



Over & Over Again...

A newsletter about **RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION** for residents of Davis & Wapello Counties

Volume 1, Issue 12

REUSE

Solid Waste Staff Does Recycling Participation Rate Survey

SWAP CONTRACT #:
00-G550-13

OttumwaWapello County Recycling and Landfill Staff have been hiking through local neighborhoods every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning during the months of April and May checking recycling bins. The purpose of our trek through your neighborhood is to see what the recycling participation rate is. There is still a large amount of recyclable material going to the Landfill that we would like to have coming to the Recycling Center. We are checking a total of 12 areas, two per day, four weeks at a time. Many people recycle but do not need to put their bin out every week, in fact some people only need to put their bin out once a month. We are also looking at the contents of the recycling bins to determine what information we need to get

out to citizens to make recycling more cost effective and less frustrating for everyone. One of the myths about recycling is that it is dirty, when in fact it is usually cleaner than just throwing things in the trash. If cans, glass bottles, jars, and plastic jugs are rinsed clean and your bin kept clean, there should be no smell and it will be cleaner than if items were just thrown away. Another myth about recycling is that it takes a lot of work. Recycling only takes a few minutes per week and provides benefits of savings in natural resources, cleaner air, water conservation and saves landfill space. Here are some simple guidelines for preparing your bin: Office paper must be bagged and handle tie grocery sacks are best. Cardboard and paperboard are best flattened. Newspapers, magazines, catalogs and phone directories can be bagged together.

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TIRED OF DEALING WITH YOUR OLD TIRES?

Wapello, Davis and Van Buren counties recently applied for a third Waste Tire Management County Grant Program. If the grant is awarded, money from the grant would be used to help area residents properly dispose of tires. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources says that this program will end in the year 2000. With that in mind, it is important to keep old tires cleaned up. Get in the habit of leaving them with your tire dealer, even if there is a fee.



Watch for more information on the next Tire Amnesty Day in the next Over & Over Again!

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Recycling Participation Rate Survey Continued

Glass bottles and jars, plastic jugs and steel cans do not need the labels removed, but they do need to be rinsed clean. It may help to flatten plastic jugs to allow for more room in your bin. Following is a list of some of the items we are finding in bins that are not recyclable in the Curbside Collection Programs:

Lids left on containers

Flower pots

Cooking oil containers

Garden hoses

Paper towels & plates

Ketchup Bottles (wrong plastic)

Toys

Paperboard cans (pringles)

Fast food containers

Aluminum foil & pie tins

Pudding cups

Wire

Food Contaminated Cont.

Motor oil containers

Styrofoam

Clothing

rugs

Wood

Cigarette Packs

Butter tubs

Plastic wrap

Laundry baskets

There are many more. If you are unsure of an item please call, we will be happy to answer your questions.



Need to contact the
Ottumwa/Wapello
Recycling Center?

Phone: 683-0685

Fax: 683-0691

Email:

recyclingcenter@ci.ottumwa.ia.us

RECYCLING REMINDERS!

The Recycling Center asks that you do not put hangers in your recycling bin. They get caught in machinery and cause damage. If you wish to recycle metal hangers you may bring them to the Recycling Center, we have a container here to put them in.

Steel and Aerosol cans are recyclable at the curb. It is not necessary to remove the labels. Please rinse clean and make sure the contents of aerosols is used completely. Aluminum foil and pie tins should be placed in regular trash.

Please do not place broken glass in your recycling bin. This is hazardous for collection and sorting crews.

Place broken glass in a box or other container next to your regular trash container.

What Are Household Hazardous Materials?

Many everyday items found in the home or garage are considered hazardous to the environment. Products that are corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive are considered hazardous by the federal EPA. Improper use, storage and/or handling of these materials can result in dangerous health effects, chemical reactions, poisonings, pollution and contamination of soil and water. When selecting products that are less toxic consumers should avoid products with words like *toxic*, *poisonous* and *danger*.

If you have hazardous materials you have been wondering what to do with, watch your newspaper for the next Toxic Clean-Up Day. Toxic Clean-Up Days are by appointment only, for household waste and you would need an inventory of your materials at the time you make your appointment. Call the Recycling Center to request a *Household Hazardous Alternatives Handbook*.



Making a Difference for the Future

The Ottumwa Housing Authority started recycling in earnest in 1998. They have purchased trailers to store and haul their recyclables to the Recycling Center from the high rise apartment buildings. "Things are going fine" says Pete Rich, Director of Operations for the Housing Authority. In November of 1999 they also started a pilot recycling program at 28 of the 60 family sights. There are two locations where they can recycle and the Housing Authority works diligently to train everyone as they are moving in. They are also closing the loop, their new Administrative Office located at 935 W. Main has 250 square yards of 100% recycled carpet and will sport a new sign made from recycled plastic. Hats off to the Ottumwa Housing Authority for making the grade!

What Difference does YOUR CAN make?

Steel cans, including food, paint and aerosol cans, were recycled at a rate of 55.9% in 1995.

The industry remelted more than 17.8 billion steel cans into new products. That's about 566 cans recycled every second.

Besides saving landfill space, recycling steel cans also saves valuable energy and natural resources.

Each year, steel recycling saves the energy equivalent to electrically power about one-fifth of the households in the United States (of about 18 million homes) for one year.

Every ton of steel recycled saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.

This information provided by the Steel Recycling Institute



KIDS CORNER!

