

Everyday RECYCLING



A Publication of Hatfield Township, Towamencin Township,
& the Pennfield Middle School Enact Club

Set Your Goal to Recycle More

Are laundry detergent bottles, water bottles, and old school papers filling your trash can instead of your recycling bin? You already know you should recycle, and your family probably recycles some things already, but chances are, you aren't recycling as much as you could be.

80% of Trash is Recyclable

About 80 percent of what Americans throw away is recyclable, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. In Hatfield and Towamencin Township, we can do better!

First, figure out how much you are recycling now. On the day before trash day, collect all the trash in your house in bags and weigh them on a bathroom scale. Then weigh your empty recycling bin, put all your recyclables back in and weigh the full bin and subtract the difference.

If you don't have a scale, you can count same size bags. Put your recycling in trash bags and count how many full bags you have, estimating partial bags. Then put your recycling back in the bin, and use the bag to collect the rest of the trash in your house. Count the number of full bags of trash you have.

After using either method, calculate what percentage of your waste is being recycled.

Measure How Much You Recycle

Weight Method

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Bag of trash} = 6 \text{ lbs} \\ \text{Bag of trash} = 7 \text{ lbs} \\ + \text{Bag of trash} = 3 \text{ lbs} \\ \hline \text{Total Trash} = 16 \text{ lbs} \\ \\ \text{Full Recycling bin} = 5 \text{ lbs} \\ - \text{Empty Recycling bin} = 1 \text{ lb} \\ \hline \text{Total Recycling} = 4 \text{ lbs} \\ \\ \text{Total Trash} = 16 \text{ lbs} \\ + \text{Total Recycling} = 4 \text{ lbs} \\ \hline \text{Total Waste} = 20 \text{ lbs} \end{array}$$

$$\text{Total Recycling (4)} \div \text{Total Waste (20)} = \\ \text{Percentage of Recycling (20\%)}$$

Bag Method

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Full Bags of Trash} = 3.6 \\ + \text{Full Bag of Recycling} = 1.5 \\ \hline \text{Total Waste} = 8 \end{array}$$

$$\text{Total Recycling (1.5)} \div \text{Total Waste (8)} = \\ \text{Percentage of Recycling (18.75\%)}$$

Setting a Goal – And Meeting It

Once you know how much you are recycling, you can start working to raise that number, measuring your results every month. If you currently recycle about 20 percent of your waste, set a goal to raise it to 30 percent in one month or 40 percent over three months.

Setting a goal can make it easier to increase your household's recycling – and you'll feel better knowing just how much more you are recycling. To help you meet your goal, we're providing you with tools including:

- ◆ **This Brochure**—Post it on your fridge or wherever family members might read it.
- ◆ **A Recycling Checklist**—Tear it out and put it near your trash can.
- ◆ **A Recycling Report Card**—Download a report card from www.hatfieldtownship.org/everydayrecycling.html and fill one out for your family every few weeks.



Doing a Little Bit More

Americans recycled 82 million tons of the 251 million tons of trash generated in 2006, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. This saved carbon emissions equivalent to removing 39.4 million passenger cars from the road. Imagine if we recycled 150 million tons, or better yet, generated less trash overall.

Those numbers mean that just 32.5 percent of our waste was recycled; you can do more!



"I use printer cartridges over again by refilling them."

Nidhi Desai, Grade 8



"When I'm done with one side of a sheet of paper, I turn it over. I have my friends doing it too." Nicole White, Grade 8



"I recycle glass without the cap."

Marina Samy, Grade 9

What Are You Forgetting?

You can also recycle other materials such as batteries, cell phones, computers, electronics, ink cartridges, and toner cartridges. Most stores that sell these items will also collect them for recycling or reuse. You can also drop off computers, computer equipment, and small TVs at the Montgomery County Hazardous Waste Collection sites; a schedule is available at www.wsaemc.org.

Take Less

Recycling is important, but you can reduce waste by taking less to begin with. Refuse excess napkins, utensils, and condiments at fast food and take out restaurants; take only what you need. For example, if you're heading home to eat, you won't need plastic utensils.

You can also use less when you go shopping. When deciding what to buy, choose items with less packaging, so there will be less to throw away later. You can also bring your own shopping bags, reuse bags, or refuse them if it's a small purchase.

Don't Toss - Donate

Donate old computers, cell phones, clothing, furniture, backpacks, and anything else that still can be used. Instead of sitting in a landfill these items can help people in need.

Recycling Basics

Residents in Hatfield & Towamencin Township are required to recycle clear, brown, and green glass; plastic bottles; newspaper; and cans made of aluminum, tin, or steel.

If you need a recycling bin, pick one up at the Hatfield or Towamencin Township offices during business hours.

Plastic Jugs & Bottles

- ◆ Lids are removed and thrown away
- ◆ The container is rinsed, dry, and odor free
- ◆ Plastic bottles are labeled with a #1 or #2
- ◆ The bottle is squashed to a small size

Glass

- ◆ Lids are removed and thrown away
- ◆ The container is rinsed, dry, and odor free
- ◆ Glass is not broken—Ask an adult to throw out broken glass
- ◆ Light bulbs and dishes are not recyclable

Steel & Tin Cans

- ◆ Lids are removed and thrown away—watch sharp edges!
- ◆ The container is rinsed, dry, and odor free

Aluminum Cans

- ◆ The container is rinsed, dry, and odor free
- ◆ The can is crushed to a smaller size

Papers

- ◆ Newspapers, glossy print, junk mail, magazines, phone books, office paper, and shredded paper
- ◆ Paper is dry and free of food residue
- ◆ Papers are in brown paper bags or tied with twine

Recycling rules are similar in other North Penn communities. Call your municipality or waste hauler for guidelines.



