

RECYCLING IN NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP

WHAT IS RECYCLED?

Ordinance No. 2006-11-2 enacted a revised recycling ordinance to implement DEP Municipal Waste Planning Act 101. This ordinance outlines the various materials required to be recycled in New Britain Township

Residential

Recyclable materials shall be placed at the curb separated from solid waste. Materials include aluminum cans, glass containers (clear and colored), bimetal containers, plastic containers, leaf waste, newspapers, magazines, high-grade office paper and corrugated paper.

Leaf Waste

Leaf Waste shall be separated from other municipal waste generated at their homes, apartments and other residential establishments until collection, unless those persons have otherwise provided for the composting of leaf waste. A schedule for curbside leaf waste pickup and leaf waste drop off will be distributed yearly.

Commercial, Municipal and Industrial Establishments & Community Activities

Collection receptacles shall be placed in all buildings, in areas where food is served or consumed. Recyclable materials shall be stored in accordance with state Fire code regulations and all Federal, State or local health laws. Recyclable materials shall be collected at least once a month. Recyclable materials include aluminum cans, glass containers (clear and colored), bimetal containers, plastic containers, leaf waste, newspapers, magazines, high grade office paper and corrugated paper.

RECYCLING FACTS

Paper

*Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough energy to power the average American home for five months. ([EPA, 2008](#))

*Producing recycled paper requires about 60 percent of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp. ([EPA, 2008](#))

*Each of us uses approximately one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products per year. ([EPA, 2008](#))

*Approximately 1.5 million tons of construction products are made each year from paper, including insulation, gypsum wallboard, roofing paper, flooring, padding and sound-absorbing materials. ([American Forest and Paper Association, 2002](#))

*Recycled paper can also be made into paper towels, notebook paper, envelopes, copy paper and other paper products, as well as boxes, hydro-mulch, molded packaging, compost, and even kitty litter. ([EPA, 2008](#))

*If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A supermarket could use all of them in under an hour! This means in one year, one supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags! Imagine how many supermarkets there are in the U.S.!!!

Glass

*Americans throw away enough glass bottles and jars every two weeks to fill the 1.350-foot towers of the former World Trade Center.

*Most bottles and jars contain at least 25% recycled glass.

*Glass never wears out -- it can be recycled forever. We save over a ton of resources for every ton of glass recycled -- 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar.

*A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in the landfill.

Plastic

*Every year we make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap Texas.

*It takes over 1.5 million barrels of oil to manufacture a year's supply of bottled water. That's enough oil to fuel 100,000 cars.

*Plastic bottles take 700 years before they *begin* to decompose in a landfill.

*Each year American's throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam cups, enough every year to circle the earth 436 times.

Metals

*Recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy needed to produce new aluminum from raw materials. Energy saved from recycling one ton of aluminum is equal to the amount of electricity the average home uses over 10 years. ([Keep America Beautiful, 2006](#))

*There is no limit to the amount of times aluminum can be recycled.

*A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling 1 pound of steel. In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes!

*Americans throw away enough aluminum every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.

*Americans throw out enough iron and steel to supply all the nation's automakers on a continuous basis.

*More than 50% of a new aluminum can is made from recycled aluminum.

*Every day Americans use enough steel and tin cans to make a steel pipe running from Los Angeles to New York... and back. If we only recycle one-tenth of the cans we now throw away, we'd save about 3.2 billion of them every year.

*More than 20,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using 133 square miles of aluminum foil. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.

Other

*If only 100,000 people stopped their junk, mail, we could save up to 150,000 trees annually. If a million people did this, we could save up to a million and a half trees.

* In a lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times his/her adult weight in garbage. If you add it up, this means that a 150-lb. adult will leave a legacy of 90,000 lbs of trash for his/her children.

*A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.

*Almost four million computer diskettes are thrown away every day, which equals over one and a half billion disks per year or a stack of disks as tall as the Sears Tower in Chicago every 21 seconds. It will take nearly 500 years for the disks to degrade.

*Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.

COMPOSTING

Composting utilizes garden waste to create healthy fertilized soil that can be added back to the garden to provide additional nutrition. Once a plant is past its useful life or the gardening season ends, we discard them. By adding them to a compost pile, we're recapturing some of the nutrients that the plant has absorbed.

Composting occurs when plant waste begins to break down from its plant form into its smaller components like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, the same nutrients we get in a fertilizer bag. It also breaks down what's known as trace elements, which are small chemicals essential to healthy plant growth. Once a compost pile has completely broken down all of the garden waste you've added, you're left with what looks like black dirt.

Your Compost Pile's Ingredients

Compost needs four main ingredients to work; green waste, brown-dry waste, water and microorganisms. The ratio needed is 2 to 3 parts green waste, such as lawn clippings, over-ripe fruit or veggies, green leaves or peelings to 1 part dry waste like dried leaves. Once you've started layering in the waste, add water to the compost and mix everything together. This will get the process started. It takes beneficial microorganisms to cause the breakdown of all you've added. These are naturally occurring in green garden clippings, so most of the time you don't have to add them. If your compost doesn't seem to be breaking down your garden waste as well as it should be, buy a compost starter at your local garden center. Compost starter is made up of enzymes and microorganisms that will make your compost pile start working again. Depending on the amount you need, buying compost starter at your garden center or home improvement store will cost between \$5 and \$20.

Another way to jump start a compost pile is to add a very small amount of fertilizer. The nitrogen found in fertilizer and green waste is what helps the compost get started. You can begin by adding a few tablespoons of fertilizer and working it in with a pitchfork to get it to the center of the pile. Wait a few days and see if the temperature in the pile is rising, if not add another tablespoon of fertilizer and repeat the process until the temperature rises again. Remember to wear gloves and a mask when working with fertilizer.

Compost needs heat to work. A compost pile can get higher than 150 degrees Fahrenheit. Microorganisms that release heat as they break down waste create the high temperatures. You have to keep turning the pile to make sure all parts of the compost get hot enough to decompose. Once the pile cools off, the compost process is finished and you can add it to your garden.

The best way to compost is to spread it around plants that are already growing or you can work compost into the ground before you plant. Organic gardens use compost instead of chemically created fertilizers to get more vegetables from their plants. To create this type

of organic environment a lot of compost is needed. That's why compost is often sold by the bag or by the truckload. If you want to grow organic vegetables, a compost pile will be one of the most important tools in your garden.

www.bucks.extension.edu

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