

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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the Cochise County Master Gardener

NEWSLETTER

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RECYCLING AS AN ATTITUDE

Karen Riggs
Master Gardener/Guest Writer

The need to recycle is just one symptom of our throw-away society. Other symptoms include dwindling landfill space, and increasing demands upon our natural, nonrenewable resources. In order to turn things around and become more responsible as human beings we need basically three things: 1) Education, 2) Solutions, and perhaps most of all 3) An Attitude. I heartily recommend you go out and "get an attitude" today. It's outlook and attitude more than anything that will get things accomplished in the long run.

The next time you throw away your trash think about where it goes. Did you know that 6.5 million tons of trash and solid waste are thrown away every year in Wisconsin alone? I'm sure none of us want our woods, deserts, or grasslands plowed under in order to create more landfills. Take a look at the packaging on the products you buy. Does all that packaging seem necessary? Is it recyclable? These things should determine what you buy. How about disposable items like razors, cleaning wipes, etc? As consumers we do have some say and we can make a statement by avoiding these types of things. How many of you save your rainwater? Or your household water? Do you know of the many ways to conserve water around the home? This is recycling, too. Recycling can also mean taking your used clothing and toys to a local Goodwill or Salvation Army Center and taking old magazines to places like half-way houses, etc.

Recycling is an attitude of trying to find practical uses for things instead of throwing them out. It's also problem solving because in many small communities, recycling options for cans and newspaper are limited, and nonexistent for plastic and glass. However, many nonprofit agencies take cans and newspaper as a donation. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a list of recyclers in Cochise County. Good luck with your "attitude"!



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RECYCLED FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING

Jackie Dillon-Fast
Staff Writer

- * Experts estimate that 84% of U.S. household waste is recyclable and that 70% is compostable.
- * Experts estimate that the recycling industry can create six times the number of jobs currently filled by landfilling and incinerating.
- * The U.S. Conference of Mayors predicts that over half of the U.S. landfills will close within the next ten years.
- * Did you know that in 1989 the National Academy of Sciences reported that farmers who use little or no chemicals are usually as productive as those who use pesticides and synthetic fertilizers?

AUTOMOTIVE

- * A single quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water. In fact, an estimated 40% of U.S. waterway pollution comes from crankcase oil.
- * Motor oil never breaks down in the environment. Once it is in our water it stays there until it is intentionally removed.
- * The U.S. EPA estimates that do-it-yourself oil changers alone produce 350 million gallons of used motor oil each year.
- * It takes 42 gallons of virgin oil to produce 2.5 quarts of motor oil. It takes 1 gallon of used, reprocessed motor oil to produce that same 2.5 quarts, saving 41 gallons of oil.
- * Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol (a highly poisonous substance) and should be treated as a hazardous waste. The sweet taste of antifreeze makes it especially attractive to small children and pets.
- * Approximately 80 million lead-acid batteries are discarded in the U.S. each year.
- * Each year 240-260 million tires are discarded in the U.S. Currently we recycle 50 million tires yearly, or about 25%.

PAPER

- * We use, on average, 50 million tons of paper each year, or more than 850 million trees.
- * Not all paper is recyclable. Coated or slick paper, the kind used in magazines and advertising flyers and self-adhesive notepaper (the press

& stick variety) gum up paper mill equipment and cause serious processing problems. Even colored paper must be specially treated since dyes or bleaches will have to be added to the mixed paper to produce a white paper stock.

- * We currently recycle 25% of our waste paper in the U.S., saving 200 million trees each year! During the massive nationwide recycling efforts during WW II, we managed to recycle 35% of our waste paper with fewer reprocessing mills than we have now.
- * Recycled paper can be substituted for virgin paper in many products with no loss in quality. However, for recycling to be successful, there must be a steady demand for recycled paper products.
- * If The New York Times used recycled paper in one print run of its Sunday edition, we could save 75,000 trees.

- * The average U.S. office worker throws away 180 pounds of high grade recyclable paper each year.