Pennfield Enact Club 2007/2008

Recycling Checklist

Clip this checklist and hang it on the refrigerator so you and your family can remember to recycle the right way on the right day!

Our Recycling Company is: _____

Our Recycling Day is: _____

We Recycle:

(fill in items unique to your household that you often forget but want to remember, such as "laundry detergent bottles", "junk mail", or "magazines")

- #1 & #2 Plastics
- Glass Containers
- Steel & Tin Cans
- Aluminum Cans
- Newspapers
- Office Paper
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



I remember to:

- Buy products in recyclable containers
- Keep papers dry and separate from other recyclables
- Toss tops and lids
- Clean bottles, jars, and cans so they are free of food residue
- Crush bottles and cans
- Shop with reusable bags
- Refuse extra napkins and condiments when eating out

Doing More

Our family goal is to recycle _____ percent of our trash.

I promise to help my family recycle correctly so we can save energy, resources, and the environment. Have every member of your family sign!

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Name: _____ Date: _____

Download another recycling checklist at
www.hatfieldtownship.org/everydayrecycling.html

Learn More Online

www.depweb.state.pa.us/justforkids

Learn what the Department of Environmental Protection does and how we affect our air, land, water, and energy sources through recycling and other efforts.

www.earth911.org

Search for recycling centers near you to recycle special materials such as batteries or computers. Know your zip code (Hatfield is 19440) for fast results.

www.epa.gov/kids

Learn about the environment with art, games, and science. You can also sign up to join the EPA Kids Club.

www.epa.gov/recyclecity/mainmap.htm

Visit Recycle City to learn how citywide recycling programs can reduce waste in this online town.

www.hatfieldtownship.org/everydayrecycling.html

Read more information on recycling and download Recycling Report Cards for your home.

www.pacleanways.org/kids

Play games, make enviro-crafts, and see what other kids are saying about recycling.

www.recycleroom.org

Visit Roscoe's Recycling Room to ask recycling questions, learn fun facts, and make funny faces.



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1950 School Road, Hatfield PA 19440-1992
 Telephone 215-855-0900
 Fax 215-855-0243
 Web www.hatfieldtownship.org
 Hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri.

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Bags, Bags, Bags!

Take a minute to think about all the plastic and paper bags you get in a week. You get them at the grocery store, when you pick up prescriptions, when you buy clothes, on a shopping spree at the mall, with gifts, at a drive-through, and most anywhere you can think of. Most of those bags probably go right into another bag – a trash bag!

Try these tips to reduce, reuse, and recycle all those bags:

Paper or Plastic? Paper. Paper bags can be recycled with newspapers, junk mail, and office paper. So if you have a choice, choose paper. Paper bags are strong enough to carry most loads from the grocery store to your house, but if you have to, only use plastic bags for a few heavier items, and paper for the rest.

I Don't Need a Bag, Thank You. Do you really need a bag for that soda and stick of deodorant? No, you could carry it. Even if the clerk has already started putting items in the bag, let them know you don't need it.

Buy Reusable Grocery Bags. At \$0.50 to 1.00 each, these bags are sturdier than paper or plastic, and attractive. After unloading groceries, put them back in the car immediately so they won't be forgotten on the next trip.

Reuse the Bags You Have. Many bags can be used more than once. Find a drawer or container to save those bags, and then reuse them. Here are some ideas for reusing all those bags:

- ◆ **Collect trash & recycling** – Put two in the car, one for recyclables and one for trash. You can also use plastic bags as liners in small trash cans.
- ◆ **Pick up dog poop** – You won't have to touch it and the handles on plastic bags make it easy to tie them up immediately.

- ◆ **Lunch bag** – Instead of buying brown paper bags, pack lunches in plastic bags. Keep reusing the bag as long as you can.
- ◆ **Hold gym clothes** – Keep gym clothes separate from your backpack by bringing them in a plastic or paper bag.
- ◆ **Store game pieces** – After opening a new game, avoid losing all the small pieces by putting them in plastic bags and storing them with the box.
- ◆ **Carry special items** – Bring special items for school, like a diorama or science project in plastic bags. The plastic will also keep them protected from the rain.
- ◆ **Recycle shredded paper** – Empty the shredder paper into brown paper bags for recycling. Fold the top of the bag down so paper won't fly away. – Most local haulers accept shredded paper this way: call your hauler to double check.
- ◆ **Regift bag** – Fold up and save the gift bags you get on your birthday or other occasions. Then on your friend's birthday you won't need to buy wrapping paper.



What other ways can you think of to reuse your bags? Tell the Enact Club how you reuse your bags. Some of your ideas could end up on the Hatfield Township website, www.hatfieldtownship.org/everydayrecycling.html.



"We use the paper bags to cover the bottom of our guinea pigs cage." Maya Seeney, Grade 7



"I cut bags, stick them together with tape and lay them across the table as a drop cloth for painting." Angie Galofre, Grade 8



"If we have to bring food to a party we put it in plastic bags." Moira Bresnahan, Grade 8



"We use bags to clean the kitty litter box." Leanna Bannon, Grade 8



"Sometimes I'll help my little sister make crafts out of paper bags." Tab Akter, Grade 8



"We use plastic bags to store Christmas decorations." Michael Bannon, Grade 9