



Closing the Loop

News and views to keep you connected...

April/May 2011

Wrapped up in film...



Plastic grocery bags have been getting a lot of press lately; and not for nothing. They can become part of the litter problem, can end up wrapping themselves around already dwindling marine fauna, and are made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource.



However, grocery bags are only a small part of the total amount of recyclable film plastics. As a matter of fact, they comprise only about 8% of the over 12 billion pounds produced in the US last year.



You can drop all of these items off at our recycling center in the plastic bag bin or at any of the plastic bag recycling bins in grocery stores; PLEASE continue to keep them out of your curbside bin.



- newspaper bags
- dry cleaning bags
- bread bags
- produce bags
- toilet paper, napkin, and paper towel wraps
- furniture wrap
- electronic wrap
- plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed)
- plastic food storage bags (clean and dry – e.g. Ziploc® Bags)
- plastic cereal box liners (if it tears like paper do not include)
- Tyvek(no glue, labels, other material)
- diaper wrap (packaging)
- plastic shipping envelopes (no bubble wrap/remove labels)
- case wrap (e.g., snacks, water bottles)
- All clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4.



Do NOT include the following:



- NO** food or cling wrap
- NO** prepackaged food bags including frozen food bags (e.g., prewashed salad bags)
- NO** film that has been painted or has excessive glue
- NO** other bags or films
- NO** bio-based or compostable plastic bags

Recycling Educators Corner



This part of the newsletter was originally planned for input from the public. Lately, you've been getting only my thoughts, poor dears. Luckily, some of your nice neighbors have given me some suggestions, which I will share with you now.

A caller, who read that we no longer accept shredded paper, said that he now just tears out any sensitive information, like name, address, and credit card information, shreds that, and puts the rest in the recycle bin. By doing that, he has dramatically decreased the amount of shredded paper he ends up with.

I have also had a few people ask what happens when they drop paper off here to be shredded; the answer that it is recycled into more paper inevitably leads to the next question; why can't we add already shredded paper dropped off here to that paper? The shredding is done by a company that operates in large quantities and has existing contracts with paper companies. They are not interested in adding any additional paper to their route, since they never know until the end how much they will have. And we simply do not have enough volume to make a similar system work.

During a meeting of the Community Sustainability Committee, (which incidentally has open seats) an attendee asked if we could do more education about LED lights. Although we are more focused on the end of life of objects, he is correct that LED lights are currently the unsung heroes of the lighting world. They are far more efficient than CFLs and they don't contain mercury, one of the reasons for the cost of recycling CFLs. And on that note...



CFL recycling is now only 50 cents!

Due to some creative reworking of our current system of recycling bulbs, we are able to offer this service for half the price of what it cost us last year. Price is per CFL, and tubes are still \$0.25 per foot.

New life for old flip-flops



Those of you that have dropped off your old athletic shoes at our recycling center or the Lincoln City Community Center have contributed to the creation of new playground surfaces from material that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill. A month-long collection event is targeting old flip flops for the same reason.

From April 22 to May 21, you can take your used flip flops to the Old Navy store in the Tanger Outlet Center and drop them off in the well marked collection bin. Called Flip Flop Replay, this recycling

event comes thanks to a partnership between trash-to-treasure eco company [TerraCycle](#) and Old Navy.

TerraCycle is the same company that turns old drink boxes into bags and backpacks; the "Green Team" at Taft Elementary have been collecting boxes for this recycling campaign for over a year.

As always, used athletic shoes (no cleats, please) can be dropped off for free at the 101 recycling center in the drive through area.



Movie Review

I don't usually do these, but I was charmed by the film "Waste Land" about a Brazilian artist who makes art about and with "pickers;" people who spend their lives pulling recyclable items out of the trash at the landfill outside of Rio de Janeiro. It will definitely help you appreciate curbside recycling!

We are still raffling off a gift basket filled with a variety of things, including a NLSS sweatshirt and gourmet food items from the Nelscott Wine Shop to promote our "EasyPay" service. To enter, simply bring the form below into the office, and our lovely office staff will help you sign up for EasyPay. You must sign up for full online billing to be entered.

Gift Basket Drawing

To enter the drawing, simply tear off this coupon and bring it into the office on Highway 101.

Name

Phone Number