

Recycle Rockbridge

Edition 10

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Value of Recycling

Market Drop

During the year of 2008 the recycling industry watched the value of recycling commodities reach an all time high. The market values were unrealistic and as the old saying goes “what goes up must come down.” Recently the market value for recycling has plummeted. We watched mixed paper go from a high of \$95.00 per ton to \$0 - \$5.00 per ton. The same has happened to cardboard, newsprint, tin, aluminum and plastic. While this drop in value was anticipated, it was exacerbated by the world credit crisis and recession. A couple more facts to keep in mind while looking at the market is that there are more recycling programs throughout the county than ever before which has increased the availability of the products thus lowering the demand and the recent reduction in oil prices has greatly affected the value of plastic.

So, how does this affect Rockbridge County? Currently we are still collecting all of the commodities that we have in the past. We will continue to bale the collected recycling as always. The only thing that we will not be doing for the next couple of months is selling the products. Unlike many counties we have a large baler building that we can use to store our baled products. This allows us to continue business as usual and hold products until the value comes up enough to make it realistic to sell. The market is expected to rebound and we have already seen an increase in the Asian markets. We don't expect the value to go back to the dollar amount we were seeing in September. This would not be

practical or sustainable but a fair value will be reached and then level off.

To help the recycling industry “weather this storm” I encourage everyone to look for and buy recycled items when shopping. Many of our everyday products can be replaced with sister items created from recycled material. There are now virtually unlimited household, furniture and clothing items that are made from post-consumer waste. You never know you may just find something that you like even better than your regular stand by. So just remember to reduce, reuse, recycle and buy recycled.



Holiday Hours

The Rockbridge County Recycling/Disposal/Convenience Centers will be closing at 3:00 p.m. on December 24 and 31. They will be closed on December 25 and on January 1.

Please remember during the holiday season that a lot of the wrapping paper and packaging materials used are recyclable. Also it is very important when replacing appliances and electronics that the old ones are disposed of properly. Keep in mind as you replace home furnishing items and clothing that some things may be old to you but new to someone else. Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity will take

many of these items. If you need help in finding proper disposal for items please call the Rockbridge County Recycling Office at 540-463-2437. We will be glad to assist you.



Christmas Trees

As we reach the end of the holiday season, it will be time to take down those beautiful decorations. If you had a real Christmas tree, you will be hauling it out of your house for disposal sometime after the season. The City of Buena Vista and the City of Lexington will be doing the Christmas tree chipping again this year. This project went over very well last year. The trees will be collected at the College Square Recycling Center in Lexington and at Camden Field (old football field) in Buena Vista. The trees may be brought to the sites between the dates of December 26 and January 10. All trees brought to these locations will be chipped. Trees brought to the Camden Field location will be chipped and then the chips will be available for public use.

This service is being provided by the City of Lexington and the City of Buena Vista. If you have any questions please call the recycling office.



Fairfield

On December 6, 2008, we celebrated the Grand Re-Opening of the Fairfield Disposal Center. It was a very cold day and we even had a little snow but there were lots of good food and hot cider to go around and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.

We held a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10am. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Comstock were present for the ceremony. Mr. Riegel stopped by to have a look at the new site and toast it's opening.



(Left to right) Hunt Riegel, Carroll Comstock, John Mayo, James Mayo, Kim Thompson, Albert Lewis

*The staff at Rockbridge
County Recycling wishes you a
Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year!*