

## BLOOMSBURG RECYCLING CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!

The Town of Bloomsburg marks thirty years of recycling in 2007. Bloomsburg was the first community in Pennsylvania to collect recycling at the curb. In 1983, recycling became mandatory for residents of Bloomsburg. Five years later the state passed Act 101 legislation that made recycling mandatory for all communities with populations greater than 5,000.

### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1977, a public meeting was held to discuss the solid waste issues due to the closing of the Columbia County Landfill. The Solid Waste Task Force concluded that “recycling at the source” can be successful. In August of that year the first curbside collection of recycling was performed.

In May 1978, Volunteer Recycling Incorporated (VRI) was created. The group collected and processed materials from all over the area. Collection shelters were placed all around the county. At the time recyclables were processed at an old railroad station. A fire destroyed the building in June 1982. By November processing began again at the new facility location at 901 Patterson Drive, the current location of the center. Weis Markets donated a building that was to be torn down for their expansion. A state grant covered the cost of dismantling and relocating the building.

In 1991, the Recycling Center added a 60 X 60 sq ft addition. The center processed 1500 tons of recyclable materials. Ten years later the Recycling Center doubled that output to over 3000 tons.

In the fall of 2004 the Recycling Center completed its third building addition to provide a 60X 100 sq ft warehouse for storing baled materials prior to shipment to market. The center now ships over 270 tons of recyclables per month.

### WHAT IT BECOMES

The empty container that once held your favorite product still has value. The paper, can or bottle you recycled can be used in the production of a new product. Did you know that an aluminum can is able to be emptied, recycled, shipped to a mill, formed into a new can and filled with your favorite beverage in just nine weeks?

Today's plastic bottle can become the carpeting in your home or parts for your car. Recycling is all around us every day. Look at the back of paper products such as tablets, greeting cards, notebooks, etc. and somewhere it will state the percentage of post-consumer content used to make that product. The newspaper you're reading can be the egg carton you buy tomorrow. Home builders look around; you may be supporting recycling without even knowing it. The paper lining on the drywall is probably made with recycled cardboard or newspaper. The steel studs could have been steel cans, insulation may have been newspaper.

## BENEFITS

Yes it is true that recycling saves natural resources. With every ton of newspaper recycled 17 trees are saved from being cut down to make new paper. Last year Bloomsburg's Recycling Center shipped 664 tons of newspaper, saving 11,288 trees.

With every ton of glass recycled, the equivalent of nine gallons of fuel oil is saved.

Through using recycled products instead of virgin resources other environmental damages caused by logging and mining can also be reduced. It all starts with you, each of us generates approximately 4 ½ pounds of garbage every day. Recycling can drastically reduce this waste. We want to help you get hooked on recycling too. Give us a call. Everyone can make a difference. Recycling is easy to do, and the benefits can be seen immediately.

## ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

The following materials are accepted at our drop off location at 901 Patterson Drive during regular business hours.

- Clear, Brown and Green Glass Bottles – must be separated by color and rinsed
- Aluminum Cans
- Steel Cans – rinsed clean of any food residue
- Newspaper– keep dry
- Magazines and Catalogs
- Office Paper
- Plastic Bottles #1 & #2 – which includes all soda bottles, cleaners, laundry and milk jugs;
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Hardcover and Paperback Books
- Computers

Shredding of confidential office paper is now being done for a small fee. Anyone interested should call the center at 784-4532 for an appointment.

For more information about recycling contact Environmental Services Administrator Charles Fritz or check out the Town of Bloomsburg Recycling page at [www.bloomsburgpa.org](http://www.bloomsburgpa.org).