

TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

2018 LEGACY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

EARTH DAY

Monday, April 22, 2019



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RECYCLE TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

LUZERNE COUNTY RECYCLING OFFICE

For more information check out our website at
<https://www.luzernecounty.org-Recycling-Department>

EARTH DAY 2019

WHEN YOU RECYCLE RIGHT
EVERYDAY IS **EARTH DAY**

Remember..3 SIMPLE STEPS



READ IT-



Look for the recycling symbol

RINSE IT-



Remove food & liquids

RECYCLE IT-



Place in recycling bin

ONE MINUTE CAN MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD
FOR YOUR CHILDREN...FOR THE **EARTH**
FOR A LIFETIME

Luzerne County Recycling Office

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'Aspirational Recycling'—More Harm Than Good?

Recycling incorrectly can turn into waste plastics, metals and other materials that could otherwise be turned into new products.

"Sometimes our enthusiasm for conserving resources and protecting the environment by recycling almost everything is having an unintended consequence," Waste Management's regional spokesman John Hambrose said. " 'Aspirational recycling,' as it's known in the industry, is leading us to put the wrong things in our recycling

containers."

"The wrong things" Mr. Hambrose refers to are known as "contamination" and are any item or material that's should not be put in your container.

"Too much contamination in a load of otherwise recyclable material can turn that entire load, sometimes tons of materials, into waste," Mr. Hambrose said.

Mr. Hambrose said the list of recyclable ma-

terials sometimes varies between communities and recommends that residential and commercial recyclers become familiar with, and place in their container, only those materials their haulers collect.

"The leading contaminants list is consistent across the industry and starts with plastic bags, plastic wrap and plastic film," Mr. Hambrose

See 'RECYCLING' | 4

FREE YOUR RECYCLABLES.



No plastic bags. Put items directly into your recycling container.



RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.

For more information, visit
RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com

#Recycling101

'RECYCLING'

 from 3

said. "These materials and other 'tangles' prevent recycling centers from properly sorting materials. This reduces the value of processed materials and increases waste."

Other contaminants include food waste and recyclables soiled with food waste, including greasy pizza boxes, foam and plastic clam-shell containers from bakeries and delis, toys, garden hoses, Christmas lights, and bowling balls.

"If we place only acceptable items in our home, work and school recycling containers, we'll be doing something wonderful for the environment," Mr. Hambrose said.

More information about being a great recycler is available at Waste Management's recycle-often-recycle-right Web site at www.rorr.com



Technicians in a Waste Management recycling processing center clear tangled plastic bags and plastic film from a mechanical sorting screen. Plastic bags and film prevent this machine from operating correctly and an entire plant can be idled each time the screen needs to be cleared ... which can be several times a day. Plastics bags, wrap and film should not be placed in your recycling container.

Cutting Down on Usage

One of the best ways to keep trash out of landfills, gutters, rivers and the ocean is to cut back on the amount we throw away.

The Environmental Protection Agency offers ways for us to apply the mantra of "reduce, reuse, recycle" to keep down the amount of stuff we buy, which trickles down to throwing away less and eventually requiring less stuff to be produced in the first place.

Reducing

This is the first and arguably best step — use less! Producing new items uses energy, usually produced by fossil fuels, and a variety of materi-

als that have to be produced or mined. All of these materials and the finished products are transported throughout the country. The more we buy, the more of these resources get used.

Of course, going without isn't always an op-

tion, so be a smart consumer. Buy products with less packaging, and go for higher-quality clothing, household items, toys and appliances

See 'USAGE' | 5



'USAGE' from 4

that will last longer. These typically cost more at the outset, but you'll save money in not having to replace them as often. Read e-books or check books out from the library instead of buying them.

Reusing

Whether it's a big purchase like a car or furniture or smaller items like toys, clothes and books, buy used whenever possible. Shop thrift stores, flea markets and garage sales or check online ads. While you're at it, sell your no-longer-needed items; kids grow out of clothes so quickly they may be reusable, or look at formal attire that you only wore once.

You can also organize a clothing swap among friends, neighbors or social groups; everyone can bring the items they don't want anymore and take items from others.

Also look for ways to reuse recyclable materials like cardboard boxes, egg cartons and other containers. Although they should eventually be recycled, getting a few moves out of boxes saves trees.

Recycling



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS

So many items come to us in cardboard boxes, tin cans and plastic containers. These can all be recycled, keeping them out of landfills; that's particularly good for plastics, which take so long to decompose. Recycling these items also reduces the amount of raw materials needed to manufacture new products.

Not everything is recyclable everywhere, though cardboard, paper, tin cans and most types of plastic are ubiquitous. Many cities do not allow glass recycling, so know the rules before tossing glass into the bin.

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Tips for Living Greener

The creator of the Zero Waste Home says she and her family produce a pint of trash each year. For most of us, that's a drastic and overwhelming lifestyle change to consider, but all of us can embrace some of these habits to live greener every day.

