

Part one of a series:

Pollution Prevention Week highlights recycling

National Pollution Prevention Week, Sept. 17-23, is an opportunity for individuals, businesses and local governments to emphasize and highlight their pollution-prevention and waste-reduction activities and achievements, expand their pollution-prevention efforts and commit to new actions.

Fluor Hanford, the cities of Richland and West Richland, the Richland School District, DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, the Fluor Hanford Waste Services organization within the Waste Management Project and employees of the 222-S Laboratory will sponsor events to raise community awareness of pollution prevention.

Recycling saves

We know that recycling paper and cardboard saves trees and keeps paper out of the landfill. But recycling also saves water and energy. Recycling one ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water, which is half the amount needed to manufacture a ton of virgin paper.

Recycling a ton of paper also saves nearly 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electrical energy — enough energy to power an average home for six months. Each year, 450 to 550 tons of paper products are recycled through the Hanford Recycling Programs administered by DynCorp Tri-Cities Services. This means that enough energy is saved each year through the paper and cardboard recycling programs to power approximately 250 homes in the Tri-Cities for an entire year.

More than just paper

Other types of recycling also save water and energy. Recycling steel and tin cans saves 74 percent of the energy and 40 percent of the water used to produce them from raw materials. A tin can is actually 99 percent steel with a thin layer of tin added to prevent rusting. Nearly 100 percent of the steel can be recycled and 70 to 80 percent of the tin is recovered in the recycling process.

The energy savings are even higher for aluminum cans. Nearly 95 percent less energy is used to recycle aluminum rather than produce it from raw materials. This is why programs for recycling aluminum are so much more profitable than for other recyclable materials.

Recycling a ton of glass takes 25-32 percent less energy than manufacturing new glass, and saves nearly a ton of raw resources. Glass is not only used to make new glass containers, but it is also used to make fiberglass and “glasphalt” road filler. Glass never wears out and can be recycled forever. Despite this fact, Americans throw away enough glass bottles and jars every two weeks to fill the 1,350-foot towers of the World Trade Center.

Making it easy

The recycling programs at Hanford are extremely easy to use. According to Kathy Hinkelman, the Hanford recycling coordinator for non-hazardous materials, there are more than 350 locations at Hanford (not including Pacific Northwest National Laboratory sites) for recycling office paper. It can be recycled in either the blue totes on wheels or in the familiar white bags.



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There are also 275 green totes on wheels in use to collect “lunchroom materials” such as mixed paper, glass, plastic and tin (steel) cans. The containers (which are not always in lunchrooms) are marked with brightly colored posters indicating what is to be recycled in them.

In addition, there are more than 90 cardboard recycling dumpsters conveniently located near trash dumpsters at many Hanford buildings. There are also separate recycling programs for toner cartridges, software, scrap metal, computers and a variety of other materials. And most facilities have their own programs for aluminum can recycling.

For more information on Hanford recycling programs for non-hazardous materials, contact Kathy Hinkelman at 376-7631. PNNL employees may contact recycling coordinator Judy Johannesen at 376-8777. For more on recycling in general, visit <http://envirosystemsinc.com>. ♦

Week of events celebrates pollution prevention

Monday, Sept. 17

- Brown-bag session at 2704-HV, noon - 1 p.m., “Shop SMART, Save Money and Reduce Trash” seminar.” Call Bertrand Griffin II at 373-4327.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

- Brown-bag at the HAMMER Training Center Administrative Building, Room 14, noon - 1 p.m. “Shop SMART seminar.” Call Kathy Hinkelman at 376-7631.
- Waste Services presentations, MO-279 in 200 West, “Water and energy conservation,” 11 a.m. - noon and 1-2 p.m. Call Gayle Valante at 373-1621.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

- Richland elementary students will pick up trash at Lewis & Clark, Marcus Whitman, William R. Wiley, Richland High, Jefferson and Tapteal schools.
- Environmental ventriloquist Keith Ramsay will perform at the Richland Public Library at 7 p.m.
- “Shop SMART seminar” at the Richland City Council chambers, 7 p.m. Call Gail Baasch at 942-7730 to reserve your spot.

Thursday, Sept. 20

- Pasco High driver education classes will be learning about the littering laws.
- Brown-bag at 222-S Lab, “Energy and Water Conservation,” noon - 1 p.m. Call Bertrand Griffin II at 373-4327.
- “Energy and Water Conservation” presentation, FFTF, 1:30 - 2:30. Call Al Hill at 372-8963.

Saturday, Sept. 22

- Environmental Trade Show at Home Depot, featuring vendors, exhibitors, entertainment and activities for kids (coloring contest and building projects). There will be a recycled clothing boutique as well as collection containers for cell phones, eyeglasses, phone books and hearing aids. Tri-City Motor Sales will demonstrate an electric car, and local utilities will have ideas on saving water and energy.
- Household hazardous waste collection event, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tri-Cities Coliseum parking lot.

Sunday, Sept. 23

- Watch for the KidZone article on pollution prevention in the *Tri-City Herald*.
- Recyclables treasure hunt at the Three Rivers Children’s Museum, 650 George Washington Way. ♦