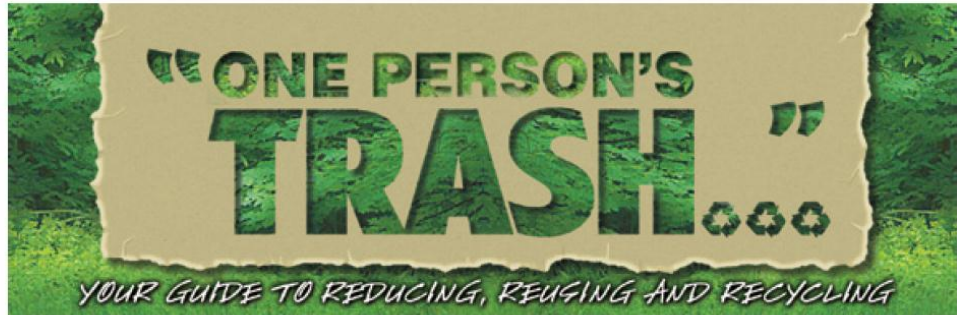


A Quarterly Newsletter of



Buncombe County Solid Waste Department
828-250-5460
www.buncombecounty.org/green
Winter 2012



From fryer to fuel

If you have a turkey fryer, you've probably used it in the last month or so. Besides good memories, you're now left with used cooking oil. We have great news! You can recycle your used cooking oil in the bin at the Buncombe County Landfill.

Buncombe County Solid Waste is taking part in a Cooking Oil Recycling Program that is a pilot project funded by the Biofuels Center of North Carolina and is the only program of its kind in the country. The Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County, in collaboration with Blue Ridge Biofuels and Green Opportunities, is working to keep used cooking oils and greases out of the sewers and landfill and to divert them into biodiesel production to be sold back to the community as clean, renewable fuel.

To recycle your used cooking oil, follow these simple instructions:

1. Let the oil or grease cool to a safe handling temperature.
2. Pour the oil into a jar or bottle with a lid.
3. Take the oil to the nearest oil recycling bin—either the Buncombe County Landfill or the River District Recycling Center at 1 Roberts Street in Asheville.
4. Carefully pour the oil into the recycling bin.
5. Recycle the oil container or reuse it the next time you fry.



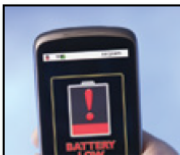
For more information about the Cooking Oil Recycling Program, visit www.cookingoilrecycling.org.

Biodiesel is a clean-burning, locally produced alternative to petroleum-based diesel fuel. Biodiesel can be used in all diesel vehicles and as home heating oil. Blue Ridge Biofuels operates a manufacturing plant in the River District of Asheville, and the used oil recycling bins like the one pictured are made by T-Fab in Asheville. This is truly a local recycling opportunity!

To learn more about Blue Ridge Biofuels, visit www.blueridgebiofuels.com or call 828-253-1034.

Powered by batteries

Americans purchase nearly 3 billion batteries every year for toys, remote controls, cell phones, laptop computers, and tools. That's about 10 batteries for every person in the United States. Look around. Have you



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According to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, rechargeable batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times and last from two to five years. To ensure a long life, follow recharging instructions carefully.

Even rechargeable batteries eventually wear out. When rechargeables will no longer accept or hold a charge, they are "spent" (although you might just refer to them as "dead"). Spent rechargeables are recyclable! This includes Ni-Cd, NiMH

Tree-cycle!

After the holidays, we accept real, fresh-cut Christmas trees at no charge from residents who are bringing trees from their homes. Please remove all of the decorations, ornament hooks, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand. Christmas trees are only accepted at the Buncombe County Landfill. These trees will be chipped and turned into mulch, so make sure that your tree is totally bare. The Buncombe County Landfill is open Monday through Saturday. For hours and other information, turn to the back page.

Commercial haulers and businesses will be charged the standard yard waste fee for



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Christmas trees. This fee is \$20 per ton of yard waste.

Paperless? Not anytime soon!

A couple of decades ago, Americans were assured that computers would usher in a paperless society. Although computers and other electronic devices have certainly replaced some paper, our use of paper has continued to grow, with over 81.2 million tons of paper and cardboard generated in



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2010. The good news is that our paper recycling rate hit an all-time high in the United States, increasing to 63.5% of all

paperless isn't possible yet, you can take steps to reduce the amount of paper that you use. Here are a few simple ideas:

- Don't print email messages or web pages. Instead, read them on screen. If you'll need them again, put the emails into a folder and bookmark the websites.
- Make double-sided copies whenever possible.
- Pay your bills online instead of using paper checks and envelopes. Consider having your bills emailed to you, saving on that end, too.
- Use the back side of junk mail as note paper.
- Choose recycled-content paper. Don't just assume that all printer and copier paper is recycled content, because it isn't. Look for "post-consumer recycled-content paper." When you purchase it, you help create markets for recyclable paper.

You can recycle a wide range of paper products, including office and school papers, newspaper and inserts, corrugated cardboard, boxboard, junk mail, magazines