PLASTICS

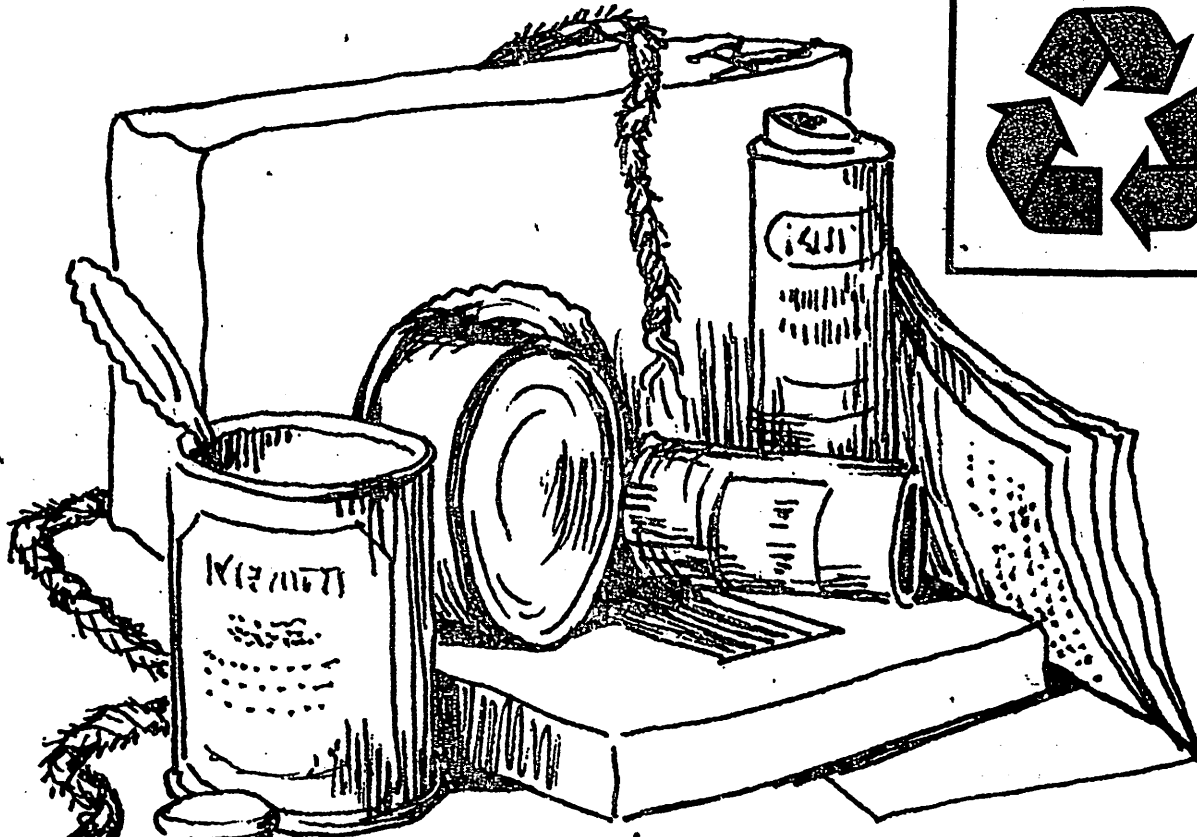
- * Plastics make up 25% (by volume) of household waste, making them the second largest contributor to landfills after paper. Plastic is not bio- or photodegradable.
- * The volume of plastics used in the U.S. each year exceeds the volume of steel used.
- * Recycled plastic is used in bathtubs, car bumpers, storage bins, carports, and moldings.

ORGANIC WASTES

- * Yard and food waste is generally organic and degradable if exposed to sunlight and oxygen. When these wastes end up buried in landfills, they do not decompose. In fact, 30 year old newspapers (organic because they are made from wood) have been uncovered in the bottom of landfills that were still readable - they had not degraded, they had mummified.
- * Yard wastes (grass clippings, twigs, leaves, dead plants) make up 17% of household waste and food waste 8% in the U.S.

HAZARDOUS WASTES

- * Most waste water treatment facilities and septic tanks are not designed to handle hazardous waste.
- * We throw away 2.5 billion household batteries each year in the U.S.



