

Recycle Rockbridge

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Moving Ahead

Relocating College Square Recycling Center

The County of Rockbridge has decided to relocate the recycling center that is currently in College Square Shopping Center. The new location will be on Greenhouse Road. We will be just past the Rockbridge Regional Jail and in front of the Public Service Authority building.

The decision to relocate was based on many factors. The most important factor is to better serve the public. With the current center space is limited. In the new location will be able to offer extended recycling capabilities such as separating yard debris. We will have room to open an item swap area, which has gone over very well at the Fairfield center. The improved site will also have waste disposal capabilities with an installed compactor. The compactor is another factor that determined the plans to relocate. The current site is not owned by the County and installing a compactor is a costly investment. We would prefer to place compactors on land that is owned not leased. We have also been losing ground at the current location. Behind the collection bins is a large hole. Over the years the hole has increased leaving us with less space for containers.

Overall the new location will be a better fit for the long term plans that the County has for the Recycling program. We expect the move to take place later this summer. As soon as we have a specific date I will send an update.

As you may have noticed, the sign for the College Square Recycling Center has been

removed. This was done in preparation for the move. We will be replacing it with a new sign that will be used at each recycling center. Below is an example of the new look.



Unfortunately there will be another change at the new site. The new collection center will be for County residents only. We will be asking Buena Vista and Lexington residents to use the curbside program that is provided. This decision was based on the elimination of the cost share program. We will miss seeing you at the centers and hope that you will continue with your recycling efforts. The Rockbridge County Recycling Office (463-2437) will always be available to you for questions or concerns. We will also continue the education and outreach programs throughout the two cities. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns or to ask us to attend a community festival, event or speaking engagement.



Expanding Plastic Recycling

Rockbridge County Recycling currently recycles plastics 1 through 7. However, we do not accept plastic wrap, bags, shrink wrap, plastic netting or AG plastic. Basically we won't take any plastic that is not in a container form. This is about to change in the very near future. We recently had a visitor from a purchasing company who is interested in our plastics. This company will take all plastics. This includes all of the items previously mentioned and some additional items such as PVC and plastic furniture. Basically all plastics will be able to be recycled in the County's program.

Plastics are a very light weight recyclable and the wraps, film and bags don't give us much weight as far as reporting on our rate report. However, they also are not biodegradable. When we place plastic in the landfill it never goes away or breaks down. Not to mention the number of bags you see along the roads and in the trees. Another fact about plastic is it is made from petroleum which is a natural resource. Therefore as an environmental act to reduce our waste stream and our impact on the planet we plan to expand our program to include these items.

The change in plastic recycling will take a couple of weeks to implement. The two types of plastic, hard plastics and soft plastics (bags, wraps, ext.), will have to be placed in separate containers. In the next two weeks we will be working on placing an additional container in the centers that have room or reconfiguring the current containers at the sites that are space challenged. As soon as we have everything in place we will begin to accept the additional forms of plastic. I will send a notice out by email when the change goes into effect.



39% Recycling Rate

Rockbridge County is very proud to announce that we were able to achieve a 39% recycling rate. The rate report is submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality at the end of each year for approval. We received notice two weeks ago that our rate was approved.

The recycling rate is based on household, school and business recycling. It does not include industrial recycling. The rate is a ratio between landfill weights and recycling weights. The rate tells us how much we are diverting from the landfill each year. Last year's rate was 31.7%. We have shown a steady increase of about eight percent each year since 2003. In 2003 we reported an 8% recycling rate.

Rockbridge County Recycling would like to thank all of the residents of Rockbridge County, Buena Vista and Lexington, the businesses throughout the County and all of the area students for taking an active part in reducing our waste stream and improving our recycling rate.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!



2009 Coloring/Poster/Essay Contest Winners

Each year Rockbridge County sponsors a contest for the local school children. Grades K through 3 do a coloring sheet, 4 through 6 make posters and grades 7 and 8 have a choice of writing an essay, short story or poem. The entries are judged by grade level. First round of judging picks first, second and third place winners for each grade level at each school. These preliminary winners receive a gift certificate from McDonald's (this is a generous donation that McDonald's has offered us each year). After the preliminary judging is finished all of the entries that received first place are hung in the County Administrative Building in groups by grade level. At this time the entries are judged for the grand prizes.

This year we had a much larger participation than we have had in the past. We all hope that trend continues. All of the entries were wonderful and the County employees enjoyed have the beautiful artwork in the halls.



Prizes this year were Ipods, Ipod Shuffles, Vtech learning centers and Walmart gift certificates.

Thank you all for participating and we hope to see your entries next year!

2009 Contest Winners

Kindergarten

1st Place Malorie Harris
2nd Place Samantha Russell
3rd Place Allison Reynolds

1st Grade

1st Place Dylan Higgins
2nd Place Liliana Vargas
3rd Place Alexis Cash

2nd Grade

1st Place Gabriel Slayton
2nd Place Alexis Pruett
3rd Place Lionel Elizabeth Fisher

3rd Grade

1st Place Maria Rivera
2nd Place Maria Vargas
3rd Place Autumn Huffman

4th Grade

1st Place Cassidy Hartless
2nd Place Halle Kline
3rd Place Megan Smith

5th Grade

1st Place Nichole Tayman
2nd Place Reba Wilhelm
3rd Place Madison Alford

6th Grade

1st Place Cheyenne Dechard
2nd Place Ethan Wheeler
3rd Place Brooke Arehart

7th Grade

1st Place Kiana Whitesell
2nd Place Emma Patterson
3rd Place Morgan Quisenberry