



Mansfield Recycling Program

APRIL THROUGH JUNE, 2008

429-3333

www.mansfieldct.org/publicworks.html

- TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE** The week of Memorial Day - no change in trash & recycling collection days.
The week of July Fourth - Thurs, July 3—no change in trash & recycling collection
Fri, July 4—trash & recycling collection will be on Sat, July 5
- EXTRA HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE** You may put out extra household garbage on your regular collection day the week of May 5, 2008. Extra garbage does not include bulky items, which should be taken to the transfer station.
- RID LITTER DAY, MAY 3, 2008** Help us clean up roadside litter on Saturday, May 3, 2008. Bags of roadside litter can either be placed out with curbside collection (no limit restriction) or taken to the transfer station at no cost. Trash bags and temporary litter pick-up signs will be available at the Town Hall.
- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY** The Regional Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility, located on Hancock Road in Willington, will be open the first and third Saturdays of the month beginning April 19, 2008. The hours are 9 am to 2 pm for residential and small business hazardous waste disposal. For a brochure with directions and more information call 429-3333.
- MERCURY IN FLUORESCENT BULBS** The Town of Mansfield has hosted three energy efficient lighting sales, selling about 5,000 compact fluorescent bulbs. While fluorescent bulbs use less energy, they also contain mercury. Used fluorescent bulbs should be brought to the Mansfield transfer station so that the mercury and glass can be recycled. Broken bulbs should be carefully cleaned up with a damp cloth (*not a vacuum*), double bagged and taken to the hazardous waste facility. *Never* flush mercury down the drain or dispose in household trash.
- FLUORESCENT BULBS FOR \$1.00** Mansfield will be hosting another energy efficient lighting sale on **Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Community Center** in conjunction with Mansfield's Earth Day celebration. Most bulbs will sell for \$1.00.
- MEDICINE DISPOSAL** **DO NOT FLUSH MEDICINES DOWN THE TOILET OR SINK.** You may have been told, even by a healthcare provider, that this is the way to dispose of unwanted medications. But disposing of drugs this way causes water pollution because they pass through septic systems and sewage treatment plants untreated. Drugs in water, even in highly diluted concentrations, can have adverse effects on aquatic life and human health. Instead, place medicine in the trash. Mansfield's garbage is burned at the Preston incinerator at very high temperatures, which destroys these products and prevents them from getting into our water. The CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends that you follow these steps before you put any medicines in the trash:
1. Keep medication in original container. Cross out patient's name.
 2. Modify medications to discourage consumption. For solids, add a small amount of water to dissolve. For liquids, add salt or a powdered spice. For blister packs, wrap in duct tape.
 3. Tape container lid shut.
 4. Discard the container in your garbage can.

ORGANIC LAND-CARE WORKSHOPS

Backyard Composting - Saturday, April 12, 2008, 10 am to 11 am at Mansfield Town Hall Council Chambers

Learn about the inner workings of a compost pile and how it is an integral part of organic land care. Some compost bins will be available to purchase for \$56– first come, first served. Register by April 7, 2008 by calling 429-3333.

More Than Just A Yard: Backyard Conservation—Monday, April 21, 2008, 7:30 pm at Mansfield Library, Buchanan Auditorium

Learn how to create a landscape that meets your needs while protecting the environment using rain gardens, lawn alternatives, native plants, vegetated buffers and edible landscaping.

ORGANIC LANDSCAPERS

If you are looking for an organic landscaper or lawn service, visit www.organiclandcare.net for a directory of accredited organic professionals or contact the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 429-3333.

COMPOST COLLECTION CONTAINERS

9.6 quart kitchen compost collection containers, with filters, are available for \$15.25 through the Town. Since they were purchased in bulk, we can pass along a modest savings to you. Call 429-3333 if you would like to purchase one.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, APRIL 26, 2008

Come celebrate Earth Day at the Mansfield Community Center from 11 am to 2 pm. This Earth Day event will focus on practical ways to reduce energy use. The day will feature a farmer's market, energy efficient bulb sale, children's flea market (from 10 am to 1 pm), energy efficient cars, affordable energy-saving devices for home and children's activities.

IS YOUR ELECTRIC BILL TOO HIGH

Inefficient appliances can be a significant contributor to your electric bill. Kill-A-Watt meters are a useful tool for showing how much electricity an appliance uses. Simply plug it into the outlet and the appliance into the meter. The Clean Energy Team has Kill-A-Watt meters available for loan. If you are interested in borrowing one, call 429-3333.

A BETTER BATTERY

Last year the Town collected about 5,000 pounds of alkaline batteries for recycling. Mansfield is unique in offering this service to its residents. Although it is good that these batteries are being recycled, there is a better alternative - rechargeable nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries. NiMH batteries contain no toxic chemicals and recharge as many as 500 times. They come in the same shapes and sizes as alkaline and can last 1,000 times longer (according to one manufacturer) than an alkaline battery. Not only is there less waste with rechargeable batteries, over the life of the battery it is cheaper to use. Additionally, the Town pays 50 cents per pound to recycle alkaline batteries and nothing to recycle rechargeables. The next time you shop for batteries, consider nickel metal hydride rechargeable batteries.

CONSIDER THIS

Recyclables are a resource, not waste. Every time you place an item in your recycle bin, you are preparing feedstock for the manufacturing industry. That bottle, can, paper or cardboard in your bag or bin is destined to be made into a new product. That is why it is important to sort & recycle according to our instructions. Poorly sorted recyclables can result in poorly made new products or end up as waste after all.

PLANT POT REUSE

Undamaged plant pots and trays of all sizes can be reused at Hockanum Greenhouse on the corner of Bone Mill Road and Route 44. They are a non-profit organization dedicated to serving adults with disabilities.