



Fond du Lac Environmental Program

November/December 2008

America Recycles Day November 15th, 2008



Every year, America celebrates recycling on November 15th. Take the pledge to start recycling more at home and at work. Just as important - complete the cycle, buy recycled products when possible!

Tips for recycling:

These tips help make the recycling process easier and keep costs down.

-rinse out containers when possible and -it makes processing easier.

-greasy pizza boxes or food -stained paper and container caps should not be put in the recycling bin.

-plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, tin cans, paper, newspaper, magazines and catalogs, aluminum cans, milk jugs, cereal and pop boxes, fluorescent bulbs, clean and dry cardboard, tires, mattresses, waste oil and electronics are all recyclable at the FdL Waste Site.

Don't forget! If you are hosting an event, recycling bins are available—just call Shannon Judd, Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator, at 878-8023.

What are the end products??

Sometimes recycled items are used to make the exact same product (cardboard boxes recycled to make new cardboard boxes), but sometimes recyclables are used to make something completely different!

Glass...It can be used to make new glass containers, but did you know it can also be used to make roads, marbles, decorative tiles, surfboards,

Plastic bottles...plastic bottles can be used to make clothing (5 bottles makes 1 XL tshirt!), plastic lumber, carpet, fiber-fill for jackets, promotional items, and many more things!



Plastic Lumber Bench

<http://www.plasticboards.com/>

Tires can be shredded and used for playground 'mulch,' road construction, doormats, flip-flops, sheet rubber for making clothing and bags, etc.

Did you know...

A ton of paper made from recycled materials instead of virgin materials saves:

- 17-31 trees
- 7,000 gallons of water
- 4,000 Kwh of electricity
- 60 pounds of air pollutants

Sources: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/>;
<http://www.nrc-recycle.org/recycling101.aspx>

Winter Energy Saving Tips

With the cost of propane and natural gas, many people are looking for ways to use less while still maintaining a warm, comfortable environment in their home. The following are some ways you can reduce fuel and electricity usage while remaining safe and comfortable. The Consumer Energy Center gives some great suggestions for Some are free, some require a little cash, and some are long term investments that will pay for themselves over the years.

<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/winter.html>

Free!

- * Take advantage of the sun! On nice sunny days, open your curtains and let the sun in - it will help heat your house—for free! On the other hand, close them in the evening so they can help insulate your home.
- * Rearrange! Move furniture towards the interior walls of rooms - you will not catch as much of a draft as you would sitting by exterior walls.
- * If you have a fireplace, keep the damper closed when not in use (make sure all embers are out first though!) Fireplaces suck heat out of a place when not in use.
- * Turn off lights in unused rooms and turn off your ventilating fans after 20 minutes.
- * Shower-time...long hot showers feel good, but they also burn up a lot of energy. If you cut your shower-time in half, you can reduce your water heating costs by 33%.
- * Switch off power strips when you are done using the electronics plugged into them. Unplug chargers and items with a block-shaped plug when not in use.

Require a little investment:

- * Keep up with your furnace filters! Clean or change them once a month. It's a good idea to have them checked by a professional before or at the beginning of the heating season to make sure they are operating as efficiently as possible. This will also pay off in the long run by extending the life of your furnace!
- * Get a tube of caulk or some weather-stripping and plug leaky doors and windows. You can save up to 10% in energy costs.
- * Install low-flow showerheads—they can cut down on your hot water heating costs by 10-16%.
- * Wrap the hot water heater with jacket insulation and insulate your pipes and insulate water pipes.

A good long-term investment:

- * Install a programmable thermostat—you can set the temperature to lower or raise the temperature at different times of day. Remember, if you are replacing an old mercury thermostat, please contact the environmental program for proper disposal.
- * If you plan on replacing your windows, replace them with high-efficiency (Energy Star) windows, which will help prevent moisture problems and decrease heating and cooling costs.
- * Consider hiring a contractor to test the tightness of your ducts - leaking ducts can account for up to 30 percent of heat loss in a home. Check with your local utilities to see if they have an assistance program for this type of work.
- * Insulate your ceiling - scant insulation can cause a lot of heat loss in a home.
- * If you are shopping for new appliances, look for the Energy Star label. Did you know that a new Energy Star washing machine uses 50% less energy?



Water Program Update

- ◆ The Fond du Lac Office of Water Protection has completed another year of monitoring the lakes, streams and rivers on the Reservation. They are committed to supporting the continued health of those waters for fishing, swimming and wild rice.

Phenology...it's what's happening in nature.



What is phenology? It is the study of the timing of natural events – recording the dates of significant moments in nature, such as when migrating birds return, lakes freeze and thaw, flowers bloom, sap begins flowing, wild rice ripens, etc.

Why is phenology important? Phenology not only helps us understand the interaction between wildlife, vegetation, and the surrounding environment, it can help identify any significant changes that occur over time and help assess the impacts of climate change. For example,

raccoons, some bird species, wood ticks, poison ivy and other plants and animals are now being found further north than ever before!

Phenology at Fond du Lac...The Fond du Lac Ojibwe School 2008-2009 3rd Grade class is conducting their own phenology project throughout the school year with the help of their teachers and the Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator for the Fond du Lac Environmental Program. This project began in January of the 2007-2008 school year with the previous third grade class.



Students have picked a special spot of their own within a specified section of the nature trail. They will return to their same chosen spot each week and record their observations (using all senses...except taste of course, unless approved by a staff member). Students can write poems, lists, create drawings, whatever they feel like! They have also come up with symbols to represent weather conditions and describe the temperature in terms of how it feels outside as well as giving the actual numeric value.

The weekly updates on this project can be viewed at:

<http://www.fdlrez.com/Education/teacherpages/3rdgrade/phenology.htm>

FDL Community Phenology Project...In addition to 3rd grade phenology project, we will be starting a community-wide phenology web page that will be posted on the Resource Management website. Particular areas of interest are dates for ice-in/ice-out, bird and other wildlife sightings, blooming flowers, buds on trees, wild rice ripening dates, etc. We are also going to try to include any past data we can locate so you can see the trend over the years.

Please help contribute to this site!!! If you have any observations or make note of a phenological happening in nature, please let us know and we can add it to the listings. If you have any pictures to send along with your observations, please do! We are hoping to have the site up by the beginning of the year, so any contributions beforehand would be appreciated.

Email any observations/sightings to Shannon Judd at shannonjudd@fdlrez.com or call 878-8023.

Recycle

Plastic

Magazine Paper

Aluminium

Newspaper
Cardboard



Mixed paper

Do your part to conserve natural resources and protect the environment for future generations....Recycle.

Fond du Lac Waste Site: 878-8069

Who's Who?

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