



## Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management

# NEWS

# Summer 2016



### How Do I Recycle...

#### **TELEVISIONS**

In Pa., there is currently an effort to “fix” a law that inadvertently made it very difficult to recycle televisions. Until this “fix” is adopted by our legislature, there is currently only one state-permitted permanent facility in the county that takes TV’s for recycling.

ECS&R operates its facility near Butler. Call 1-866-815-0016 for more information on their fees and collection dates.

### *Recycling Tips for Your Summer Events*

For many people, summertime means backyard cookouts, road trips, park excursions, outdoor events, picnics and family reunions. Unfortunately, larger gatherings, portable meals and increased activity during the warmer months can create a lot more trash. These summer recycling tips will help you keep it cleaner and greener by helping you reduce waste at the source.

Party planning should include a recycling strategy and you might just set a good example for the hosts of the next gathering, too.

- Let your guests know that recycling bins are available at the event. And, let them know where they are. HINT: Butler Co. Dept. of Recycling & Waste Mgt. has bins for loan for these types of events!
- Make recycling easy for everyone in attendance by placing recycling bins near the trash. Clearly label recycling bins with signs that identify recyclables that are accepted.

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- Choose reusable party plates, utensils and cups instead of buying single-use disposable ones that can’t be recycled. Or, choose fiber based options that can be composted.
- Consider a decorative or event-themed reusable cup as a fun party favor (and have a marker available so each guest can write their name on their cup).
- Serve beverages from large containers and dispensers instead of purchasing single bottles or cans of water and soda.
- If you have leftover food, send it home with guests in reusable containers.
- If you compost at home, don’t forget to compost leftover fruits, vegetables and grains in your backyard composter.

- When opting for a professional caterer, choose one that provides recycling receptacles and washable (versus disposable) plates, cups and utensils.

Weddings can be environmentally responsible events, too, and a list of tips and resources can be found online at sites like:

**greenbrideguide.com** and **eco-beautifulweddings.com**

For larger get-togethers, get more great tips from Butler County’s Green Event Planning Guide. It’s free!



#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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### *Butler County and Buffalo Township Receive Grants*

Buffalo Township and Butler County have received word that they are two of 120 communities across Pennsylvania that received competitive grant funding through PADEP’s most recent round of Act 101 Recycling Program Implementation Grants.

Buffalo Township was awarded \$11,700 for the purchase of residential recycling

bins to keep up with steady growth in the township.

Butler County was awarded \$210,000 for equipment to be used by Out of Sight Shredding, operated by the Blind Association, in their secure document collection, shredding and recycling business.

Only municipal governments can apply for these specific grants, so if your community is

interested in expanding or enhancing a recycling program please call the Department of Recycling & Waste Management who can provide assistance, if needed, in applying for this grant. It is expected that the next application period will be open later this year!

*Funding Ahead!*





## What Can I Place In My Home Recycling Bin?

### **WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT!**

✓ If you have specific questions about which recyclables can be placed in your curbside recycling bin you should always call your hauler or check their web site.

✓ They can tell you what can be placed in your bin, how the recyclables are to be prepared (*Can I leave lids / labels on?*) and when your recycling pickup day is. If you need contact information for your hauler, the Butler County

Department of Recycling & Waste Management can provide that information.

✓ Paying close attention to what we put in our recycling bin ensures we get the most benefit out of our successful program!

## Help Stop Illegal Dumping of Garbage in our County

In a 2007 survey conducted in Butler County, 217 illegal dumps were identified containing about 316 tons of trash. Almost 90% of these sites were in our rural areas.

### **The illegal dumping of waste is EVERYONE'S PROBLEM Because It:**

- ◆ reduces the appeal of our public places, including roadways, game lands, state parks and waterways;
- ◆ kills aquatic life in waterways, blocks drainage systems and causes flooding;
- ◆ reduces property values and community pride;
- ◆ endangers people, particularly when it includes items such as broken glass, hazardous chemicals, electronics or needles;
- ◆ is a crime that attracts more crime;
- ◆ is a fire hazard;
- ◆ costs huge sums of money to clean up and uses YOUR tax dollars;
- ◆ can harm or kill people and wildlife.

### **What Can You Do To Help?**

Don't tolerate the dumping of any garbage in your community. If you spot dumping activity:

- ◆ Notify your local authorities about the problem. They may be able to help stop it.
- ◆ Organize a cleanup!

### **Resources:**

**PA State Police** - 724.284.8100 (*Butler barracks*) The State Police will have jurisdiction if the violation takes place on public land, a state road right-of-way, or if the dumping is on public or private land that does not fall under local police jurisdiction.

**PA Department of Environmental Protection** - 814.332.6945 (*northwest regional office in Meadville*) – Call if you witness illegal dumping on public or private property. They do not respond to general litter complaints.

**PA Fish and Boat Commission** - 814.337.0444 (*northwest regional office in Meadville*)– Report littering or dumping of trash that lies on or near sur-

face waters, particularly trout streams.

**PA Game Commission** - 814.432.3187 and 814.432.3188 (*northwest regional office in Franklin*)– Report littering or dumping on State Game Lands and on private property that is open to hunting.

**PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry** - 814.226.1901 (*district office in Clarion*)– Report littering or dumping in State Forests or State Parks.

**Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Online Report Form:**  
<http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/IllegalDumpSurveys/ReportLitterandDumping.aspx>

**Tri-County CleanWays-**  
 724.658.6925 (*local office in New Castle*)

