community is sponsoring a festival, carnival, or parade, these portable recycling containers are easy to set up and provide a great alternative to merely trashing recoverable materials.
- These specially designed containers have been proven to be very effective when placed next to trash cans in the successful recovery of clean recyclables.
- Fifty containers for aluminum can recycling are available for loan on a first come first served basis. Reserve yours today by calling 1-814-765-5149.



Why We Are Not Taking Plastics

One of the most popular questions received of our office is "Why aren't you taking plastics at your recycling drop-off sites?" The answer is a bit complicated, but we have tried our best to provide within a detailed explanation to help educate the public as to the challenges associated with recycling plastics.

Glass, metal, and paper are pretty straightforward, but when it comes to plastic, things get tricky. The truth is that what you can recycle depends on where you live and what materials your local recycling facilities can handle. There are many different types of plastics and they cannot all be recycled together; so unless you're diligent about sorting all your plastics, then "recycling" that yogurt container may be doing more harm than simply throwing it away. For example, one misplaced milk jug can contaminate an entire batch of soft plastic bottles.

Rural recycling programs are struggling across the State. Loss of funds and the expense of providing these services have forced such programs to eliminate materials or limit the expansion of new materials. Revenues from the sale of the materials are not sufficient to cover the collection, processing, and transportation costs. With limited funds, we must evaluate which materials are providing the "biggest bang for the buck" so to speak.

The biggest problem with plastic recycling is that it is difficult to automate the sorting of plastic waste and so it is labor-intensive. While containers are usually made from a single type and color of plastic making them relatively easy to sort out, a consumer toy like a cellular phone may be made of many small parts consisting of over a dozen different types and colors of plastics. As the value of the material is low, recycling plastics is unprofitable. For this reason, the percentage of plastics recycled in the US is very small.

Although there are only seven resin codes, there are actually thousands of different types of plastic. Different combinations of dyes and additives can be added to the basic resin to produce a desired color, shape, and texture in the final product. These variations in the manufacturing process lead to different melting points and other properties within the same resin code. Almost all plastic products are imprinted with a resin code — a small number enclosed by the "chasing arrows" symbol. This code can be misleading since it is not intended to indicate that the plastic is recyclable. Rather, the resin code is used by the plastics industry to indicate the general type of chemical compound used to make the product.

While there are many types of plastics in the waste stream, not all plastic can be recycled, and only about 6.8 percent of the total plastic used in the U.S. actually goes that route. Most recycling programs only accept plastics numbered 1 & 2 while plastics with Codes 3 through 7 are NOT recyclable in most programs.

Another consideration is energy savings. When glass, paper, and cans are recycled, they become similar products which can be used and recycled over and over again. Plastic resin has limited value as a commodity because its quality degrades every time it is reheated and as such there is only usually a single reuse. At this time, plastic recycling only minimally reduces the amount of virgin resources used to make plastics while recycling paper, glass, and metal materials that are easily recycled more than once saves more energy and resources.

The technology exists to recycle most kinds of plastic, but a lack of infrastructure prevents all but the most widespread kinds of plastic from being recycled. For recycling to work, communities must be able to cost-effectively collect and sort plastics, and businesses must be willing to accept the materials for processing. Collection is expensive because plastic bottles are light yet bulky, making it hard to efficiently gather significant amounts of matching plastics.

While we have pointed out the difficulties in recycling plastics, we by no means are unsupportive of the recycling of plastics. In the future, technology and innovation will hopefully lead to greater collection, recycling, and the re-manufacturing of plastics into other usable products. We are hopeful that someday we can provide this service to the public, but in the meantime, we hope that by understanding these issues you will consider making smarter purchasing decisions and minimize your impact on the environment by reducing the amount of waste you produce and reuse, recycle, and compost whenever possible.



Enforcement & Clean Up Activities

The CCSWA's full-time enforcement officer is currently enforcing illegal dumping-related ordinances in 39 municipalities in the County. In addition, the officer coordinates illegal dump clean-up activities throughout the year.

To date for calendar year 2010, our officer has investigated over 50 complaints from within 18 municipalities. Investigation of those complaints resulted in 9 violators cleaning up over 2,920 pounds of

trash. An additional 36,700 pounds were removed through volunteer-based efforts organized by the officer.

Since the officer was hired in 1999, a total of 693,920 pounds or 346.96 tons of waste have been cleaned up including 5,647 tires and 340 appliances. Approximately 50% of the complaints investigated to date resulted in insufficient evidence to identify the responsible party.

Clip and Save



Clearfield County Recycling Drop-off Locations

For more info, call:
(814) 765-5149

New Materials
Accepted!

KEY CODE:

Clip and Save



A=Aluminum Cans S=Steel & Tin Cans C=Corrugated Cardboard
N=Newspaper G=Clear, Brown & Green Glass Bottles and Jars
M=Mixed Paper (paper/envelopes, junk mail, magazines/catalogs, phone books,
dry food boxes (cereal & cracker boxes), tissue/shoe boxes)

SITE	LOCATION	CODE
Burnside Area	Old Railroad Station along US 219 in Burnside	A,S,G,N
Clearfield Area	Clearfield Boro Municipal Garage on Power Avenue	N
Curwensville Area	Curwensville Civic Center off SR 879	A,S,G,N,C,M
Glen Richey Area	Glen Richey Fire Hall along SR 2030	A,S,G,N
Grampian Area	Penn Township Municipal Bldg. Off 879	A,S,G,N
Houtzdale Area	Woodward Twp. Municipal Bldg. Along SR 53	A,S,G,N,C,M
Irvona Area	Lucas Supply along SR 53 south of Irvona	A,S,G,N
Janesville Area	Gulich Township Municipal Bldg. Along SR 729	A,S,G,N
Karthus Area	Karthus Fire Hall off SR 879	A,S,G,N
Kerrmoor Area	Ferguson Twp. Municipal	A,S,G,N
Kylertown Area	Cooper Twp. Municipal Bldg. Off I-80, exit 133	A,S,G,N,C,M
LeContes Mills Area	Girard Twp. Municipal Bldg. Along SR 879	A,S,G,N
Luthersburg Area	Brady Twp. Municipal Bldg. Off US 322 at Luthersburg	A,S,G,N,C,M
Morrisdale Area	Morris Township Municipal Bldg. Off SR 53	A,S,G,N
Osceola Mills Area	Decatur Township Municipal Bldg. Off SR 53	A,S,G,N,C,M
Penfield Area	Penfield Fire Hall off of SR 255	A,S,G,N
West Decatur Area	Boggs Twp. Municipal Bldg. Off US 322	A,S,G,N,C,M
Westover Area	Just off SR 36 along W. Bridge St.	A,S,G,N
Woodland Area	Bradford Twp. Municipal Bldg. Along SR 970	A,S,G,N,C,M



**CLEARFIELD COUNTY
SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY**

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RECYCLING

It Begins With You & Me!



TIRES

*Car, Light Truck Tires, and
Farm Tractor Tires
4 FREE PER PERSON*

OIL FILTERS

*5 Car/Light Truck
Filters/person/year*

MOTOR OIL/ANTIFREEZE

*Motor Oil
15 quarts/person/year
Antifreeze
2 gallons/person/year*

APPLIANCES

*Refrigerators, Freezers, Air
Conditioners, Dehumidifiers,
Washers, Dryers, Hot Water Tanks
2 FREE PER PERSON*

WHERE:

**Behind The Clearfield County Jail Just Off US Route 322
In Lawrence Township**

WHEN:

Mon. & Wed. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fri. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

1-814-765-5149 or www.ccswa.org