

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY NOVEMBER 15TH

America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy recycled products. Since its inception in 1997, it has grown to include millions of Americans pledging to increase their recycling habits at home and work and to buy products made with recycled material. The campaign features the theme, *It All Comes Back To You*. The slogan presents multiple messages: a recycled product or material can return to consumers as another new product; recycling comes back to consumers as an improved environment, preservation of resources and economic well-being of the country; and it is everyone's responsibility to recycle.

Rusk County Recycling in cooperation with 5R Processors, Ltd and other business and organizations is planning several events prior to November 15. Not all events were ready prior to publishing the newsletter so visit the UWEX website and click on the "Recycling" link for dates and activities. America Recycles Day 2009 also maintains a website at www.americarecyclesday.org where you can go for information about events in your community, to sign an online pledge to recycle and to learn more about this year's campaign and statewide activities.

Events in the works: 5R's PDO (Permanent Drop Off) Open house on November 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Christmas Tree & Decoration Swap on November 15 from NOON to 2 p.m. at the lower level of the library, pledge drive and much more!

Get Involved: As the slogan says, it all comes back to you. Even a small shift in your attitudes and actions can change the world. Maybe you'll throw those soft drink cans in the recycle bin or buy recycled-content products. Please keep in mind that even a little helps a lot!

Conversionator: Want to know how your recycling makes a difference? Visit the America Recycles Day website and learn fun facts about recycling and enter in the amount of items you recycle and it will tell you how much you're saving the earth. For example, if you recycle 10 aluminum cans a week it will save enough energy for 30 hours of television viewing.

5R Processors announce their new Permanent Drop Off Facility!



5R has been known for their superior electronics recycling, but did you know that they now buy scrap metal and aluminum cans? Check out their website at www.lady5rpdo.com to see items and prices or call them at 532-2050. They also accept appliances! Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and they are located under the water tower at 600 W Gates Ave.

www.goodguide.com What chemicals are in your baby shampoo? Was sweatshop labor used to make your t-shirt? What products are the best, and what products should you avoid? You want to know about the impacts of the products you buy. But unless you've got a Ph.D, it is almost impossible to find out. Until now...GoodGuide provides the world's largest and most reliable source of information on the health, environmental, and social impacts of the products in your home.

Ho-Ho-Ho Recycle on the Go! Don't forget to recycle when you're away from home!

Reducing Holiday Waste Ideas

Use these ideas to reduce holiday waste rather than filling up more garbage bags!

- Bring reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases.
- Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.
- Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.
- About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run. Remember to recycle your batteries at the Recycling Office.
- Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.
- Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money.
- When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.
- Use a digital camera instead of a disposable one while capturing holiday memories so that you don't have to use film and only print the pictures you want to keep.

Other ideas:

Gift wrapping: Use scarves, handkerchiefs, bandannas, maps, coloring books pages, newspapers, wallpaper and fabric scraps, home-sewn cloth bags, Sunday comic pages, fabric scraps or maybe a plain box decorated with glitter, paint, markers, etc. If you have to buy wrapping paper, buy paper with recycled content.

Packing: Consider dry, popped popcorn (including a note explaining that birds can eat it.), used packing peanuts from previous gifts or biodegradable starch packing peanuts, or crumpled up newspaper. Save bows and ribbons to use on other gifts. How about cutting up last year's holiday cards for gift tags? Be creative.

Tree ornaments/decorating: There are many craft ideas online for making decorations out of recycled materials. Think of other items that can be used as decorations like memorabilia (such as a child's first shoe or grandmas' hankie), old jewelry, small stuffed animals and toys, cookie cutters, popcorn and cranberry strings, spices from the kitchen.

Green gift ideas: Consider giving thoughtful gifts this year that are not resource-consuming. Some of the most favored and remembered gifts are those we can make ourselves. How about these ideas: Draw names or share the cost of a gift with a sibling or friend, give an experience (for example, take them to a musical or movie), create a family recipe book, give a garden (seeds, gloves, and tools), or help someone recycle by giving a can crusher, recycling or compost bin. The Recycling Office sells them for \$22.96. What a great gift!

Think of giving cookies in a jar. They taste yummy and don't produce any waste! Search www.about.com for recipes and instructions. You can even print out recipe cards!

Season's Green-ings from the Rusk County Recycling Department!