

The best fertilizer for your lawn is your lawn

Spring means it's time for seasonal lawn maintenance. Interested in using an inexpensive, all-natural fertilizer that can give you a lush, green lawn? The solution is at your feet.

Grasscycling — recycling grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn instead of collecting them for disposal — is a clean and green way to fertilize. When a lawn is properly mowed, grass clippings quickly decompose and naturally return nutrients to the soil.

There are no special tricks to grasscycling, but here are a few helpful tips:

- Mow grass only when it's dry
- Cut no more than one-third of the grass height at any one time and no more than one inch total
- Cut grass with a sharp blade, preferably a mulching blade

You can mulch your grass with a regular or mulching mower. Mulching will cut the clippings into smaller pieces, enabling them to breakdown faster. Most mower manufacturers make mulching blade kits you can install on your regular mower.

“Providing a natural lawn fertilizer is only one of many benefits to grasscycling,” says Matt Riggs, Outreach Coordinator for the district. “It also saves time and effort bagging, conserves water, protects waterways from runoff pollution, conserves landfill space and saves money on water, fertilizer and disposal costs.”

Contrary to popular belief, grass clippings do not cause thatch. Thatch is a layer of organic material made up of grass roots which contain lignin, a substance that decomposes very slowly and causes thatch. Grass clippings are about 90 percent water, so they decompose very quickly. Mulching grass clippings can actually help decompose thatch by supporting a healthy soil ecosystem.



For more information on grasscycling and earth-friendly lawn care tips visit www.marc.org/Environment/Water/earthfriendlylawns.htm



Upcoming Events

June 10: MARC 15th Annual Regional Assembly, Hyatt Regency Crown Center

June 6-8: Missouri Recycling Association Conference, Branson, Mo.

June 19-21: Missouri Waste Control Coalition Conference, Lake of the Ozarks

MARC Solid Waste Management District Management Council meetings are held bi-monthly at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. The executive board meets monthly. For more information, visit www.marc.org/environment/solidwaste or contact Lisa Danbury at (816) 701-8225 or ldanbury@marc.org.



For more information on environmental workshops, trainings and other special events, visit www.marc.org/sustain



The Regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program

marks its 15th year this spring. Residents of 34 participating communities have access to 11 regional mobile collection events and permanent facilities in Kansas City and Lee's Summit. Residents can safely dispose of unwanted HHW such as paint, automotive fluids and lawn and garden chemicals. All mobile events are open to residents of any participating community; others will be charged a disposal fee of \$75. The district welcomes Loch Lloyd as a new program member in 2011.

2011 HHW Schedule

April 2	Independence
April 16	Blue Springs/Lake Tapawingo
April 30	Grain Valley/Jackson County
May 14	Harrisonville
June 4	Gladstone*
June 25	Belton
Aug. 13	Platte County/Weston/Platte City
Aug. 27	Pleasant Hill/Raymore*
Sept. 10	Kearney/Clay County
Oct. 1	Riverside/Parkville*
Oct. 22	Liberty/Clay County

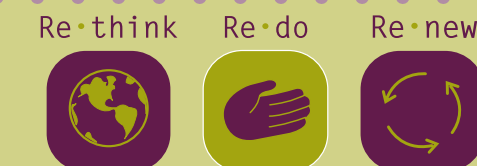
*ABOP events — only antifreeze, batteries, motor oil and paint are accepted. For more information, contact Nadja Karpilow at (816) 701-8226 or karpilow@marc.org.



For a complete list of participating communities visit www.recyclespot.org

ReNews

Spring 2011



MARC

Mid-America Regional Council
Solid Waste Management District
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105
Phone 816/474-4240
Fax 816/421-7758
www.marc.org/Environment/SolidWaste
www.recyclespot.org

A semiannual publication of the MARC Solid Waste Management District

Serving local governments in Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri

Working cooperatively with Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte counties in Kansas



Partial funding provided by



Mid-America Regional Council
Solid Waste Management District
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

ReNews

Printed on post-consumer, non-deinked, recycled paper with soy-based inks.

District offers resources, guidance for local governments' waste diversion efforts

Local government involvement is the key to successfully reaching the MARC Solid Waste Management District's goal of 80 percent waste diversion by 2023. Last year a task force of district city and county representatives developed a road map of proven waste diversion strategies to help guide regional efforts.

