

## America Recycle Day

Information taken from <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx>

Recycling...let's get involved! **America Recycles Day (ARD)**, November 15, is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products. Celebrating its 12th year, 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 materials. Through America Recycles Day, the National Recycling Coalition supports local communities and raises awareness by educating citizens about the benefits of recycling. Volunteer America Recycles Day coordinators are positioned throughout the country and work to organize recycling awareness events in their schools and communities, and in conjunction with their local municipalities.

On November 15 each year, millions of people become better informed about the importance of daily recycling and buying recycled products. The purpose of America Recycles Day is to continue to promote the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling and encourage more people to join the movement toward creating a better natural environment.

### Why Recycling Is Important

As stewards of the environment, we are responsible for preserving and protecting our resources for ourselves and for future generations.

### Getting Back to Basics

Recycling is really just common sense, and until the "modern era," it was a common household activity. Before the 1920s, 70% of U.S. cities ran programs to recycle certain materials. During World War II, industry recycled and reused about 25% of the waste stream. Because of concern for the environment, recycling is again on the upswing. The nation's composting and recycling rate rose from 7.7% of the waste stream in 1960 to 17% in 1990. It's currently up to around 33%.

### The Garbage Crisis

The world has changed a lot in the past century. From individually packaged food servings to disposable diapers, more garbage is generated now than ever before. The average American discards 4.6 pounds of garbage every day. This garbage, the solid waste stream, goes mostly to landfills, where it's compacted and buried. As the waste stream continues to grow, so will pressure on our landfills, our resources and our environment.

### Recycling—An Important Part of the Solution

Recycling is one of the easiest ways you can help slow climate change and global warming. By recycling at home, you help significantly lower carbon emissions associated with extracting virgin materials, manufacturing products and waste disposal.

Last year the amount of energy saved from recycling aluminum and steel cans, plastic



PET and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging was equivalent to:

- The amount of electricity consumed by 17.8 million Americans in one year.
- 29% of nuclear electricity generation in the U.S. in one year.
- 7.9% of electricity generation from fossil fuels in the U.S. in one year.
- 11% of the energy produced by coal-fired power plants in the U.S.
- The energy supplied from 2.7% of imported barrels of crude oil into the U.S.
- The amount of gasoline used in almost 11 million passenger automobiles in one year.

### Do's & Don'ts of Recycling

Every community has its own guidelines for what should and should not be recycled, and how the process should take place. Take a few moments to find out these details. Call your local public works department or recycling organization. That way you can be sure you're doing your part, and doing it right.

In general, here are a few things to keep in mind:



### Cleanliness counts

Rinsing cans and keeping boxes out of the weather makes them easier to process. That keeps costs down.

### If supplied with a bin, pay attention to what goes in

Take it upon yourself to be an accurate recycler. A cereal box is probably great, but a greasy pizza box may not be. Maybe milk jugs are good, but not the caps. Check the lid of your recycling bin for guidelines, or make a call or visit your municipal Web site to find out the rules. Then, follow them.

### Good bets

Steel cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, plastic beverage bottles, milk jugs, glass bottles and jars, cereal boxes, other clean and dry cardboard boxes.

### Probably not

Plastic grocery bags, styrofoam, lightbulbs, food-soiled paper, wax paper, ceramics.

### DO Recycle Electronics

Recycle your old computers and cell phones. Bring them to the Fayette County SWCD Office. We are having an eRecycling drive.

### Hazardous wastes have their place

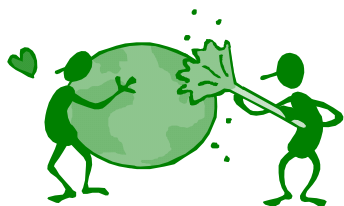
Household hazardous wastes like paint cans, motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries, pesticides, pool chemicals, etc., usually need to be disposed of separately. Again, check your community resources and guidelines.

**FACT:** Twenty years ago, almost 1,000 curbside recycling programs existed in the United States. Today there are more than 10,000 across the nation.



# Nuts About Nature

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## WORD FIND

On the front page of this newsletter there are twenty, green bold words. Search for those words in our Conservation Word Find at the right.

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I	L	F	A	I	A	T	T	B	R	U	M	T	R	B
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