

# Recycle Rockbridge

Edition 3

May 2008

## Going Green

### On the Home Front

**H**ave you ever taken a good look around your house at all of the everyday things that you use? I did this not to long ago and made a list of the items and products that I use daily. I have cleaning products, about six separate plastic containers, then there are the laundry supplies, five separate items. In the bathroom I have shower supplies, hair products and makeup. I'll leave out the item count because it is too embarrassing. Then we have the kitchen. Just about everything in a container is packaged in plastic or paper and there are way to many to count. I also have dish detergent and automatic dishwashing detergent, both in plastic containers and, of course, trash bags.

Do you see a pattern here? Most of the items we use on a daily basis are in recyclable containers. But what happens to the products that are in those containers? Some of them are consumed, others are basically washed down the drain and some are thrown away such as dryer sheets and trash bags. I started taking a closer look at those items that are used for cleaning and decided to do some research. I took my list to the computer first and looked up several of the items I use. What I found was that many are not just harmful to the environment, which I already knew but choose to ignore, but that exposure to some of these products was not safe for children or pets. Some research even suggests that exposure to some of these products can cause permanent damage to children's developing neurological systems. Wow! After discovering this I decided to take my list to the grocery store

and see what environmentally safe products were available. I spent hours looking over the different chooses I had. The products came in several different shapes, sizes, colors, scents and price ranges. I found everything from post consumer toilet paper to bath products. I was able to replace all of my household cleaning supplies with environmentally safe ones, even my dryer sheets, and the cost was no more than what I usually pay. The biggest surprise was when I used the products. Not only did they work great but they smelled so good and they didn't irritate my skin. I also want to mention the way you feel when you know you are doing something good for your planet. It gives you a sense of satisfaction, and yes, joy (even in cleaning).

Last weekend, on Mother's Day, I was at Boxerwood Gardens and I decided to get some of these products to display at my recycling table. I was amazed at how many people stopped and inspected and smelled these supplies. They wanted to know more. Where do you get these? How much do they cost? And the constant statement was "I didn't even know this was available." Well, neither did I but I'm glad I do now.

In closing, what I am trying to say is that you shouldn't just look at what you can recycle but look at what you use. Investigate to see if you can reduce your environmental footprint by precycling. Simple choices can make a big difference. Oh, by the way, I didn't find any biodegradable trash bags but I know that they do exist and I will start pestering the stores to stock them.

## Obituary

**T**he Rockbridge County Recycling Bus has passed away due to acute engine failure causing an abrupt end to all vital mechanisms. CPR was attempted but due to age. It was not successful. The bus will be missed by all, especially the Recycling Staff. At the request of the Big Green Bus all materials will be reused or recycled.

Because of the success of the Recycling Bus and the number of appearances made in the past five years, the County has decided to replace our beloved bus with a newer model. The Recycling Staff uses the bus for community event activities, recycling collection at events, and as a classroom at our elementary schools when we visit to teach the three R's, reduce, reuse, recycle. We hope to get our replacement bus early this summer. We are looking for ideas on how to paint the bus. If you have an artistic eye or just a great idea please pass it onto the Recycling Office. The only thing that has been decided about the paint job is that the bottom half will be painted with chalkboard paint. This request was made by the local school children (and a few teachers).

1980 - 2008



## Where do I recycle this . . . ???

**F**requently throughout our day to day business we come across items that need to be discarded but don't fall into the normal recycling range of paper, plastic, glass, tin or aluminum. Below I have listed some common items and a recycling source for each. I know I haven't covered everything. If you have something in question, you are always welcome to call the recycling office at 463-2437 or email at [recycling@co.rockbridge.va.us](mailto:recycling@co.rockbridge.va.us).

Used oil/Antifreeze - Advance Auto Parts  
C&S Disposal  
Natural Bridge Exxon  
Natural Bridge Shell  
Poplar Hill Exxon  
RB Farmers Coop.

Car Batteries - Advance Auto Parts  
- Lex. Recycling Center  
- Auto Recyclers

Rechargeable Batteries  
- Radio Shack  
- Lowes

Computers - Auto Recyclers  
- Lex. Recycling Center

**REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE**