

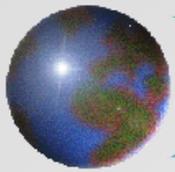
# Recycling at Special Events



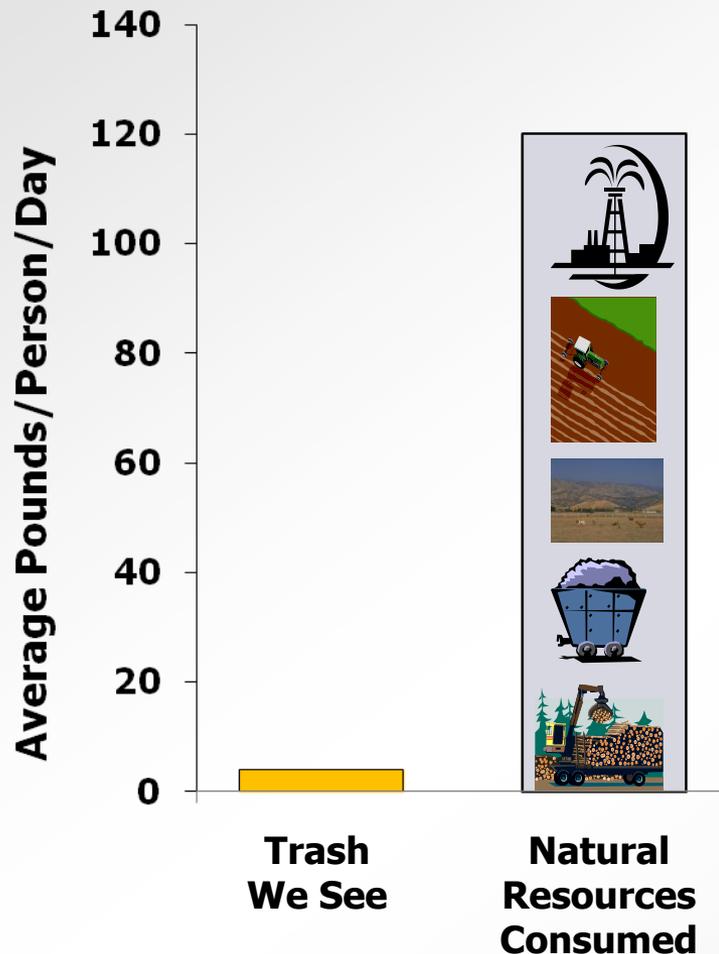
Much of the information in this presentation was excerpted from:

*Best Management Practices Guidebook for Special Event-Generated Waste in Rural Communities*

(July 2006), Northeast Recycling Council, [www.NERC.org](http://www.NERC.org)

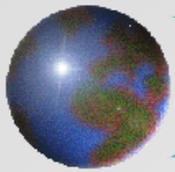


# It's Not Just the Garbage You See Every Day



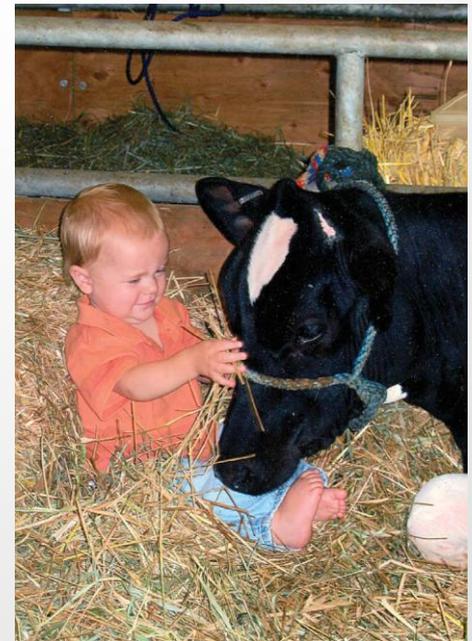
- Each American throws out about 4 lbs trash every day “though they only see a fraction of it. Americans consume 120 pounds - nearly their average body weight - every day in natural resources extracted from farms, forests, rangelands, and mines.”

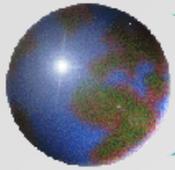
*The Secret Life of Everyday Things (1997),  
Ryan and Dunning*



# You Can Make a Difference

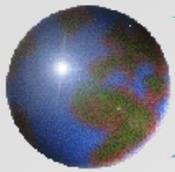
- ❖ Hundreds of thousands of people attend fairs in CT every year.
- ❖ CT fairs bring people back to basic values.
- ❖ Fairs are a perfect show place for environmental efforts and recycling.





