



# County Conservation News

September 2010

Issue 1

## In This Issue

- Recycling Trivia
- Recycling in Lewis and Clark County
- Submit a Conservation Tip, Win a Prize!

## More Recycling Information

- [Headwaters Recycling LLC](#) (recycling facts)
- [Earth911](#) (lots of recycling info)
- [Montana DEQ recycling website](#)
- [SAVE Foundation](#) (local nonprofit)

## Contact Us

[GreenTeam@co.lewis-clark.mt.us](mailto:GreenTeam@co.lewis-clark.mt.us)

## Did you know? Recycling Trivia

Have you ever wondered whether recycling is worth the effort? Does it really matter if you toss that aluminum can in the trash instead of the recycling bin? It turns out that recycling has **BIG** impacts. Take a look at this recycling trivia:



- The average person throws away 4 pounds of garbage **per day!**
- Solid waste disposal is typically the third largest municipal government expense after police protection and education.

### ALUMINUM

- Tossing an aluminum can in the trash wastes as much energy as pouring out half of that can's volume of gasoline.
- Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a 100-watt lightbulb for 20 hours.
- After you toss your aluminum can in the recycling bin, it could be back on the grocer's shelf as a new, filled can in as little as 60 days.

### PAPER

- Producing recycled paper requires about 60% of the energy and 50% of the water used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.
- Recycling one ton of paper saves an average of 17 trees and enough energy to power a typical American home for 5 months.

### PLASTIC

- Plastic takes 100-400 years to break down in a landfill.
- Recycling 1 ton of plastic saves 1,000-2,000 gallons of gas.

### STEEL/TIN

- Steel recycling saves enough energy each year to power about one-fifth of the households in the U.S. for the entire year.
- You can make 20 cans out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make 1 new one.

Sources: Headwaters Cooperative Recycling Inc., US Energy Information Administration, Earth911.com

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## Recycling in Lewis and Clark County



Recycling saves energy, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, conserves precious resources, and saves space in our landfills. Wouldn't you agree that it's worth pitching in?

Luckily for us, there are lots of ways to recycle in Lewis and Clark County. Do you know all your options? Check it out:

**AT WORK** White paper and mixed paper are collected in several county buildings.

**Breaking News:** Recycling bins for aluminum cans, steel cans, and plastic will be available in the City-County Building beginning in October! The bins will be emptied biweekly by Helena Recycling LLC. Stay tuned for more information.

**CITY TRANSFER STATION** The transfer station accepts aluminum and tin cans, newspaper, magazines, corrugated cardboard, used motor oil, telephone books, and glass containers. You must show your residential permit to recycle, but the weight of the recyclables will **not** be charged against your permit. For more information about the transfer station, [click here](#).

**OTHER DROP-OFF SITES** You can drop off aluminum and tin cans, newspaper, magazines, and corrugated cardboard for free at three other locations in town: Safeway, the County Fairgrounds, and the Independent Record building at 2222 Washington St. For information, [click here](#).

**PACIFIC STEEL AND RECYCLING** accepts metal, cardboard, newspaper, and certain appliances. For more information [click here](#).

### UPCOMING RECYCLING EVENTS

The **Trash for Trees** recycling drive, sponsored by the SAVE Foundation and Growing Friends of Helena, will be held Sept 25 at the Northgate Plaza on N. Montana. Newspapers, magazines, glass, cardboard, aluminum cans, steel cans, plastics type 1 and 2, cell phones, print cartridges, and some rechargeable batteries will be accepted. For more information, [click here](#).

The next **plastics** recycling event sponsored by the SAVE Foundation will be Nov 5-8 at 1100 N Last Chance Gulch. Types 1 and 2 plastic are accepted. For more information [click here](#).

**CURBSIDE RECYCLING** Don't want to drop off your recycling? A private company called Helena Recycling LLC offers curbside recycling in the Helena area. For details, check out their website by [clicking here](#).

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## Submit a Conservation Tip, Win a Prize!

Upcoming issues of County Conservation News will focus on topics like how to reduce your utility bills, save money on gas, and generate less waste. Do you have a conservation tip to contribute? Email it to [GreenTeam@co.lewis-clark.mt.us](mailto:GreenTeam@co.lewis-clark.mt.us). If we include your tip in County Conservation News, you'll get a \$5 gift certificate to Tommy's! (the restaurant in the City-County Building).