



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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In this issue:

America Recycles Day is November 15th!

Coca-Cola Public Area Bin Grant Opportunity

Expanding Your Recycling Habits

Composting Fall Leaves Made Easy

Thanksgiving Themed Lesson Plans K-8

There is still time to plan an activity for America Recycles Day

Established by Presidential Proclamation in 1997, America Recycles Day is celebrated on November 15th of each year and is now a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting recycling in the United States.

As a teacher you can use this event as a teaching opportunity. Start by visiting the official web site, <https://americarecyclesday.org/toolkit/> for free downloadable ideas. You could help your students plan a recycling event at your campus or organize a recycling themed art contest – using recycled material as your medium. We even have free classroom materials to reinforce recycling in earth science and social studies classes!

As educators, the most important thing we can do is to teach by example. Do your school classrooms have paper recycling bins, does your place of work provide ways for employees to recycle, and do you practice it at home? Need help getting started? Visit our web site www.WhiteRiverRecycles.org, contact me via e-mail at recycle@wrpdd.org, or call 870-793-5233. We hope you have a successful America Recycles Day event this year!



P.S. If you teach primary or pre-school you can incorporate Rocky of the Paw Patrol into your recycling lesson. Rocky picks up things for recycling and reuse and fixes everything he can. His uniform has a recycle symbol on it. We all need a “Rocky” in our school, work place and community! For a free downloadable coloring sheet, visit <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/paw-patrol-rocky>.

Need better recycling bins for your outdoor playing fields or public areas?

If you are government, non-profit, college/university, K-12 school, or community group, Coke and Keep America Beautiful are offering quality outdoor and public venue bins through a competitive grant. Go online, state why you deserve these bins, and compete for these free (yes, free) bins. The grants are competitive but someone has to win. Why not you? The online application is pretty easy and it is free. Learn more and apply by visiting <https://www.kab.org/coca-cola-recycling-grant>. **BUT HURRY! THE DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 17TH!**

Expand your recycling habits. Recycling is more than paper, plastic bottles and cans.

I am "reusing" this information from a couple of years ago because it is still relevant and important in light of America Recycles Day this month.

There are many more recyclable and reusable items that should not go into your garbage can. These are just a few:

Electronics – TVs, computers, copiers, printers, fax machines, phones, cameras, notebooks, video game consoles, electronic toys, audio-visual equipment - drop them off at your county's collection center. Need help finding one? Email me a recycle@wrpdd.org.

Glass Bottles and Jars – Because of limited market values, not all recycling centers can accept glass bottles and jars. Save them and drop them off when you are in an area that offers drop off service. In north central Arkansas those locations are Batesville, Mountain View, Newport and Searcy.

Printer and Ink Cartridges – Collect them from your school or community and sell them to buy-back companies to help support your school, animal shelter, club or organization. Staples, Office Depot, Office Max and www.ecyclegroup.com will purchase used cartridges. (Note: we do not promote any one service over another. This is only an example of available services in our area.)

Waste Motor Oil – If your city or county does not offer a drop-off program, you can almost always take used oil back to where you buy your oil. Walmart, Auto Zone and Advance Auto are just a few that will take back used motor oil. Dumping it on the ground is a big mistake! It will kill the affected soil inhabitants and prevent anything from growing there for a long time.

Plastic Grocery Bags – Big chain stores like Walmart, Kroger, and Harps will take back any you bring in. Just look for the drop off bin near the store entrance. They are all made of polyethylene and do not need to be sorted store by store. Recycling centers in our area take only plastic bottles, so do not send them bags as they will have to landfill them.

Prescription Glasses – Your old prescription and reading glasses do not have to be thrown away. Check with your local optometrist or local Lion's Club member about donating them. They will be gratefully reused by someone less fortunate.

Fluorescent Tubes and Compact Fluorescents – To begin with, only buy the ones with the green tipped bulbs which contain the lowest amount of mercury. When you replace them, take them to a lighting store that will accept your old ones when you buy replacements. Lowe's, Home Depot are examples of stores that may take them back. Purchase replacement bulbs from businesses who will take your spent bulbs and

tubes for recycling – even if it costs a little more it is the right thing to do! (Note: Fluorescent recycling is limited in rural areas. If unavailable in your area, safe disposal of fluorescents in your trash is acceptable.

Batteries - Only rechargeable batteries are recyclable in rural Arkansas. The up-front cost is more, but in the long run buying rechargeable batteries plus a charger is the cheaper alternative, not to mention more environmentally responsible. Old (no longer hold a charge) rechargeable batteries of varying types and sizes can be recycled at stores like Tool Central, Radio Shack, Staples, Office Depot and your area electronic waste drop-off center. I am not sure what Wal-Mart takes, so check with them first.

All That Other Stuff – Fixable and reusable furniture, appliances, clothing, shoes, books, toys etc. Share with a less fortunate person or family in your community or donate it to a local benevolent organization. Give your trash a second chance!

Got leaves? Make compost!

Leaves are falling like crazy! You may think them a nuisance, but they can also be a big load of free organic fertilizer, except for the labor of collecting them. Starting a back yard compost pile can be as easy as putting 3-4 old wooden shipping pallets together and collecting leaves inside. With a little green from live yard trimmings, an occasional rain and turning of the materials you will have a wonderful soil base for your spring garden or flower beds next year. Learn more by downloading our *Backyard Composting* guide at the attached link:

<http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/sites/default/files/backyard-composting.pdf>.

Thanksgiving then and now.

The latest *Scholastic* teacher update has a wonderful set of lesson plans on the first Thanksgiving for grades Pre-K -2, 3-5 and 6-8. (I drilled down a bit and didn't see any charges for the lesson plans or visual links.) They include the ships, the voyage, the pilgrims, the native Americans, and the first Thanksgiving. Contrast and comparison of daily lives and routines is also included. Lesson plans are correlated to Common Core which can still be helpful if not a requirement any more. This is worth checking out:

http://www.scholastic.com/scholastic_thanksgiving/. What an interesting social studies comparison it would be to compare how little was wasted in their society to how much we waste today!

This holiday season take time to enjoy the beauty of the changing seasons!

Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents.

It is loaned to you by your children.

Indian Proverb

Sources for the above information include: America Recycles Day, Ecycle Group, Keep America Beautiful & Coca-Cola, Scholastic, SuperColoring.com, and White River Regional Solid Waste Management District.

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