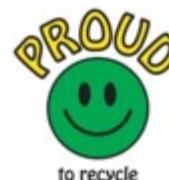


August 2010



# Bellaire Recycles!



[www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org)

## Bellaire's Fourth of July Festival



The Bellaire Recycling Committee answered questions and talked “recycling” with many Bellaire residents and neighbors at this year’s Fourth of July festival. Fun was had by all!! While rainy weather during the days leading up to the event threatened to cancel the festivities, it certainly didn’t keep Bellaire residents at home on Saturday morning, July 3rd. The recycling booth at the festival gave folks young and old a chance to smash aluminum cans with a rubber mallet to prove recycling can be fun as well as therapeutic. Committee members fielded questions regarding what is and is not recyclable in Bellaire’s curbside program. If anyone has questions regarding recyclable items, please send an email to [recyclingcommittee@bellairerecycles.org](mailto:recyclingcommittee@bellairerecycles.org) and we will get you the answer.



Residents learning about recycling and crushing aluminum cans.



Examples of all the items to put in your recycling bins

## Inside this issue

- America Recycles Day – Nov 15
- Simple tips to living Greener
- A fun way to *upcycle* & *repurpose*

## America Recycles Day



America Recycles Day (ARD) is November 15 every year. It is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products. Millions of Americans pledge to increase their recycling habits at home and work and to buy products made with recycled materials. Last year the Bellaire Recycling Committee sponsored the first ever Bellaire Recycles Day in conjunction with ARD and hundreds of people turned out to promote a cleaner, greener world in Bellaire. The Committee is in the process of planning and

seeking City Council approval for a 2010 Bellaire Recycles Day on November 13.

## Are you a **Super** Recycler? Need Another Bin?

If you are filling your first bin each week and need more, *great job!* Bellaire residents can purchase additional recycling bins for \$10 each at the City Hall complex, 2nd floor, M-F during regular business hours. Fill those bins!

Here are some ideas & tips collected from the following websites:

[Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com)

[kaboose.com](http://kaboose.com)

[kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)

[kids.niehs.nih.gov/recycle.htm](http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/recycle.htm)

### DID YOU KNOW?



- Each person throws away approximately four pounds of garbage every day but 84 percent of all household waste can be recycled
- Every ton of paper that is recycled saves: 17 trees; 7,000 gallons of water; 380 gallons of oil and enough electricity to run power in an average sized house for 6 months.
- Most families throw away about 88 pounds of **plastic** every year. Plastics and aluminum in landfills take 500 years to break down.
- The energy we save when we recycle **one glass bottle** is enough to light a traditional light bulb for four hours.



*YOU* can make  
a difference!



Here are some simple steps.

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1. **Bring reusable bags and your own travel mug to the store with you.**
2. **Determine if you really even need bottled water.** City water is usually just as healthy, much cheaper and may even be *safer* than bottled water products. Bring your own metal water bottle from home.
3. **Reduce use of disposable items** (plates, cups, razors, diapers, etc.). **Avoid Styrofoam** although it is coded #6 it is not recyclable in Bellaire's curbside program. Styrofoam contains polystyrene, which is the most difficult material to break down in landfills and is considered a hazardous waste!
4. **Buy In Large Quantities-** Buy products with the least amount of packaging or none at all. Buy products packed in recycled packaging.
5. **Stop Junk Mail** -- To reduce unwanted catalogs, call the company's 800 number to be removed from mailing lists. When possible, use the Internet to obtain (and pay) bills, news, catalogs, and other information that usually comes to your house in a paper format.
6. **Try using E-books**, share books with friends or check out books from the library rather than buying new ones. Also, the Friends of the Bellaire Library accept donations of used books throughout the year for the Book Sales it has twice a year.
7. **Read labels for ingredients.** Stay away from chemicals that harm our environment. Instead of ammonia and chlorine-based cleaners, use vinegar and water, salt, lemon juice or baking soda and water to clean.
8. **Safeguard storm drains.** Trash and lawn clippings tossed carelessly outside often wash into storm drains, which empty into rivers and streams that eventually flow to the oceans. 14 billion pounds of trash is dumped into the ocean every year! Pollution is a growing problem for all the Earth's ocean and its wildlife.
9. **Compost** to transform your household garbage (food wastes, lawn clippings, coffee grounds, etc), into a rich earth-like material that can be added to a garden to help plants grow.



**Texas Art Asylum**  
1230 Houston Ave.  
Houston, TX 77007  
(713) 224-5220  
[www.texasartasylum.com](http://www.texasartasylum.com)

The Texas Art Asylum is now open with opportunities to obtain and donate items for reuse. It is a combination thrift store, craft store, antique store and salvage yard with materials collected from individuals and businesses who recognize that many materials are suitable for reuse, repurposing or upcycling. The list of items the Asylum is now accepting is much to long to list! Go to <http://www.texasartasylum.com/donations.html> for a list of the many items they will accept. Keep them in mind the next time you have odd items you'd like to recycle.



### **New Members on Recycling Committee**

City Clerk Tracy Dutton swore in two new members at the July 7th Recycling Committee meeting. New members filling a two-year term include: Doug Christians and Dorene Delaloye. Other members whose term does not end until June 2011 are Brenda Cauthen, Stephanie Goldfield, William (Bill) Stone and Miriam Wiener. The committee works closely with

Public Works and other City departments in an effort to educate residents about recycling and the City's Curbside Program, as well as research new recycling ideas and possibilities. If you would like to volunteer to help the committee at future events, please send an email expressing your interest to: [recyclingcommittee@bellairerecycles.org](mailto:recyclingcommittee@bellairerecycles.org).

### **Bellaire Recycling Committee Website**

For a complete list of everything accepted in your recycling bin each Wednesday visit our website at [www.BellaireRecycles.org](http://www.BellaireRecycles.org) and click on "Curbside."

You can find a lot of other links and information there too!