# Why Recycle?

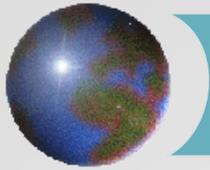
- ✚ Saves energy
- ✚ Conserves natural resources
- ✚ Emits less pollution
- ✚ Uses less water
- ✚ Reduces the need for building additional disposal capacity
- ✚ Reduces greenhouse gas emissions



# Connecticut Mandated Recyclables

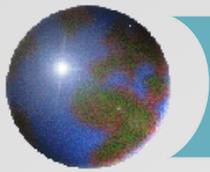
- Plastic containers #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE)\*
- Glass and metal food containers
- Cardboard
- Boxboard\*
- Magazines\*
- Newspapers
- High grade color paper\*
- High grade white office paper (residential\* and non-residential)
- Scrap metal
- Waste oil
- Leaves and grass
- Lead-acid storage batteries
- Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries

\* Recyclables that will be mandated by 2012.



# Planning a Recycling Program

- ✦ Identify a person or committee to organize recycling & waste reduction efforts.
- ✦ Conduct audit to identify recyclable materials that will be generated at the fair.
- ✦ Plan for collection and transportation of the materials by hiring a recycling and waste hauler or work with the municipal recycling contact.
- ✦ Recruit recycling volunteers.
- ✦ Design recycling outreach program.

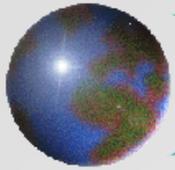


# Planning a Recycling Program (cont'd)

- ❖ Decide on number of containers, design and placement throughout grounds.
- ❖ Set-up centralized collection/storage location(s) to:
  - ❑ Aggregate recyclables collected from individual containers; and
  - ❑ Collect cardboard boxes generated by vendors.
- ❖ Plan for maintenance of containers during event.
- ❖ Clearly label all containers and collection locations.

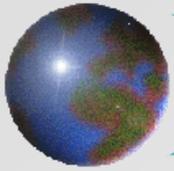


20 Dumpsters at Stowe Celebrates Summer, Vermont



# Roles for Staff and Volunteers

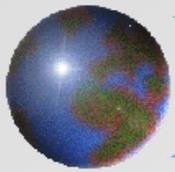
- Vendor and staff education
- Place containers around event grounds prior to start of event
- Empty full containers and replace with empty bags, deliver full bags to central storage location
- Transport recyclables to a recycling center or other location
- Clean and store containers at end of event



# Vendor Communication

Vendor communication is key. Ensure that source reduction and recycling expectations are understood.

- ⊕ Highlight recycling requirements in vendor contracts; reinforce verbally.
- ⊕ Send each vendor recycling guidelines in advance of the event.
- ⊕ Pass out an instructional flier to vendors at check-in.
- ⊕ Have volunteers or staff speak with each vendor during set up and answer any logistical questions.
- ⊕ Recognize vendors that did an outstanding job recycling with a trophy, ribbon, flowers, etc.

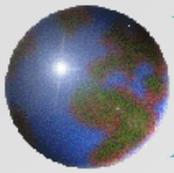


# Recycle – Food & Beverage Containers

- ❖ Aluminum, glass, steel, and plastic cans and bottles should be collected in designated containers (preferably transparent) with a small circular opening on the top and clear signage.
- ❖ Recycling containers should be placed next to every trash container to make recycling as convenient as trash disposal\*.

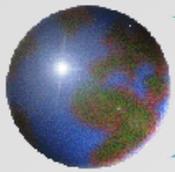


**\*New CT Law:** Common gathering venues that generate recyclables must provide recycling containers at the same locations as trash containers.



# Examples of Recycling Collection Containers



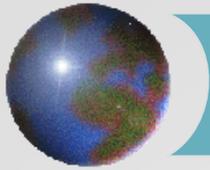


# Clear Stream Recycling Containers AVAILABLE

- ✦ Clear Stream recycling bins are a great way to collect recyclables while educating attendees and volunteers.
- ✦ DEEP has provided regional organizations across CT with Clear Stream containers for special events. These containers may be borrowed by special event organizers at no charge.

