

Winchester Recycles

A Community On-line Newsletter

Welcome to the Town of Winchester's second edition of the on-line recycling newsletter.

The staff at the Town Hall and at the Transfer Station are committed to providing you with up-to date information concerning recycling for our community.

Hopefully many of you have received the newest mailing concerning recycling in your mailboxes this month. Winchester received a small grant from the Department of Environmental Protection to produce the recycling postcard. We hope you will find the information useful.

The Town would like to report on the success of the paper recycling program in our public buildings and our schools. Everyone has pitched in and made

the program a huge success. Thank you to the principals, teachers, custodians and students for their continued support. The volume of paper generated by the program is on the rise due to everyone's cooperation at home, at work and at school.

This past January the Town of Winchester was informed by the Mass DEP that we must implement mandatory recycling not only for the residents who purchase the yearly stickers but also the private haulers that use the transfer station. The Department of Public Works sent a mailing to business owners and private haulers informing them that recycling is mandatory.

Additionally, we have designed a sign that is posted on the fence at the Transfer Station

that tells you how we are doing with the volume of recyclables. So check it out and watch it grow!

Special Links:

- www.winchester.us
- www.mass.gov/dep
- www.earth911.org
- www.thegreenteam.org

*Recycle—a little effort
a Big Difference!*

Why Are Some Batteries Harmful For The Environment?

Laptop, walkman, toys, cell phone, calculator—these are just some of the things that need batteries to function in our daily lives. The U.S. EPA estimates that more than 350 million rechargeable batteries are purchased annually in the United States. Batteries are a unique product comprised of heavy metals and other elements that make things "portable". Some of these toxic heavy metals include nickel cadmium, alkaline, mercury, nickel metal hydride and lead acid. It is these elements that can threaten our environment if not properly discarded.

Batteries may produce the following potential problems or hazards:

- Pollute the lakes and streams as the metals vaporize into the air when burned.
- Contribute to heavy metals that potentially may leach from solid waste landfills.
- Expose the environment and water to lead and acid.
- Contain strong corrosive acids.
- May cause burns or danger to eyes and skin.

In 1996, the Battery Act was signed into law to address two fundamental issues according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency: to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and to provide collection methods

and recycling/proper disposal of batteries. Batteries that end up in landfills and incinerators eventually leak into the environment and end up in the food chain, causing serious health risks to humans and animals.

Not all batteries are the same and they require specific instructions to ensure each type of battery is properly discarded or recycled. The batteries consumers are more likely to use are household, nickel-cadmium (NiCd), nickel metal hydride (NiMH), button cell, automotive and non-automotive lead-based batteries.

Household:

generally single use, and are also referred to as alkaline, carbon-zinc, lithium, silver-zinc and zinc

Batteries, continued from page 1

air batteries. Collection and recycling of these batteries varies by community. Check with your community recycling facilities to determine your household battery recycling options.

Alkaline Batteries: Mercury reduction in batteries began in 1984 and continues today. Some batteries such as the alkaline battery have had about a 97 percent mercury reduction in the product. Newer alkaline batteries may contain about one-tenth the amount of mercury previously contained in the typical alkaline battery. Some alkaline batteries have zero-added mercury, and several mercury-free, heavy-duty, carbon-zinc batteries are on

the market.

Because of the mercury reduction, some landfill bans of alkaline batteries and recycling programs taking them have ceased. When disposing of household alkaline batteries, it is best to check with your local and State Recycling or Household Hazardous Waste Coordinators concerning the specifics of your program.

Nickel-Cadmium (NiCd): Generally used in rechargeable batteries. All NiCd batteries are identified by the EPA as hazardous waste and must be recycled. **Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) or Lithium-Ion:** Are commonly used in laptops. They are considered non-hazardous waste, but do contain elements that can be recycled.

Button Cell: Commonly used in hearing aids, calculators and watches. These batteries contain silver, mercury and other elements that are hazardous to the environment.

Automotive & Sealed Lead-Based: Sealed lead batteries should be recycled, as they contain hazardous materials and elements that can be reused.

It is because of this 1996 Battery Act that batteries are labeled with disposal information, such as, "Battery must be recycled." This information is provided to help consumers when they dispose of batteries.

Rain Barrel Program— Join in on conserving water this summer!

The Town of Winchester is pleased to announce a partnership with the New England Rain Barrel Company to offer rain barrels to Winchester residents at a discounted rate, for a limited time. Typically sold for \$89, Winchester residents may purchase the rain barrels for \$66.50 – a savings of \$22.50 over retail value!

Orders must be placed directly with The New England Rain Barrel Company by **Wednesday, June 6, 2007** by calling 1-877-977-3135 or on the web at www.nerainbarrel.com under "Shop Online".

The Town of Winchester cannot take

orders directly!

To provide the lowest cost and greatest convenience to homeowners, the company is arranging for a general delivery of the rain barrels on **Thursday, June 14, 2007 from 4 PM to 7 PM at the Transfer Station**, located off of McKay Avenue. At that time, staff from The New England Rain Barrel Company will work with individual homeowners to explain how to install and use the rain barrel; written instructions will also be provided. The Town of Winchester will store a limited number of barrels for those persons who are unable to pick up their or-

ders at that time. In such cases, arrangements should be made with The New England Rain Barrel Company prior to the delivery date.

For additional information on the program, contact Beth Rudolph, P.E., Assistant Town Engineer at 781-721-7120 or brudolph@winchester.us.

What is a rain barrel?

