



Simply Green Newsletter



PREBLE COUNTY ESC RECYCLES!



***New recycling collection bins at the ESC purchased with funds from a Preble County Solid Waste District business recycling grant.

In 2014, the Preble County Solid Waste District awarded the Preble County Educational Service Center (ESC) a \$500 business recycling grant to purchase recycling containers for its two Eaton locations. The ESC needed containers in the classrooms, hallways and staff lounge in order to promote their increased focus on recycling. They also needed a roll-around bin container to make collection of their recyclables easier. Because they were able to purchase these new recycling containers and because of the recycling signs posted next to those containers reminding people how to recycle properly, the amount of recycling that went on in both ESC locations during 2014-2015 more than doubled from their 2013-2014 totals. In 2013-2014 the ESC locations recycled 669.7 pounds of recyclables and in 2014-2015 they recycled 1802.75 pounds. The materials they recycled included: plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum cans, newspapers, electronics, and toner/ink cartridges. Their laptops and CPUs are sent to a company that specializes in recycling electronics safely.

For citizens who don't know what the Preble County ESC does, it is a resource that offers an alternative pathway to graduation to students for whom the regular pathway through school is not working as well as it should be. The programs at the Preble County ESC assist students who are at risk from not progressing in their regular school environment. Students with emotional or behavioral disabilities, or with learning disabilities or Autism for example find a great deal of benefits in having small, specialized classrooms that address their particular needs. Students find success here that they don't often find in traditional schoolrooms. I wanted to check in with the ESC

after they had gotten their new recycling bins to see how they were working out. I was given the opportunity to interview Jon Smith, the Assistant to the Superintendent at the Preble County ESC to evaluate the usefulness of having brightly colored, labeled bins for recycling and signage that drew the public's attention to their recycling efforts as well as having the rolling collection bins for ease of collection. As well as overseeing the staff's recycling efforts at the ESC, Jon Smith works in human resources, is a special education expert, he hires school psychologist and speech therapists, oversees bus driver training and drug testing, substitute teacher training and substitute scheduling.

When asked about the current recycling program at the ESC, Jon emphasized the importance of monitoring the facilities' recycling and the fact that actually measuring the recycling versus just estimating the volume made all the difference in 2014-2015. During all of the ESC events, the more visible containers and bins in the classrooms and the staff rooms as well as promotion of the bins has been the key. The staff is given friendly reminders to recycle at ESC functions and they themselves are the ones who stay after school to collect the recyclables. They also help encourage the general public to recycle while they are there. Due to a staff turnover this summer, however, Smith says that they will begin to focus more on achieving the same level of monitoring and measuring of recyclables they had been doing in the past by seeking a staff member willing to oversee the program after the former person who had been in charge of this left their position. Says Jon Smith about the importance of recycling both at home

and at the ESC, "I do a ton of recycling at home myself. I hate the thoughts of it going into the landfill. I just wish that there were more items that could be accepted by Rumpke locally such as more types of plastics (other than plastics #1 and #2 bottles) and even used building materials. I've done some home renovation and have wanted some things like siding and shingles to be recycled as well. I think it would be helpful if we citizens could try and get Rumpke to focus on accepting and recycling more types of materials." Jon mentioned that he has even sent used building materials to Cincinnati through buildingvalue.com which accepts used building materials to train students in construction.

Jon Smith is proud of the ESC's past efforts in recycling and wants to continue to see recycling thrive at both ESC locations. He thinks that despite needing staff to help with measuring and inputting the recycling data in spreadsheets, they are on goal for next year's recycling to be at the same level as 2014-2015. He wants to see that the ESC doesn't contribute any more unnecessary trash that could have been recycled to the "highest mountain in Preble County" a.k.a. the Preble County Sanitary Landfill. He recommends that all businesses try recycling for the good of the environment and for all Preble County's residents.

*If your business is interested in a business recycling grant or in improving it's recycling program please call the Preble County Solid Waste District at 937-456-6880 for more information.

How to Have a Green Christmas Shopping Experience



Buy Less

Some holiday gifts fill a practical need and need to be bought new. But many gifts are really gestures of thoughtfulness. You can give more while spending less.

- **Not all gifts have to be store bought.**

You can make your own handcrafted creations that are both personal and unique. Consider doing someone a favor or helping out around the house instead of buying something with a price tag on it. Thrift stores are great places to shop for quality gifts that have a lower price and embrace the “reuse it” strategy of green living.

- **Simplify the “gift-go-round”.**

Feeling overwhelmed by a gift list that’s just too long? Here’s an idea to help shorten your list and simplify the family gift giving ritual. Before the holiday season begins (Thanksgiving is a good time because the extended family is often together) put the names of all adult family members on separate slips of paper and put the slips in a hat. Take turns picking one name per adult– the name you pick is your gift recipient. Keep your chosen pick a secret for an element of surprise. Your gift list for adults has now been shortened to just one! Also you can even pick a gift amount that you don’t want to exceed, say \$10-\$15 to save money and encourage gifting creativity.



Buy Smart– Think “Green”

- **Look for locally made gifts.**

Save money and the gas it would have cost to drive to or ship your gift by buying locally. Holiday craft fairs are a great place to find interesting gifts that usually have a local story behind them. The profits stay in your own community.

- **Choose gifts made from recycled sources.**

Companies like Terracycle (which collects items like candy wrappers, juice pouches, etc. and turns them into items like wallets) and Eartheasy (which sells items like bike chain clocks and recycled plastic children’s toolboxes) are a good source to find great gifts while reducing America’s waste stream. Check out their websites for more recycled gift options.

- **Give battery-free gifts.**

According to the EPA, about 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Discarded batteries are an environmental hazard. Even rechargeable batteries find their way into the waste stream eventually. Consider buying toys that are naturally powered (i.e. wind-powered, solar-powered, etc.) One company to check out for these types of toys is One I Love. You can see their full line of eco-friendly toys at oneiloveshop.com.

- **“Re-gifting” is Ok.**

There’s much discussion these days about the etiquette behind the trend to “re-gift” or to pass on a gift received that you don’t need. Re-gifting makes perfect sense. If you receive something you really don’t need, look for ways you can reuse the gift by passing it on to someone who can. Of course, re-gift with care so as not to offend the original giver, but keeping a gift you don’t need is wasteful. *Adapted from an article found on Eartheasy.com (http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm).

For more great tips about recycling, please visit the Preble County Solid Waste District’s website:

www.preblecountyrecycles.org