Recycle Your Old Homework Into New Paper

Here's What You'll Need

A Grown-ups Help
Old Homework
Water
Blender
Two Inexpensive, wood
Picture frames-without
the glass

Molding

Place the mold-screen side up with the top frame on it, in a large dishpan. Fill the pan with water. Add the pulp. Hold the top frame onto the mold and gently shake to distribute the pulp evenly. In a few minutes the pulp will settle on top of the surface.

Drying

Lift the mold and top frame straight up out of the dishpan, letting the excess water drip off. You should have a thin layer of pulp on the screen without any holes. If not, try molding again remove the top frame. Dry on a flat surface for at least 6 hours.

Preparing

Create a mold by nailing or stapling a piece of window screen to fit one frame. The second frame (without a screen) will be used on top to help shape the sheet of paper.

Pulping

After removing staples and paper clips, rip up some old homework into 1" pieces. Soak paper in hot water in a large container for 30 minutes. Fill blender with equal amounts of warm water and soaked paper. Blend the paper until it is mushy. To color or jazz up your paper, add a drop or two of food coloring or glitter to the mixture when pulping.

Separating

With a butter knife, run blade around edge of the paper. Then run the blade in between the paper and screen. Peel paper from the screen.

Tire Amnesty
Day: That's a lot
of old tires!

Tire Amnesty Day brought in a lot of old tires!

Residents of Wapello, Davis and Van Buren Counties got rid of nearly 7,000 tires on April 15th. At the time this was written, the program had recovered a little over 83 tons for recycling. This is the second year that the Ottumwa/Wapello Recycling Center, Davis and Van Buren Co. held this special event in an effort to help people get rid of old tires in a way that is safe for them and the environment.

Don't Just Leave Em Lying Around!

Old tires are not just unsightly, they are a health hazard! Old tires make a perfect breeding ground for disease carrying insects and rodents and if the tires start a fire, the smoke can be toxic and the water run-off used to fight the fire can contaminate groundwater supplies.

Remember:

Buy the right tires for your vehicle.

Keep tires properly inflated, balanced, rotated, aligned and avoid sudden starts & stops and avoid excessive speeds.

**Ottumwa/Wapello
Recycling Center**

Hours:

M-F 7AM - 4PM

Saturday 7AM-Noon

Closed Sundays

Solid Waste Commission

Dale Uehling, Chairperson
Ted Buttel
Curtis Chrystal
Frank Fisher
Frank Flanders
Rhea Huddleston
Jerry Parker
Darlene Peta
Steve Siegel

Ottumwa/Wapello Recycling Center

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Jody Gates, Solid Waste
Coordinator

This newsletter is funded, in part, by a
grant from the Iowa Department of
Natural Resources

List of Current Publications available from the Recycling Center

- City of Ottumwa Trash & Recycling Handbook
- Backyard Composting
- Household Hazardous Alternatives Handbook
- Proper Paint Disposal
- Ni-Cd Battery Collection Program
- Getting the Point of Sharps Disposal
- Got Tires? Get Help...
- Don't Paint Yourself into a Corner
- Drop-off Materials Accepted
- Guide to Sensible Business Recycling

**Also available: Recycling and trash disposal information in Spanish*

To order any of these,
call 683-0685

Questions & Answers

You say you want me to take off my lids. Then what am I suppose to do with them? The Recycling Center would appreciate it if you would throw them in the trash. In general, lids are not recyclable with the items that we are collecting.

Why don't apartments have to recycle? Apartments with four or fewer units do participate in the current program. Apartments with more than four units are considered commercial and the owner is responsible for providing the trash collection of that building. They are encouraged to recycle and the tenants are welcome to use the drop-off at the Ottumwa/Wapello Recycling Center.

HIGHLIGHT ON AGENCY

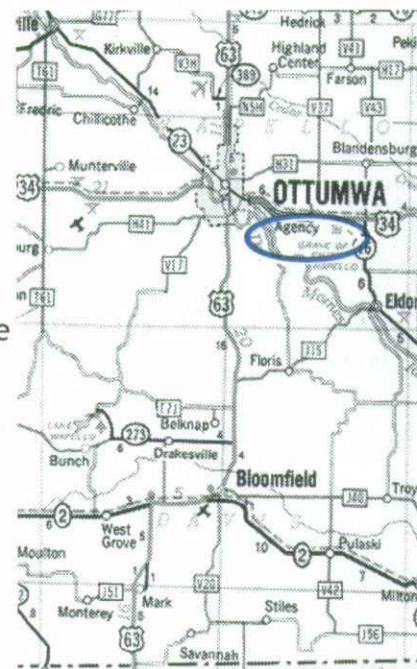
The City of Agency trash is collected by Waste Management. Collections are done on Thursday. Citizens also have curbside recycling, yard waste and bulk item pickup on the same day.

Trash is limited to one 32 gallon container or bag. Bag tags for each additional 32 gallon bag or container of trash may be purchased at City Hall for \$1.00 ea. Yard Waste sacks are also available at City Hall for .50 each.

Bulky items such as furniture, bathroom fixtures, appliances and scrap metal may be placed at the curb along with your trash for collection.

Any information that needs to be passed along such as holiday schedules will be posted on the window of City Hall.

There is a pamphlet available, to request one or if you have any questions, call 937-5215.



COLLECTIONS ARE ON THURSDAY
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
AGENCY CITY HALL AT 937-
5215.

Watch Ottumwa's Government Access Channel, Cable **CHANNEL 6**, for new information about our recycling and trash collection programs!

GOTV!
Government Ottumwa TeleVision