



Conservation Tip Sheet

Accounts of overflowing and expensive landfills, images of clear cut forests, or the increasing cost of many raw materials are just a few of the indications that our current waste system needs to change. Just about every bit of what we consider garbage and what we dump in landfills could actually be reprocessed and turned into new material goods. This Conservation Tip sheet will guide you through the basic steps you can take to divert at least a little of your waste stream back into a useable form.

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE is a mantra well worth adhering to. This tip sheet focuses specifically on Recycling, but keep in mind the first steps, Reduce and Reuse when you shop and before you considering throwing something away or recycling it. You may find things to do on an individual level as well as in collaboration with your Neighborhood Conservation Club partners to take steps to both Reduce and Reuse.

Recycling saves energy and resources and provides good jobs while keeping useful materials out of the landfills. A July 2004 report from Montana Department of Environmental Quality concluded that, "Recycling activity in Montana is a model point for the interplay between private sector activity and social concern—between economic incentive and environmental responsibility." The report also showed that in 2003 recycling in Montana included more than 300 full-time jobs, and nearly \$90 million in revenue. Recycling requires quality control and advocacy brought forth by dedicated citizens that ensures strong and sustainable programs. Show your support for you local recycling programs by following their guidelines, volunteering, and working with your fellow NCCers to participate.

Recycling in Montana simply makes good sense. Here's how you can get started!

Upcoming Recycling Events

Plastics Drive

September 5th-9th 8:00a-7:00p
1100 N. Last Gulch
Recycle Type 1 & 2 plastics!

Erase your E-Waste

September 12th 3:00p-7:00p
September 13th 8:00a-1:00p
K-Mart Parking Lot at 1700 Cedar
Recycle your old electronics!

Trash for Trees

September 27th 9:00a-4:00p
Northgate Plaza - Montana Ave
Raise Money for Planting Trees &
Support Expanded Recycling

Latex Paint - The Helena Transfer Station will be accepting usable latex paint Sept. 19-26. Paint will be available for reuse on Saturday, Sept. 27. Call the Transfer Station at 447-8084 or 447-8086 for a full description.

Volunteers are needed!

Please contact S.A.V.E. at 449.6008 or savemobile.org

For more energy-saving tips, visit the NCC website at www.savemobile.org

Helena Recycling Guide

MATERIAL	WHERE	NOTES
Aluminum	All	Empty Cans Clean Foil at P
Office Paper	P	Staples/Windowed Envelopes ok. Low volumes with newspaper
Newspaper, Catalogs Magazines	All	Windowed Envelopes, Colored Paper ok
Corrugated Cardboard	All	Brown Bags ok, Flatten Boxes, No Lightweight
Glass	T	Labels ok, No lids
Steel Tin Cans	All	Please Empty/Clean Metal Lids Here
Plastics	S.A.V.E	Plastics Drive
Yard Waste	T	Composted.

T = Helena Transfer Station 447-1585
1975 N. Benton (North of Carroll)

P = Pacific Steel & Recycling 442-7851
1530 National Ave. (behind UHaul)

Drop-off sites: K-Mart - 1700 Cedar St.
Safeway - 611 Montana Ave.
Wal-Mart - 2750 Prospect Ave.

In 2002, Montana recycled 128,216 tons of materials; equivalent to taking 136,523 cars off the road per year.*

*The Economic and Ecological Impacts of Recycling, July 2004.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION CLUB RECYCLING IDEAS

GETTING STARTED

Neighborhood Conservation Clubs offer a great opportunity to pool resources and ideas to make recycling simple, cheaper and more energy efficient. Here are a few suggestions to make recycling easier.

START A NEIGHBORHOOD PICK-UP

Save trips to the recycling drop-off location by planning a neighborhood recycling carpool. All you'll need is someone's truck or van and a couple of strong backs. Make the neighborhood pick-up a regular monthly occasion.

QUALITY CONTROL

A little care goes a long way towards making recycling more energy efficient and economically viable.

- Rinse out all containers
- Learn plastic types (e.g. #1, #2, etc) and note which types can be recycled
- Flatten cardboard
- Remove lids from plastic containers
- ALWAYS FOLLOW RULES POSTED AT COLLECTION SITES

HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION CENTER

Recycling can be made a lot easier by setting up a simple system for sorting and storing recyclables in your home. Determine your bin size based how many materials you recycle and how often you want to visit a collection center. Here are a few suggestions for how to set up a household collection system:

- Re-use five gallon buckets from a grocery store or deli—one bucket for each material.
- Build a Lazy-Susan into a vacant closet or kitchen cupboard.
- Buy a couple of extra trash bins or plastic containers for the garage.

RECYCLING CFLS

In terms of cost and energy usage, Compact Florescent Light bulbs (CFLs) offer real benefits compared to incandescent lights. Over the life of the bulb, one of these curly little things can save a user more than \$30 due to decreased energy consumption and its longer life. CFLs do

contain trace amounts of mercury, and while this poses no threat during regular usage it does demand that a CFL be properly disposed of so the mercury doesn't get into the air or water.

From May through December 2008, Ace Hardware is providing a drop-off site for CFLs, florescent tubes shorter than four feet long, and thermostats containing mercury. In Helena, **Ace Rockhand Hardware is located at 2414 N. Montana Ave.**

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GLASS?

Because of its weight glass is relatively expensive to ship out of state. Local entrepreneurs are finding markets for recycled glass right here in Montana. One relatively new option for glass recycling is "glass cullet" which is created when glass is pulverized into small non-cutting pieces. The uses for cullet include: landscaping, parking lots, septic system drainage, and flooring. Examples in Helena include paths at the Exploration Garden by the YMCA and the entrance ramp of the City-County Building. You can buy glass cullet at **Helena Sand and Gravel, 2940 Canyon Ferry Road.**

CURBSIDE RECYCLING IN HELENA

The City of Helena offers a limited curbside recycling system with its **Blue Bag Program**. To participate pick up a packet of Blue Bags at either the **Independent Record (317 Cruse Ave.)** or at the **Transfer Station (1975 N. Benton)**. You may recycle aluminum, steel cans, newspapers and magazines with the Blue Bag Program. A calendar of pick up dates and instructions are included with the Blue Bags. Call 447-8084 or see savemobile.org for more details.

LEARN MORE HERE:

These websites have Montana-specific information about recycling.

<http://www.deq.mt.gov/Recycle/>

<http://www.savemobile.org>

<http://www.recyclemontana.org>

For more energy-saving tips, visit the NCC website at www.savemobile.org