

West Bloomfield Township is encouraging all its residents to continue their superb recycling efforts in the hopes of expanding and increasing the amount of waste recycled. The township is also attempting to increase resident participation in more recycling activities.

As an environmentally conscious community, West Bloomfield has made great progress in its recycling programs and would like to commend its residents on their outstanding efforts. However, progress can still be made with the Environmental Department's goal of sustainability in mind. Each resident is entitled to a free recycling container provided by their waste collector, and excess containers can be purchased. If a resident does not have a recycle bin currently, or wants more, it is suggested they call their waste collector to receive one. A listing of roadside recyclables and waste contractor phone numbers is posted on the Environmental Department's website at www.wbtwp.com. (Go to Environmental Department webpage)

The township also has two non-hazardous waste recycling days at Town Hall, one in early summer, which already occurred, and one mid-fall. Collected products not regularly picked up by waste removal companies include electronics, batteries, and expired medications. The fall collection drive will be October 20, 2007.

Cell phones can be dropped in a designated box within Town Hall any time. Oakland County also has procedures for safely disposing of hazardous waste, including paint and motor oil. The following website has a description of these procedures: www.oakgov.com.

Did you know that ...

- Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can can be recycled.
- Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees.
- A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose -- and even longer if it's in the landfill.
- Fourteen 20 oz. PET bottles yield enough fiber for an extra large T-shirt
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.
- More than 20,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using 133 square miles of tinfoil. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.
- The construction costs of a paper mill designed to use waste paper is 50 to 80% less than the cost of a mill using new pulp.
- The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
- Every month, we throw out enough glass bottles and jars to fill up a giant skyscraper. All of these jars are recyclable!

An environmental sustainability policy is currently being developed that will include waste management and energy conservation guidelines for township operations. It will be posted on the website at www.wbtwp.com once available.