Some of these are ideas you've already considered, including the three Rs and composting, but there may be ways you haven't thought of yet. Think about which of her ideas you can implement in your home this week.

See 'TIPS' | 7



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'TIPS' from 6

In the kitchen and laundry room:

Use cloth rags instead of paper towels, containers instead of sandwich bags and aluminum foil and avoid plastic dishes altogether. Rags can be old T-shirts and other clothes that are too worn to wear anymore.

Buy in bulk and freeze meat, produce and even flour until you're ready to use it. Also look for dish soap, laundry and dishwasher detergent in bulk.

Drink tap water or buy a water filter. Bottled water requires significant resources to create, filter and move and take up tons of space in landfills.

Get a pressure cooker, which can cut cooking time in half and reduce the amount of energy needed to make dinner. When you're bored of leftovers, find a way to use them in a different dish instead of throwing them away.

Hang clothes quickly after they finish drying to reduce the amount of ironing needed. A side

bonus: no one really likes to iron, so this saves you from one of the least pleasant chores.

In the bathroom:

Use 100 percent recycled, unbleached toilet paper that is wrapped in paper instead of plastic.

Buy shampoo, conditioner and body wash in bulk and refill containers.

Use baking soda and vinegar instead of harsh chemicals to scrub the bathtub, sink and toilet.

In the living areas:

Instead of air fresheners, get a plant and open a window (if the weather outside is nice).

Use cloth napkins, both for meals and parties.

Use rechargeable batteries in your TV remote, use a whiteboard to write notes to family members instead of paper, sweep instead of vacuuming whenever possible.

Use a power strip on your office equipment; refill your printer cartridges instead of buying new; avoid printing whenever possible; and when you need to print, print double-sided copies.



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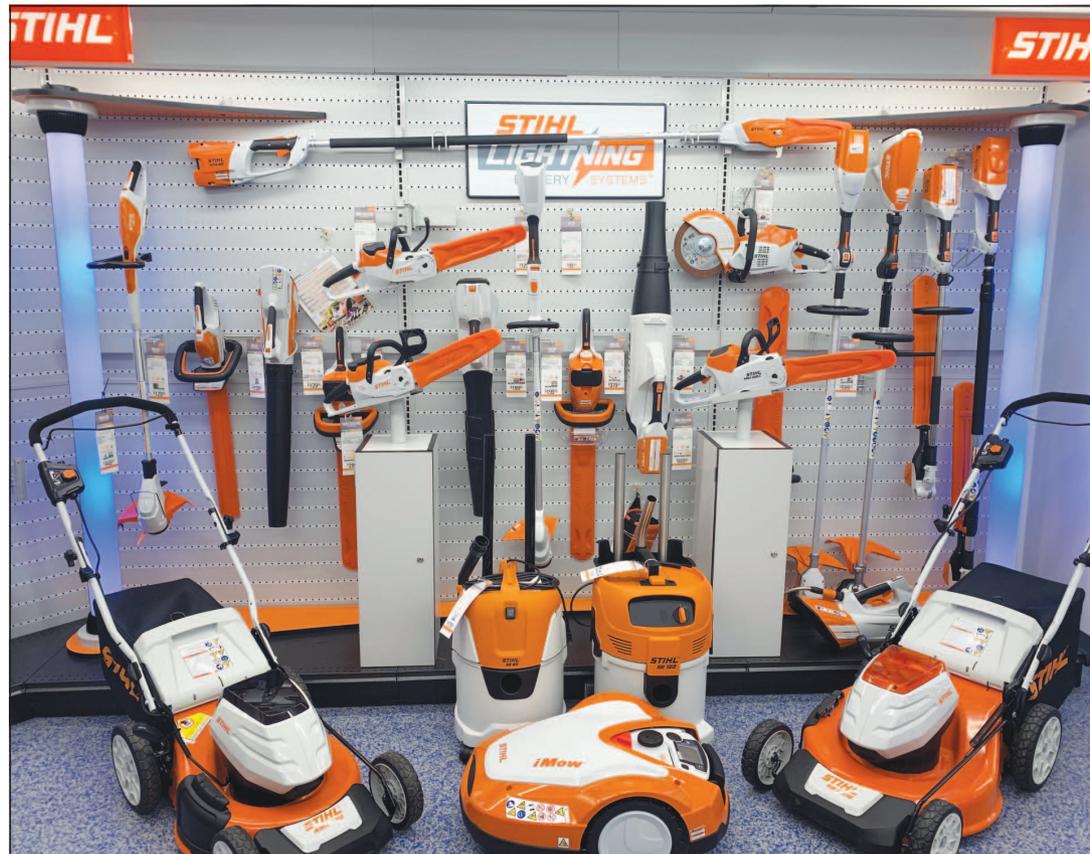
HOURS:
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