Based on policy recommendations from the 2009 Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study, the road map is designed to help cities and counties implement a variety of incremental steps to reach diversion milestones of 40 percent, 60 percent and 80 percent.

The 80/2023 goal is part of the district's vision for a sustainable solid waste management system that keeps communities clean and healthy, protects the environment, grows our local economy and improves overall quality of life. Sustainable solid waste management is still essentially about reduction, reuse and recycling. To move beyond our current waste diversion rate of 25 percent, short-term efforts must focus on better access to services and improving participation.

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New drop-off recycling center serves Independence residents

Ted's Trash Service in Independence, Mo., marked the opening of its new recycling drop-off center at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 23. The company replaced an old gas station and car wash located to the west of its main offices with the new center, which accepts a wide range of materials, including glass. Residents can access the facility around the clock; however, appointments are required to drop off large appliances such as washers or dryers.

Some of the recyclables — including plastics and aluminum — are sent to IBS Industries, a local nonprofit that creates jobs for adults with developmental disabilities. The company helps fund some of its programs by selling the materials.

The facility is located at 10800 East Truman Rd. in Independence — a high-profile location that the community hopes will encourage residents to take advantage of the service. For questions, call (816) 252-1594 Monday-Friday between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Olathe achieves record recycling rates in 2010

Olathe's curbside recycling program recycled a record one million pounds in December 2010. From 2009 to 2010 the total curbside recycling tonnage increased over 6 million pounds. This dramatic increase in the amount of materials collected can largely be attributed to service changes implemented last year.

In January 2010, Olathe moved from a subscription-based recycling service to a mandatory service, creating a single monthly fee for residential services. The fee now covers curbside trash, recycling, and yard waste collection as well as drop-off services for household hazardous waste, electronic waste, recycling centers and community cleanup events.

Residents and the city council helped drive the process. In a city survey, about 60 percent of respondents believed curbside recycling should be included as part of the base solid waste service. And city leadership also helped promote services. "You must have total city council support," says Kent Seyfried, Olathe Solid Waste Coordinator. "Every council member must have something good to say about the program."



Thirty-three percent of Olathe households subscribed to the curbside program before the service changes, with a participation rate of 29 percent. Following implementation of bundled trash and recycling services, the recycling set-out rate jumped to 70 percent.

Ongoing communication with residents helped inform the public about the changes. The city continues to reach its residents through its website, public service announcements, direct mail and city newsletter.

Expanding the types of materials collected curbside also influenced the rise in recycling. Although glass was eliminated from curbside collection, residents can recycle glass at the city's recycling centers or at nearby Ripple Glass bins.

The service changes mark a positive step for the environment and a sound business decision. Recycling diverts more materials from the landfill with overall cost savings which can help to stabilize solid waste rates in the long term.

For more information, contact Kent Seyfried (913) 971-9006 or kseyfried@olatheks.org.

District grants in action

Cass County sheltered workshop recycling program serves the community

At Casco Area Workshop in Harrisonville, Mo., recycling goes hand in hand with helping residents who have disabilities. This sheltered workshop of 200 employees, which has served Cass County since 1975, received \$28,228 in district grant funds to purchase collection containers for cardboard and clothing plus a five-compartment collection container at a second drop-off location planned to open this spring in Harrisonville. Casco's goal is to increase its annual recycling tonnage from 140 to 500 tons.

"We're not in this to make a profit," says James Miles, Warehouse Manager and Recycling Coordinator. "We're in this to improve our community through providing recycling services and a meaningful occupation to people with disabilities."

Casco offers free pickup recycling services to local businesses, organizations and schools. This project intends to reach 150 businesses, six local school districts and over 20,000 individuals. Drop-off recycling is currently available to the general public at the Casco facility in Harrisonville,.

For more information, contact James Miles at (816) 380-7363 or james@casco-aw.org.

THE DISTRICT AWARDED \$383,484 FOR A TOTAL OF 19 GRANTS IN FY11.