WHAT WE THROW AWAY

(Percentage by total volume of waste found in municipal waste streams.)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Paper | 41.0% |
| Organic wastes (yard & food) | 25.8% |
| Metals | 8.7% |
| Glass | 8.2% |
| Rubber, textiles, wood, leather | 8.1% |
| Plastics | 6.5% |
| Miscellaneous | 1.6% |



RECYCLING WITH KIDS

T.J. Martin
Staff Writer

One of the very best outlets for leftover household articles is your local preschool, kindergarten, or elementary school. These kids are forever in need of a multitude of items, and the teachers can be hard-pressed to come up with enough for everyone (the school budget sure doesn't cover it!). The following is a partial list of exceptionally useful items, but if you have anything to offer, please just call your local school and ask what they can use.

* Just about anything of an "arts & crafts" nature: materials, ribbon, fake fur, thread spools, lace, buttons, yarn, "found-in-nature" items, bright wrapping paper, etc.

* Things to use for "dress-up" and plays: old clothing (adult or kids), hats, glasses (they can remove the lenses), melmac-type dinnerware, pots, pans, bed or bath linens and dishcloths, costume jewelry, and old Halloween costumes.

* Everyday items are used to teach counting, colors, science, social environment, etc. They can use telephones, calculators, magnets, books of all kinds, magazines, catalogs, keys, and other containers.

* Plastic bags are used to send home wet or soiled clothing or to protect art work from the elements. Paper bags become a suit of armor, an Indian dress, paper dolls, or a building in a town. Paper rolls (bath, kitchen, or the large ones used for holiday wrap) are always in demand, as are toys.

So next time you have stuff that you no longer need, don't just put it out in the trash. Call around to see if some kids can use it (with a little imagination) to make it good (or better than) new.

SOURCES OF RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS

The following sources are only some of the companies and organizations selling recycled paper. If you haven't looked at recycled paper in the last five years, you may be pleasantly surprised by the improvements in quality, selection, and availability. Quality will vary with each company, so if you're not satisfied with a recycled paper product, return it to the company and let them know why.

Acorn Designs
5066 Mott Evans Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886
(607) 387-3424

Conservatree
10 Lombard St, Suite 250, San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 433-1000

Earth Care Paper, Inc.
P.O. Box 3335, Madison, WI 53704
(608) 256-5522

(New customers: please mention the Cochise Global ReLeaf Outreach number 630 when placing your first & subsequent orders or when requesting a catalog. Cochise Global ReLeaf will receive 5% of proceeds from your order for use in their county wide tree planting efforts.)

Co-Op America
10 Farrell St, South Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 658-5507

John Rossi Company
259 Washington Rd, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
(914) 941-1752

Seventh Generation
10 Farrell St, South Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 862-2999

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Articles to be published in next month's newsletter must be received at the Sierra Vista office by January 25.

RECYCLING IN YOUR GARDEN

T.J. Martin
Staff Writer

Many items from everyday living that would otherwise be thrown out and end up in a landfill some place can be put to work in our home gardens. Some examples:

Cleaned plastic milk jugs can be reused as scoops, funnels, planters (just cut off the top 1/3, leaving the handle or not as you prefer), or mini-greenhouses (cut out the bottom and place over smaller plants, leave the cap on at night and remove it or the entire jug for the warmer days).

Seedling pots can be made from almost any plastic or plastic-coated cardboard container (milk cartons, yogurt containers, butter tubs, etc.). Just poke a few holes in the bottom for drainage and place in a waterproof tray or on the ground.

Leftover aluminum foil can be washed and smoothed out and used at the base of plants to repel aphids, flea beetles, squash vine borers, and other flying pests (they see the sky reflected in the foil and get confused as to which way is up and usually don't land). It can also be placed on walls to help protect the higher branches. The foil can also increase the amount of sunlight available to your plants. This effect is especially useful if you use the foil to line a seedling box, or make a reflective screen to put around your starting trays. Having light available from all sides helps prevent long, leggy growth and seedling lean. You can also use it to line your cold frame for the same reasons.

Cutworm collars can be made from almost any cylindrical object (bathroom tissue or paper towel rolls or even yogurt containers or small milk cartons) with the tops and bottoms removed. Just cut to 2" - 3" height and place around seedlings, putting at least one inch below the soil.

Large pieces of broken clay pots can be placed upside down in the garden to make inviting homes for pest-hungry toads and lizards.

Large paper bags and cardboard boxes of all sizes can be used to place over plants at night for frost protection. Be sure to remove as soon as the day warms up to let the sunshine in.

