

# SIMPLY GREEN



## BOUNCING BUNNIES 4-H CLUB PERFORMS A GREAT COMMUNITY SERVICE



When my daughter's 4-H club advisor, Amy Owens asked if I knew of any community service that the kids could do, I enthusiastically said, "Yes! The kids can help me wash out recycling bins for the county fair and help me load supplies onto the truck for the fair booth." I was so glad to get the help since I alone was in charge of getting 15 bottles and cans containers washed and loaded and transported to the fairgrounds, not to mention loading boxes and boxes of fair booth recycling promotional giveaway items our office passes out to citizens to remind them to recycle responsibly. The Bouncing Bunnies really came through for me and made my job so much easier this year!

On July 26, 2016 ten members of the Bouncing Bunnies club showed up eager to do their community service. The kids scrubbed and rinsed each bin and carefully loaded them onto the truck strapping them down and then they packed boxes of supplies into the cab. They got to realize how important that recycling during the fair is while helping to make it all happen. I explained that typically the Preble County Solid Waste District recycles anywhere from a half a ton to one ton of cardboard, and bottles and cans each fair. That's a lot! I saw many of the 4-H kids using the recycling containers while they were at the fair as well. Often they would encourage others to use the containers. Recycling at the fair became a habit that undoubtedly led to

these kids recycling at home as well.

Earlier in the year, I was asked by the Bouncing Bunnies to give a recycling presentation to the kids to demonstrate what can and cannot be recycled and why recycling matters so much. The fact that people in our county produce about 8 pounds of trash per day, half of which could potentially be recycled was surprising to them, I think. We have a landfill here in our county but someday that landfill will be full and we want to extend the life of the landfill as long as possible and the best way of doing that is to recycle.

4-H is a wonderful youth organization that teaches kids to be responsible, caring, community-oriented people. Not only do the kids learn to be responsible in taking care of their animals or completing their projects, but they are also encouraged to do community service and to be good stewards to the environment. When I asked Amy how she thought the community service went, she said, "The Bouncing Bunnies had a good time making their community, county, and their world a better place preparing the recycling bins for the fair." After all, making their community, county, and world a better place is in the 4-H pledge that every youth must know by heart.

Despite the hot weather, the Preble County Fair was a suc-

cess with approximately 25,000 people in attendance and the amount of recyclables collected for the event this year was 0.58 tons. The Bouncing Bunnies helped a great deal to contribute to the number of tons collected and they helped me do in two hours what it typically would have taken me one or two days to do! A big thanks goes out from me to all the 4-H youth who helped that day: Austin Davis, Katie Bryant, Kayla Kurtz, Kaden Kurtz, Hunter Owens, Landon Owens, Zane Owens, and Rebecca Wright. Thanks also to the adult advisors and parents who helped as well: Debbie Davis, Aaron Owens, and Amy Owens.

\*Article written by Beth Wright-Assistant Director of Preble County Solid Waste District.



4-H  
is  
Great!

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Recycling turns things into other things. Which is like MAGIC.



\*\*Article entitled 8 Easy Green Thanksgiving Tips was adapted from the following website: <http://earth911.com/home-garden/8-easy-green-thanksgiving-tips/>. Earth 911.com is an excellent resource for children and adults who wish to learn the basics about recycling, play educational recycling-themed games, learn amazing recycling facts, and read inspiring stories about people who

## 8 Easy Green Thanksgiving Tips



Happy Thanksgiving!

1. *Shopping for Food-* When shopping for your Thanksgiving meal, keep two words in mind: *organic and local*. These keywords will guarantee a fresher, more nutritious meal. Buy local foods from farmer's markets, family farms, community-supported agriculture programs and U-pick options in your area. Consider buying organic wines to be more eco-conscious without sacrificing quality or taste. If you are going to have a large crowd, buy in bulk to reduce waste and shop for your items using reusable shopping bags.
2. *Crowd Control-* At least 28 billion pounds of food is wasted per year in America. Plan ahead for the meal using portion control. Use Less Stuff (<http://use-less-stuff.com/ULSDAY/42ways.html>) created a handy list of approximate per person food and drink portions: Turkey (one pound), Stuffing (1/4 pound), Sweet potato casserole (1/4 pound), Green beans (1/4 pound), Cranberry relish (3 tablespoons), and Pumpkin pie (1/8 of a 9 inch pie). After the meal, evaluate how many people were present and how much of each dish was consumed. By keeping track each year, you can make a more efficient, less wasteful Thanksgiving meal in the future.
3. *Do Something Fun!*- Instead of watching TV, go outside or play a board game to reduce energy usage and spend quality time with your family. Play football outside instead of watching the bowl games.
4. *Traveling Tips:* According to use less stuff, if each family reduced holiday gas consumption by 1 gallon (about 20 miles), we would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1 million tons. Invite nearby friends and family to your house for Thanksgiving dinner and encourage them to do the same. If you must leave your house, turn down the thermostat and turn off the lights to save energy while you are gone.
5. *Setting the Table-* If it is going to be a small gathering, get out your nice china and cloth napkins vs. disposable plates and plastic cutlery. If you're expecting a large crowd, organize it like a potluck and ask your guests to use dishes and silverware for themselves that can be washed. If you must use disposable dishes, use biodegradable brands and compostable utensils. The average dishwasher uses between 7-15 gallons of water per cycle. If you don't hand wash dishes, fill the dishwasher to capacity before running to save water & energy.
6. *Crafty Decorations-* Make your own centerpieces. For example, acorn napkin ties (pipe cleaners with acorns glued on), dried leaf place cards, pinecone turkeys, painted gourds, pumpkin or corn cob arrangements, make your own cornucopia, etc. If there is a tablecloth or other decorative item you've been dying to buy, make sure it's a purchase you'll be happy with for years to come. Some décor can become family traditions.
7. *Lose the Leftovers-* Once the party is over donate your leftovers to neighbors, a food bank, or nearby homeless shelter. and remember to compost your scraps.
8. *Recycling Isn't a Chore-* Last but not least, get back to the basics and recycle. Encourage your guests to pitch in and clearly mark recycling bins. Recycling all packaging, as well as any beverage containers will significantly reduce the number of times you have to take out the trash as well as the amount of trash you send to the landfill. For a