

Spotlight on Sustainability

From Your Ontario County Eco-Heroes

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EARTH MONTH EVENTS @ THE COUNTY

1. BACKYARD COMPOSTING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW – APRIL 17TH, 12PM-1PM, 20 ONTARIO RM 200

2. HAPPY TAILS COLLECTION

EARTH WEEK - THE ECO-HEROES WILL HAVE A COLLECTION BOX IN EVERY BUILDING

2. PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

OPEN TO ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS. APRIL 19TH, 10:30AM-1:30PM – 3019 COUNTY COMPLEX

3. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

APRIL 21ST, 7AM-3PM, OC LANDFILL, STANLEY TO PRE-REGISTER CALL (585)394-3977 X427

4. MEDICATION DROPOFF

APRIL 28TH, 10AM-2PM, CANANDAIGUA WEGMAN'S

PLASTICS POLLUTION

For many years, we only perceived the benefits of plastic and knew little of the damaging consequences for human health, natural ecosystems and the climate. Plastics are a problem mostly due to their un-biodegradable nature, the materials used for plastic production (petroleum products), and the challenges behind properly discarding them. For more information visit: www.earthday.org

IT ADDS UP!

- 9.1B tons of virgin plastic has been produced to date.
- Generating 6.9B tons of plastic waste.
- Only 9% of that has been recycled.
- 5.5B tons have accumulated in landfills and the natural environment

--World Stats -BBC

WHAT CAN I DO?

- 1) Calculate your consumption: [click here](#)
- 2) Learn about the 5R's.
- 3) Make a goal.
- 4) Make a plan.
- 5) Track your consumption.
- 6) For more info on the 5 R's: www.earthday.org/yourjourney2018/

Eco-Hero Tips for the 5R's

- Reduce – choose products with less or no plastic packaging.
- Refuse – say no to plastic straws.
- Reuse – use reusable water bottles, coffee cups, silverware, and dishes.
- Recycle – plastic bags can be recycled at most grocery/retail stores.
- Remove – volunteer for a roadside or beach cleanup.

WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?



PETE

PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) PET is used in the production of soft drink bottles, peanut butter jars, etc. PET can be recycled into fiberfill for sleeping bags, carpet fibers, rope, pillows, etc.



HDPE

HDPE (High-density polyethylene) is found in milk jugs, butter tubs, detergent bottles, motor oil bottles, etc. HDPE can be recycled into flower pots, trash cans, traffic barrier cones, detergent bottles, etc.



PVC

PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) is used in shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, fast food service items... PVC can be recycled into drainage and irrigation pipes...



LDPE

LDPE (Low-density polyethylene) is found in grocery bags, bread bags, shrink wrap, margarine tub tops, etc. LDPE can be recycled into new grocery bags, but in general, it is not recommended to put plastic bags in your recycling bin. Take your used shopping bags to a supermarket that offers plastic bag collecting services.



PP

PP (Polypropylene) PP is used in most yogurt containers, straws, pancake syrup bottles, bottle caps, etc. PP can be recycled into plastic lumber, car battery cases, manhole steps, etc.



PS

PS (Polystyrene) PS is found in disposable hot cups, packaging materials (peanuts), and meat trays, etc. PS can be recycled into plastic lumber, cassette tape boxes, flower pots, etc.



OTHER

OTHER This is usually a mixture of various plastics, like squeeze ketchup bottles, "microwaveable" dishes, etc. Other (number 7) is usually not recycled because it is a mixture of different types of plastics.

Eco-Holiday Spotlight:

EARTH DAY

is celebrated every year on April 22nd. It began in 1970 in response to the destruction the Industrial Revolution had caused to our natural environment. The first Earth Day also led to the creation of the EPA and the Endangered Species Act.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Last year's St. Pauly clothing collection put on by the Eco-Heroes during Earth Week was so successful that we have decided to house a permanent collection site on County grounds!

The best part is that St. Pauly Textile Inc. will pay us for those clothes. We just need to decide where we are going to donate that money. That is where you come in. We have narrowed it down to seven options, but we are asking all employees to vote on who gets the money. Every one that votes will be entered into a drawing to win a great Sorta Simple prize that will help make it easier for you to practice the 5 R's. To vote: [St. Pauly Donation Survey](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Items smaller than 2" cannot be recycled in our local single-stream recycling facility. This includes plastics, as well as, paper, and glass. So think twice before buying those single serve coffee pods.
- A bottle cap can be recycled, but only if it is still on the bottle.