2011 District Grant Recipients

- **Materials Recovery and Transfer** – Reclamation of usable wood (\$38,000)
- **Hallmark Cards, Inc.** – Zero Waste to Landfill program (\$49,416)
- **Kansas City Public Television** – "Little Green Steps to a Happy Planet" (\$30,000)
- **Casco Area Workshop, Inc.** – Collection/drop-off recycling project (\$28,228)
- **Wilderness Retreat & Development Center** – Creation Cleanup (\$1,721)
- **Ripple Glass, LLC** – New containers & community outreach (\$125,000)
- **BADSEED** – BADSEED residential composting program (\$43,200)
- **Habitat ReStore** – Waldo ReStore equipment (\$17,571)
- **Habitat ReStore** – ReStore marketing (\$49,962)
- **City of Grain Valley** – Parks recycling (\$386)

Grant funds available for waste reduction, reuse and recycling projects

The MARC Solid Waste Management District is soliciting FY 2012 grant applications from city and county governments, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations and other interested parties to promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

In addition, a targeted call is issued to local governments for parks and special event recycling containers. There are new match requirements for this cycle.

All projects must be located within the MARC Solid Waste Management District, which represents Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri.

For more information, contact Nadja Karpilow at karpilow@marc.org or 816/701-8226.



Download application forms at www.marc.org/Environment/SolidWaste/grants/

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Learn grant program objectives and the application process at one of three sessions offered. No RSVP is necessary. Sessions will take place at the MARC offices, 600 Broadway, Suite 200, Kansas City, Mo.

Thursday, June 16	2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 21	2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 13	9:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.

GENERAL TIMELINE:

Friday, August 5	STEP 1 Online pre-proposals due by 5:00 pm
Thursday, Oct. 6	STEP 2 - Final applications due by 4:00 pm
January 1, 2012	Funds available to district grant recipients

RECYCLING LUNCHEONS

The MARC Solid Waste Management District has launched a series of informal recycling luncheons to connect businesses and local governments with service providers to improve waste reduction and recycling. The first luncheon was held May 26 and focused on the topic of workplace recycling.

For more information or to learn about future luncheons contact Matt Riggs at (816) 701-8313 or mriggs@marc.org

RECYCLES.POT.ORG

Recent improvements to the region's one-stop spot for recycling information will allow users to:

- Find service providers within a specified geographic area
- Access maps and driving directions
- Find solid waste services available in your community
- Tailor search results by services (pick up or drop-off) and customers (resident, business, construction and demolition)
- Learn more about reduction, reuse and recycling and related resources

The updated site is expected to launch this summer.



Blue Springs' community recycling center marks nearly a year in service



The city of Blue Springs, Mo., opened its first community drop-off recycling center at Pink Hill Park last summer. A district grant helped pay for the facility, which is free to the public and offers convenient access for residents of eastern Jackson County. Accepted items include all typical household recyclables such as aluminum and tins cans, food and beverage containers in glass and plastic, cardboard and paper. For hours and other information call the Blue Springs recycling hotline at (816) 228-0228.

Recycling Challenge underway



The district's **Recycling Challenge** encourages local governments to work toward sustainable solid waste management. A sustainable system not only produces less waste, but it also conserves our natural resources, keeps our communities clean, protects public health, and supports and grows our local economy.

The challenge is an ongoing initiative aimed at helping the district and its members achieve the initial waste diversion goal of 40 percent by 2013. District staff will work with participants to continue current efforts and identify new actions including education, policies and planning, residential programs, special collections and measurements.

For questions about the challenge or to sign up, contact Matt Riggs at (816) 701-8313 or mriggs@marc.org.



www.marc.org/Environment/SolidWaste/Recycling_Challenge

Road map (cont. from page 1)

The road map strategies target residential, business and construction/demolition waste streams. Effective policies and education will help establish better access to services and increase participation from residents and businesses. Development of a guidance document to accompany the 80/2023 Road Map is underway to showcase case studies and examples of specific services, policies and programs.

For more information, contact Lisa Danbury at (816) 701-8225 or ldanbury@marc.org.



The 80/2023 Road Map is available at www.marc.org/Environment/SolidWaste/reports.htm

WASTE DIVERSION PHASES

40% x 2013

- Recycling and yard waste services
- Waste reduction practices



60% x 2018

- Transition to volume-based rates
- Green building incentives



80% x 2023

- Food waste collection programs
- Construction waste recycling

