

Earth Day, Every Day

Resources to Help with the Three R's Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Did you know that the trash we put out is only the tip of the iceberg? For every pound of waste our families generates, 71 more pounds were created upstream in the manufacturing of that product!

Tips for reducing waste at home:

Shop Smart. Buy in bulk, switch to concentrated, choose brands with less packaging.

Reduce unwanted mail. Visit www.dmachoice.org to opt out of national junk mail.

Use reusable shopping bags.

Grass cycle. Leaving clippings on your lawn add nutrients to your grass! Compost yard waste

Drink from reusable mugs and water bottles.

Repair furniture, or give to MEAC or another charity, or list at freecycle.org or craigslist.org.

Start canning. Buy produce in season and save money – and packaging!

Try reusable diapers – cloth diapers have come a long way! Check out our green general store, Park and Vine.



Take Care...Household Hazardous Waste!

Many of the items we use in the care of our homes, gardens, and autos can be hazardous to our health and the environment if disposed of improperly. Check a product for key words like caution, warning, dangerous, and poison to determine if it is hazardous. Many area businesses accept hazardous materials year round. For lists, go to www.hcdoes.org and on the left side menu click Household Hazardous Waste. Outside Hamilton County, we can visit online or call our county for information on safe disposal. For those of us in Hamilton County, there is a new location for dropping off hazardous waste:

Clean Harbors

4879 Spring Grove Avenue

April 10 – October 16

Tuesdays 2:00pm–6:00pm; Saturdays 9:00am–1:00pm

(closed holidays May 29, July 3, September 4)

This site accepts oil, *non-latex paint, pesticides, fertilizers, solvents, thinners, lawn/pool chemicals, cleaners, household/auto batteries, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, mercury, florescent bulbs, driveway sealer, gasoline/motor oil, antifreeze, thermostats.

*Latex paint is not hazardous and can be safely thrown away once it is solid. Simply leave the lid off and mix in sand, sawdust or kitty litter to speed the process. Once solid, place the can next to the trash with the lid off so that the waste hauler can see that it is dry. Important: pack like items in boxes; remain in your car; bring proof of Hamilton County residency.

Computers, Electronics and TVs

Computers and electronics are the fastest growing waste streams. More than 100 million computers, monitors and televisions become obsolete each year in the U.S., according to the GAO. Computers contain valuable resources such as copper, aluminum and gold. However, they are often shipped to processors in developing countries for recycling, where primitive techniques emitting toxic fumes are used to extract metals. To ensure safe recycling, companies should be certified by **BAN as "e-Stewards"**. E-Stewardship accreditation means that parts are not sent to the landfill or exported to third world countries for dumping. Among some recycling companies listed on the Hamilton County Dept. of Environmental Services (HCDOES) website:

2trg in Blue Ash, 761-5333, e-Stewards certified; .25/lb electronics; .30/lb tv (some brands no charge). Call first.

Best Buy, electronics no charge (\$10 fee for tv/monitor with \$10 gift card in exchange); mostly e-Stewards certified

Cincinnati Computer Cooperative, 771-3262; Pentium III & IV computers are refurbished & given to

schools/nonprofits

Take-back programs – some companies take back their brand or recycle your old computer when you buy from them.

Grass Cuttings, Leaves, Branches and Twigs

*Return to the earth what Mother Nature doeth provide
And your land with all its plantings thereupon will thrive.*

Grass Clippings left on the lawn are a natural fertilizer! They decompose quickly, feeding nitrogen to the soil.

Composting is a great way to recycle all types of yard waste and provide free nutrient-rich material! Throw leaves, clippings, and raw kitchen waste onto a pile and watch it decompose to a dark rich humus, which can then be used as mulch. Benefits of mulching with compost: reduces moisture loss; controls weeds; maintains soil temperatures; reduces soil erosion on slopes; beautifies planting areas.

Bin Sale. While compost piles work just fine, some composters may prefer bins. For Hamilton County residents, a terrific sale on a bin – a \$100 value bin for \$35 -- is being held Saturday, May 8, 9:00am -2:00pm at two locations:

Cinti State Technical & Community College, 3520 Central Parkway (off Ludlow, lot C);

Princeton High School, 11080 (park across from school).

Quantities are limited. First come, first served. The event features demonstrations of different composting methods and experts available to answer questions.

Yard Wastes Drop Off Sites free to Hamilton County Residents Only. For surrounding counties and states, check services.

Mar. 27–Nov. 21, 2010. Sat. & Sun. 11:30am–5:00pm. Closed April 4 & July 4. Jan. 8 & 15, 2011, 12pm–3pm.

East: Bzak Landscaping, 2395 Turpin Lane (off Rt. 32), Anderson Township.

Mon.–Fri. 7:30 –5:00 p.m. in addition to hours listed above. Closed May 31 & Sept. 6.

West: Kugila Park, 6717 Bridgetown Road, Green Township

North: Rumpke Landfill, Strueble Road and Colerain Avenue, Colerain Township

Good News Cincinnati Residents -- The City resumes Yard Waste Pick Up!

Curb Side Collection. City Crews will again collect yard waste for composting, separate from regular garbage.

All types of yard wastes accepted: branches, leaves, clippings and brush. Same pick up day as regular.

Place in biodegradable brown paper yard waste bags or cans clearly marked "Yard Waste" or 90 gallon totes – no plastic. Branches and brush should be tied with cloth ropes into bundles no larger than 4' x 2'. Limbs no larger than 6" diameter.

Did You Know? Each Hamilton County resident creates 690 pounds of waste a year – and that's just at home!

For more ideas on caring for the earth, visit these websites:

www.catholicsandclimatechange.org

Catholic Response to Climate Change

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

Catholic Climate Covenant

www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/ejp

USCCB's Environmental Justice Program

www.catholicsandclimatechange.org

National Catholic Rural Life Conference

www.nccecojustice.org

National Council of Churches eco-justice site

www.hcdoes.org

Hamilton County Dept. of Environmental Services



Listen! In the earth, the seeds are stirring and making noise,
like the birds whose song has been silenced by winter.
Now the snow is being devoured by sun, our elder,
and in the branches, the persistence of our prayers
is bringing the birds to life.

Nancy Wood, Shaman's circle