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Sherborn Recycling Committee Updates

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the first E-Newsletter of 2013, and belated Happy New Year to you all.

Saving Resources in Your Bathroom

One good way to conserve is to resolve to carry out one new resource-saving practice a month. To get you through April, here are three suggestions for resource -saving actions in the bathroom.

1. Set up a good system for collecting recyclables in your bathroom (cardboard boxes from soap or toothpaste, plastic containers from shampoo, deodorant cans, those impossible-to-open hard plastic shell-containers from CFL's); one suggestion is to place a (reusable) grocery bag along the wall between the toilet and the toilet paper holder and then just toss recyclable items in the bag instead of in the wastebasket. Then on trash day, sort the plastic and paper items as they go into your recycling bins.
2. When you are showering, turn off the water while you soap up.
3. Turn the water off between rinses while brushing your teeth. Saving resources can be easy, practical, and effective.

Update on Warrant Article for Transfer Station

In the last newsletter it was reported that a warrant article suggestion was submitted to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to overlay the crumbling asphalt at the Transfer Station with new pavement in order to preserve what is likely the cap on top of that part of the old landfill. The BOS has now agreed that this is the best choice the Town can make. Since the Capital Budget Committee's long-range plan earmarks this year for making improvements to the Transfer Station, the BOS has decided to create a single capital budget item for the Transfer Station including the pavement as well as two more issues that need to be addressed. First is the exterior stockade fence which has been deteriorating section by section for years, creating work for CM&D as they have removed the dilapidated sections and shifted the rest so that the fence (if shorter) at least looks continuous. This year, we are seeking approval to replace the entire stockade fence with similar material. The second issue is the dilapidated, unsightly storage containers that are used for collecting tires; building materials; skis, sleds, and skates; Styrofoam; and as storage for recycling bins, compost bins, and loaner recycling barrels. These third-generation box containers leak when it rains and the perforated floors are covered with sheets of plywood to make a safer surface for people to walk on. Replacement has been put off for many years, but now safety and practical considerations have led us to seek Town Meeting approval for these items as well.

Littering

The subject in our last newsletter that generated the most interest from readers was the observation of thoughtless littering. A number of readers are as much exercised by people's carelessness as we are. Many suggested that BOS should do something; some blamed one or another particular take-out place. However, we think a community wide effort to get all of the take-out places to support an anti-littering campaign would be more effective and we hope to involve the Sherborn Business Association. As yet they have not responded to our outreach. If any of you know members of the Business Association and would like to approach them on this matter, please do! If you are a member, please consider urging the association to discuss this issue with the Recycling Committee - we are all volunteers, but we are here to help.

Update the Bottle Bill

Long-time readers will recall that last summer we encouraged you a number of times to contact the Speaker of the House to enable passage of the Updated Bottle Bill

which would expand deposits to include water, juice, and other bottles that were not in the original bill. Bottlers and supermarkets have strongly opposed the update, and their lobbyists have influenced important legislators (such as the Speaker) for well over a decade to discourage its passage, in spite of apparent overwhelming support by citizens and towns. The bill has been filed once again in both the House and the Senate. We will keep you apprised, and begging your indulgence, we will ask you again to contact various important state committee members when the time comes. Legislators should be more responsive to citizens than to lobbyists. For more information on the new and improved bottle bill, please visit [here](#).

Podcasts for your Commute

One of our favorite idea sources, [Earth911](#), has recently published an article called [Podcasts for your Commute](#), a series of educational pieces that we thought some of you might be interested in tuning into. Each podcast runs about 25 minutes or less, and the subjects range from Environmental Issues, to Food and Gardening, to Science and Nature, to Waste Reduction as well as others.

Recycle your Inkjet Cartridges

Do you know that you can recycle your inkjet cartridges for the benefit of Pine Hill School? There are collection points at Town Hall, at Pine Hill School, and at the Library. Please help!

New Product Looks Like a Great Idea

Have you ever fixed a supper plate for someone who ends up coming home late and then you have to cover the plate with (UGH) plastic wrap or aluminum foil? There is new product is called a [Plate Topper](#), a microwaveable and dishwasher-proof flat-top suction cup that fits over a plate and can then go into the refrigerator, and it is sturdy enough to be used for stacking if necessary. Pretty smart!

We want to hear from you!

Please contact [us](#) with any questions, ideas, issues, pet

peeves, or kudos you may have regarding our Recycling program. We want to know what you are thinking about and what you need to make our program more effective. And if you know anyone who might be interested in these matters, please forward this along and let them know they can be a subscriber too by clicking [here](#).

Thank you very much for reading!

Sincerely,

Carol S. Rubenstein, Chair
Sherborn Recycling Committee
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We are on the Web!
<http://recycling.sherbornma.org>