Smaller paper bags can be placed over ripening fruit or corn to protect from frost, birds, or other pests. Cardboard boxes can also be used as windbreaks. Just remove the bottom and place top down around the plant. Let the top flaps rest flat on the ground and weight them down with rocks or soil to keep them from blowing away.

Use old wire coat hangers (snip off the hook and bend the rest into a "U" shape) as supports for agricultural fleece, shade cloth, or plastic to make a mini-greenhouse. Large plastic food bags can cover plants up to about a foot tall.

Banana peels can go into the compost pile, or buried around eggplant, peppers, roses, tomatoes, and other crops needing a potash or phosphorus boost.

Potato peelings or leftover salad greens can be used as traps in the garden for slugs, snails, grubs, cutworms, squash bugs, etc. (check under the piles every morning) before ultimately being composted.

Vine squash or melons trained to a trellis may need support for heavy fruit. Use old pantyhose or material strips or butter tubs to make slings to hold them up. Nylon stockings can also be used to store onions and garlic for the winter. Just drop one into the toe, tie a knot, drop another one in, tie another knot, etc. Hang where they will get good air circulation, and simply snip off as needed.

Metal cans (coffee, tuna, etc.) can be used in a variety of ways. Punch holes in the bottoms for seed starting; file the top edges and use cookie-cutter style to make perfect holes in plastic mulch for planting seeds; or use as watering gauges to measure sprinkler output. Be very

careful if using as melon or squash slings, and use only in the shade as the cans can get very hot in the sun and injure the fruit. For the same reason, it is not a good idea to use the large size cans as frost or wind protectors. You could end up with COOKED VEGGIES!

Styrofoam egg cartons make excellent starting trays for small seeds; the cardboard ones absorb too much water unless you line them with something.

Wide-mouth jars can be filled 1/2 way with various solutions such as molasses, and buried to the neck in the garden to trap grasshoppers and other pests. They can also be hung in the trees to catch Codling moths and Japanese beetles. The narrow-necked bottles can be used to ward off rabbits, skunks, and other critters by filling part way with water, and buried at an angle with about four inches of the neck showing. The wind whistling through the opening makes an eerie sound. The 2 or 3 liter soda bottles can be used to make hummingbird feeders, or you can poke holes in them, and bury them next to your plants for a convenient water reservoir. By filling them you get the water right down to the roots and don't splash water on fungi-prone foliage (excellent for melons and squash!).

Recycle the kid's old toys; a small wagon can be used to transport heavy pots or bags of fertilizer, or serve as a seed starting tray. Old pinwheels, plastic snakes, lizards, birds, or frogs can help to scare away pests.

Strips of old material or nylons work great for tying up tomatoes and other climbers, and strips of foil or bright-colored cloth tied to a string around the garden can scare away vegetable-eating critters.

Use old tires as raised-bed planting areas, and recycle the wheel into a garden hose holder (just nail it to the side of the house).

Old tar paper can be used to mulch, or made into collars to deter root maggots.

Cut aluminum pie plates or TV dinner trays to make sturdy, weather-proof row markers. Use a ballpoint pen to permanently emboss the plant name on it. Snip one end to a point for ground insertion, or poke a hole to hang it on a plant. The pie plates can also be filled with beer or a yeast and water solution to make a time-tested snail and slug trap. Large jar lids will work, too.

Utilize old fences or netting to make a trellis for your beans, peas, cukes, tomatoes, and even squash and small melons (see "slings").

And, of course, the ultimate recycling tool for the gardener is the compost pile. You can be as "scientific" as you want, or simply pile the stuff in, and let it set for a year. You can use just about anything that comes available, except meat or dairy products and contaminated articles. Just cut or shred it as small as possible, and mix it up occasionally. If you don't have enough scraps for a true "pile", just bury it in the garden, and by next season nature will have broken it down into life-giving humus.

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COCHISE COUNTY RECYCLERS
JANUARY 1991

The following list is by no means complete. We tried to locate as many recycling sources in Cochise County as possible, but we know we missed some, especially those in the smaller communities. If you know of additional sources, or if you are one yourself, please write and let us know. We will try to keep this list updated and will reissue an amended list in June. Also, a word of caution, the health of recycling sources depends on the health of the market for recyclables. Some of the recyclers listed in our preliminary research are either no longer in business, or no longer accepting certain materials. To be certain, call first. A [\$] indicates recyclers pay for materials. Otherwise, material is considered a donation to the organization. (Compiled by Jackie Dillon-Fast.)

