



White River Solid Waste Management District

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Serving Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White and Woodruff Counties

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Happy New Year!

If you are reading this issue of E-News then congratulations! You have made it to 2016. In China it is the year of the monkey. In the USA it is leap year and presidential election year. Something we can all look forward to this year regardless of political preference is: Wednesday, November 9, 2016!

It is only fair to balance all this looking forward with a little looking back. There is actually an historical time line for the **history of trash and recycling**. From ancient city dumps to plastic bag bans, we have come a long way. To learn more, visit the following link provided by Busch Systems: <http://www.buschsystems.com/recycling-bin-news/2014/05/a-brief-timeline-of-the-history-of-recycling/>.

Were there a lot of new electronics under your tree this year?

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, there is no better time to donate unneeded but usable electronics or to recycle electronic waste than shortly after the holidays. From TVs to computers to phones to toys, most every household has at least one new electronic device. This usually means you have one or more that you no longer want or that doesn't work anymore. Our ten-county area has several electronic waste drop-off centers. To find the one most convenient to you visit the following web site page and scroll down to your county:

<http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/electronic-waste-disposal>.

If you are a small community, school or other public institution, an enclosed trailer can be brought to your location to drop-off and load old electronics. When the load is completed, we will pick it up and take it to a nearby electronic waste collection center. From there your materials will be sent to be recycled in an environmentally responsible and information secure manner. (This service is limited to our ten-county service area.)

If your business needs to recycle electronic waste or if you have any questions about the program, call us at 870-793-5233.

Is there room for recycling education in STEM? Yes!

The NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) Blog addressed STEM lessons that can be used to teach recycling in a posting on August 4, 2015. Bottled water, recycling construction materials, the need to recycle rare earth materials and recycling in the future were included in these postings. Lesson plans made easy? I hope so! This is an excellent site! <http://nstacommunities.org/blog/2015/08/04/recycling/>.

Even trash has a life cycle!

Visit this EPA web page for a brief outline of the five stages of “stuff” and learn good environmental practices in each stage. This is a great page for your good readers to review and report on in terms of individual responsibility: <http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/climate-change-waste/life-cycle-diagram.html#endoflife>.

It was warmer at the North Pole than at some places in Arkansas during the holiday break!

I am no scientist but that can't be good for polar bears. The Arctic Matters Initiative has an interactive web site that demonstrates arctic changes and their expected global impacts. They also offer a downloadable book and color poster. Visit them at: <http://nas-sites.org/arctic/2015/07/04/about-the-arctic-matters-initiative/>

The 2016 Arkansas Teacher Conservation Tour Taking Applications

Sponsored by the Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation (AFAEF), this workshop will be June 20-24, 2016 in Monticello, Arkansas. This five-day educator workshop focuses on the environmental and economic benefits of Arkansas's forest lands and forest industries.

This educational workshop and tour provides educators with a lot of time in the woods, learning about the interaction between forests, the environment, and the economy. Participants will tour forest product manufacturing facilities, view forest ecosystems, and see harvesting and replanting operations – all while learning valuable information about our forest communities. Participants will also meet and learn from natural resource professionals and members of the forest products industry who are in the field conducting this work on a regular basis.

Teachers will earn 30 professional development hours including 6 technology hours and 2 hours of Arkansas History approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Click [here](#) for more details and a link to the downloadable (PDF) application form or copy this link into your web browser <http://www.arkforests.org/?page=TCT> . The registration fee covers materials, food, lodging and local transportation.

There is more to soil than meets the eye.

We all know that decomposing organics make great top soil. The earth reclaims everything from grass clippings to entire trees, given enough time. This Smithsonian web site provides an in-depth look at the different soils that make up our planet. Visit their web site at: <http://forces.si.edu/soils/>.

Does your school serve milk or juice in paper cartons?

If the answer is yes, you should look into the "Carton 2 Garden" contest offered by KidsGardening.org. This contest involves collecting paper drink cartons from schools or the community and working with your students to design and develop useful garden related items with them. You do not have to have a school garden in place to be eligible to apply to enter the contest. The first 100 entries will receive a \$30 gift card, and fourteen winners will receive prize packages ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Entries are being accepted now, but to be eligible for cash awards, entries must be submitted by April 16, 2016. Learn more. Visit their site at: <http://www.kidsgardening.org/article/carton-2-garden-contest-0#Eligible/>.

It is not too early to start planning for Earth Day (April 22nd)!

The March/April issue of E-News will have a listing of free Earth Day materials available to K-6 students in our ten county schools. **We still have beverage bottle and can recycling bins available for school programs in our ten-county area.** Visit earthday.org for ideas. If we can help, call us at 870-793-5233 or e-mail recycle@wrpdd.org.

Have a great second semester!

*Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents.
It was loaned to you by your children.
Ancient Indian Proverb*

Sources for the above information include: Arkansas Forestry Association, Busch Systems, Kids Gardening Magazine, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, National Science Teachers Association, USEPA.gov, Washington County Environmental Affairs and Recycling and White River Regional Solid Waste Management District.

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