Rain barrels provide an innovative way to capture rainwater from your roof and store it for later use in watering lawns, gardens, and indoor plants. This water would otherwise be lost to surface runoff, potentially picking up pollutants on its way to a storm drain, lake, or stream.

The "New Englander" rain barrel product offered by The New England Rain Barrel Company is made from 100% recycled barrels and ranges in capacity from 55 to 60 gallons. The barrels are intended to be installed under gutters and downspouts to

collect rooftop runoff. They are equipped with two solid brass fittings – one to allow you to connect a hose for watering and one for overflow. They also have an aluminum screen louvered inlet to stop leaves and bugs from living (and breeding) in the rainwater. The barrels come with all hardware installed and a five-foot starter hose with shutoff. The barrels are completely sealed, so there is no potential for children, pets, or wildlife to accidentally get inside.

Homeowners looking for added storage

capacity may purchase additional barrels and use the connector kit available from The New England Rain Barrel Company to connect two or more barrels together. Each connector kit costs \$14.99 and may be purchased when placing your rain barrel order.

Additional product information is available at www.nerainbarrel.com.

Healthy Lawns and Landscape Workshops

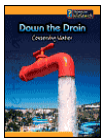
In May, the following communities will present free healthy lawns and landscapes workshops, led by Ann McGovern of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection through its municipal waste reduction grant program. The purpose of the workshops is to teach residents, landscapers and municipal staff how to maintain landscapes without using pesticides and chemical fertilizers. All attendees will receive a gift and a chance to win a

compost bin. Refreshments will be served. For more information on the workshops and healthy landscaping methods, visit: www.mass.gov/dep/recycle

May 2, 7-9 pm, Watertown Town Hall, 149 Main St, Watertown, Contact Sue Tamber 617-972-6420

May 15, 6:30-8:30 pm. Marlborough Public Library, 35 West Main St, Marlborough Contact Chris White, 508-624-6910x7601

Check out the Winchester Library for these books!



Down the Drain—Conserving Water

By: Anita Ganeri



This is the Rain

By: Lola Schaefer



The Nature-Friendly Garden: Creating A Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife and People

By: Marlene A. Condon



Organic Housekeeping

By: Ellen Sandbeck



What are the benefits of using a rain barrel?

Residential irrigation can account for 40% of domestic water consumption in a given municipality. During a typical, moderate rainstorm, over 700 gallons of water will run off the average 1200 square foot roof. The same roof will typically shed over 4,000 gallons of water between April and August.

Rain barrels allow homeowners to capture that runoff and use it for watering lawns, gardens, and indoor plants. ***They are an excellent way to capture and conserve water and reduce your overall summer watering bills!*** Rainwater diversion also helps decrease the burden on the Town's municipal drainage system and is an important component of the Town's overall flood mitigation program.

Only ¼ inch of rainfall runoff from the average roof will completely fill the typical barrel. This rooftop runoff provides an ample supply of free, "soft water" containing no chlorine, lime, or calcium. It also tends to contain fewer sediments and dissolved salts than municipal water, making it ideal for indoor and outdoor plants. Collected rainwater should never be used for drinking, cooking, or bathing.

**BOARD OF HEALTH SPONSORED
HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY
MAY 12, 2007 9AM-1PM 15 LAKE STREET—DPW YARD**

Household Hazardous Waste

Products used at home, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them. Leftover products such as these contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients and are considered to be "household hazardous waste" or "HHW."

Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases throwing them out with regular trash. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health.

In order to prevent this, Winchester offers a collection day once a year for residents to properly and safely dispose of their HHW. **Please bring your HHW on Saturday, May 12th from 9 am- 1 pm to the DPW yard at 15 Lake Street.**

Reduction at Home

Consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients. Learn about the use of alternative methods or products—without hazardous ingredients—for some common household needs. For example, an alternative to commercially produced **glass cleaner** is made by mixing 1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice in 1 quart of water. For more ideas on household cleaners and their alternatives, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/catbook/alt.htm> .

For further information on household hazardous waste, please visit www.epa.gov.

Slash Trash Report

Before we started tracking our trash, we usually had ____ bags of trash each week. For four weeks, I kept track of how we slashed our trash by recycling, composting, reducing and reusing.

Here are my results:

BAGS ELIMINATED

WEEK 1: WHAT DID YOU DO?

We Recycled: Paper Glass Aluminum Metal Cans Plastic Other: _____

We Composted: Leaves and Grass Food Scrapes Other: _____

WEEK 2: WHAT DID YOU DO?

We Recycled: Paper Glass Aluminum Metal Cans Plastic Other: _____

+ _____

We Composted: Leaves and Grass Food Scrapes Other: _____

WEEK 3: WHAT DID YOU DO?

We Recycled: Paper Glass Aluminum Metal Cans Plastic Other: _____

+ _____

We Composted: Leaves and Grass Food Scrapes Other: _____

WEEK 4: WHAT DID YOU DO?

We Recycled: Paper Glass Aluminum Metal Cans Plastic Other: _____

+ _____

We Composted: Leaves and Grass Food Scrapes Other: _____

TOTAL BAGS ELIMINATED

To find out how many bags of trash your family slashed, subtract the number of Bags Reported each week from baseline number on line 1. Write this number in the "Bags Eliminated" column. Add up the number of trash bags eliminated each week. This is the impact you and your family made during the month.

= _____

COMPARE YOUR RESULTS EACH WEEK. HOW LOW DID YOU GO?