SIERRA VISTA:

SHARC - 120 N. 6th - 458-4611/458-1392

Hours: 9-3, M-F

Recycles aluminum cans, tin cans (please rinse), computer & office paper. No magazines, coated paper, or newsprint. Supports handicapped programs, will sort & crush all items. Will help businesses set up an office recycling program. Currently picks up office paper for recycling in Sierra Vista, Ft. Huachuca, and Huachuca City and will consider large volume pickups for other areas.

Arizona Metal Salvors [\$] - End of Dake Road (behind cemetery) - 458-4076

Hours: 8-5, M-Sun

Recycles aluminum of all kinds, tin (including cans), copper, brass, steel, car batteries. No household batteries. Price paid varies with market.

St. Andrew the Apostle Church - 800 N. Taylor - 458-2925

Hours: any time

Recycles newspaper stacked in brown paper bags, aluminum cans. NO coated paper or magazines. Put newspaper in shed behind church.

Safeway Stores Inc. [\$] - 2190 E. Fry Blvd. - 459-4202

Hours: store hours

Recycles aluminum cans. Price paid varies with market.

Sears Automotive - 2105 E. Fry Blvd. - 458-8850

Hours: store hours

Recycles car batteries. No household batteries. AZ state law requires automotive stores to add \$5 to price of new batteries if the old battery is not turned in at the time of purchase. Recycles their own motor oil, but will not accept used motor oil from do-it-yourselfers because of possible contamination with other automotive fluids.

Richardson's Recycling [\$] - Temporarily outside S.V. Walmart - 459-7088

Hours: 10-5, M-F, 8-5 Sat

Recycles aluminum cans. Price paid varies with market.

Smith's Food & Drug Centers - 85 S. Hwy 92 - 458-0398

Hours: store hours

Recycles plastic bags. In addition, will take 5 cents off food bill for every bag customer provides for carrying purchases home.

Friends of the S.V. Public Library - 2950 E. Tacoma - 458-4225

Hours: library hours

Accepts used books and magazines in good condition for resale. NO newspapers.

Pep Boys (Service Dept) - 1255 E. Fry Blvd. - 458-0020

Hours: store hours

Recycles motor oil. Bring oil in any clean container. DO NOT contaminate with any other fluid.

Oil Can Henry's - 1017 E. Fry Blvd. - 459-5171

Hours: store hours

Recycles motor oil. Bring oil in any clean container. DO NOT contaminate with any other fluid.

FORT HUACHUCA:

Recycling Center - Old Woodcraft Shop, Bldg 30123 - 533-5865

Hours: any time

Recycles aluminum cans (drop point located near public phones on Squier Rd), computer & presorted and boxed office paper, cardboard, scrap metal, tin cans, and newspaper (place in bins).

BISBEE:

Cochise County Association for the Handicapped - 200 Naco Hwy - 432-5771

Hours: 8-4, M-F

Recycles aluminum cans.

Bisbee Salvage [\$] - Old Phelps Dodge Site (on traffic circle) - 432-4771

Hours: 7-2, M-F

Recycles tin cans. Price paid varies with market.

Safeway Stores Inc. [\$] - 101 Naco Hwy - 432-3038

Hours: store hours

Recycles aluminum cans. Price paid varies with market.

WILLCOX:

Safeway Stores Inc. [\$] - 670 N. Bisbee Ave - 384-3952

Hours: store hours

Recycles aluminum cans. Price paid varies with market.

Willcox Middle School - 360 N. Bisbee Ave - 384-4218

Hours: any time

Recycles glass containers, plastic soda bottles, aluminum cans. Rinse and remove labels. Drop off at bins outside of school.

BENSON:

Safeway Stores Inc. [\$] - 499 W. 4th St. - 586-9094

Hours: store hours

Recycles aluminum cans. Price paid varies with market.

DOUGLAS:

Safeway Stores Inc. [\$] - 1415 F Ave - 364-2186

Hours: store hours

Recycles aluminum cans. Price paid varies with market.