

School Recycling News



Central Virginia Waste Management Authority

December 2007

Recycled Papermaking Activity



Teach your students about the paper recycling process by giving them hands-on experience. CVWMA has a recycled papermaking kit available for loan. The kit includes everything you will need to make your own paper.

This simple process requires only water and any old, scrap paper you have around. This is a great way to use the old construction paper that cannot be placed in your recycling bin. Strips of paper are added with water in a blender to make pulp, and then this mixture is poured into trays. Next, a section of screen is used to lift a layer of pulp from the tray. By applying pressure to the screen, the excess water drains through the screen and you are left with a sheet of paper. After the paper has time to dry, it can be removed from the screen and is ready to use.

This activity is a great way to show your students how easy it is to recycle paper. If you are interested in using this kit with your students, please send an email to kcaddell@cvwma.com.

Paper Recycling Facts

- The production of a ton of paper requires 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water and more energy per ton than glass or steel.
- Americans throw away enough office and writing paper annually to build a wall 12 feet high stretching from Los Angeles to New York.

Some of the information in this newsletter comes from www.paperrecycles.org

- Every year Americans use more than 67 million tons of paper or 580 pounds per person.
- Americans dump 180 million tons of garbage annually — more than 40% of which is paper. High-grade printing, copying and writing paper is the largest single component in a landfill.

- Every day American businesses generate enough paper to circle the Earth 20 times.
- Making new paper from recycled paper uses 30-50% less energy than making paper from trees and it reduces contributions to air pollution by 95%.



The school recycling pilot program is funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Program Statistics

Total Paper Collected in October: **8,933 Pounds**



REMINDER!

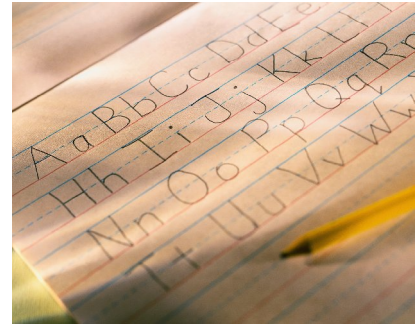
Your next monthly report is due **DECEMBER 10th**.

This weight should include all paper recycled during the month of November. Please fax your completed form to (804) 359-8421. If you need a copy of the form, it can be found on our website by following the school recycling link on our homepage.

The Many Practical Purposes of Paper

Paper is one of those resources that is often taken for granted. You don't typically stop and appreciate its value every time you use it. In fact, you probably don't even realize just how large a role paper plays in your daily life. From the time you get up in the morning, until you go to bed at night, paper is everywhere.

At home you probably use tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, napkins, and notepads. You also find paper in places like food packaging, calendars, money, diapers, and magazines.



Then, as you head off to school or the office, you find even more paper. It could be fax paper, construction paper, notebook paper, or copy paper to name a few. Even communication, despite technological advances, is still largely dependent on paper. Examples include newspapers, letters, faxes, and books.

Paper is used in nearly every industry. Sometimes it is simply something to write on, and other times it can be a critical necessity for safety. It can be the bag that carries your groceries, or the mask that protects you from disease.

As you notice the importance of paper in your everyday life, you can also see how important it is to recycle this valuable resource.

How is old paper made into new paper?



The process begins when the paper is placed into a recycling bin at a school, office, home, or community collection center. From here the paper is taken to a recycling facility called a "MRF" - Material Recovery Facility. This is where all of the contaminants, such as paperclips, plastic, staples, etc., will be removed. Once the paper has been thoroughly cleaned of contaminants, it is baled and transported to a paper mill where the process of making new paper actually begins.

At the paper mill, the paper is shredded into thin fibers and then mixed with water to make a pulp. The pulp is washed and refined and then turned to slush in a beater. At this point, color dyes, coatings, or other additives can be mixed in. The mixture is then pumped onto a large moving screen. As the pulp travels down the screen, water is drained from it. The end result is a crude paper sheet known as a web. It is then pressed through massive rollers to remove the remaining water. The roller also serves to create a uniform thickness and smoothness. The paper is almost finished! It is wound into large rolls, sometimes as big as 30 feet wide and as heavy as 25 tons. A special machine cuts the paper into smaller, more useful sizes, and then it can be shipped to schools, offices, and stores for use.

Please share the information found in this newsletter with other staff in your school. A copy of the newsletter can be found on our website by following the school recycling link from the home page.



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Recycled Paper