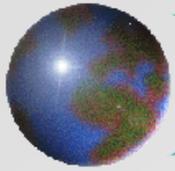
For more information about borrowing the bins, please call DEEP Source Reduction and Recycling at 860-424-3365.





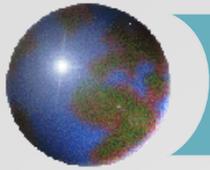
# Recycle - Cardboard

- ❖ Small events: Contact municipal recycling center to determine if they will accept small quantity of cardboard dropped off at facility. If so, set up a covered storage/collection area for non-waxed cardboard to be transported to facility after event.
- ❖ Large events: Contract with a recycling company or waste hauler to provide the container and take the cardboard for recycling. Often they will provide a dumpster, otherwise set up a covered storage/collection area.



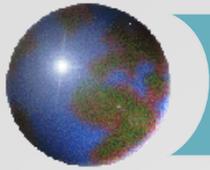
# Recycle - Paper

- ❖ Provide collection containers marked for paper recycling near the flyer distribution locations and exits.
- ❖ Try to limit over-printing of promotional materials.



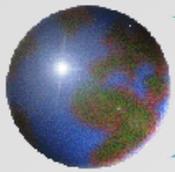
# Recycle - Wood Pallets

- ✦ Require vendors or suppliers to take wood pallets back.
- ✦ Clean wood recycling facilities will accept untreated pallets which they generally chip for mulch or for composting. Designate a storage location for empty pallet collection.
- ✦ Pallets may be reused by a pallet distribution program, sent to a pallet recycling company (if standard sized and in good condition), or given away to residents and local companies.



# Recycle - Grease

- ✦ Contact a rendering or bio-fuel company for collection options.
  - ✦ Company may provide the collection containers (typically 55-gallon barrels).
  - ✦ Larger tanks may be provided for multi-day events and can be kept at an event site for a longer period until full.
- ✦ Residents in the community that produce their own bio-fuel might be willing to collect and remove the grease.
- ✦ Require vendors to empty grease into centralized containers



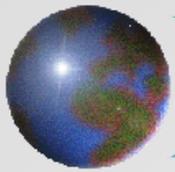
# Composting at Special Events

Before considering composting at your event:

- ✦ Get recycling going first - it will be good training for staff and fairgoers when you eventually add organics.
- ✦ Set-up a composting education booth with bin-demonstration or sell home compost bins as fundraiser even if the fair isn't composting. Utilize volunteers (i.e., Garden Club, Co-op extension, 4-H, FFA).

Contact KC Alexander at the DEEP for guidance on setting up recycling at special events 860-424-3239.



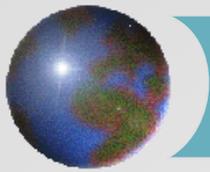


# Setting up a composting program

- ✦ Identify materials that the fair generates which may be composted. These can include:
  - ✦ Animal manures and bedding;
  - ✦ Wet or soiled paper or cardboard;
  - ✦ Vegetative waste (e.g., flowers, brush, leaves and chipped wood); and
  - ✦ Food waste.
- ✦ Identify on-site and off-site composting options and which materials may be composted at each location.

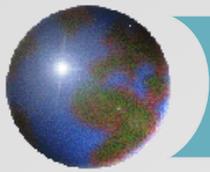
## IMPORTANT!

Service ware products labeled as biodegradable or compostable are generally **not** accepted at CT composting facilities **and will not degrade** adequately in an on-site compost pile. These products may contaminate the resulting compost with trash. Check with the off-site facility for a list of accepted materials before investing in these products.



# Composting program (cont'd)

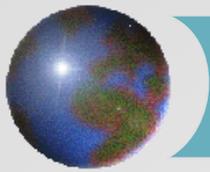
- ✦ Start small by working with vendor prep scraps, produce/floral waste from displays, and animal bedding.
- ✦ Make sure you have commitment from your human resources (volunteers, equipment operators, etc.) who are willing to follow through with the composting process long after the fair is over.



# Composting Best Practices

- ✦ Clear signage for containers and collection areas.
- ✦ Food waste must not be “contaminated” with plastic and other non-biodegradable materials.
- ✦ Provide vendors with separate containers to collect food scraps generated during food preparation.
- ✦ Use a volunteer-staffed picking line to remove unwanted materials, if contamination is unavoidable.

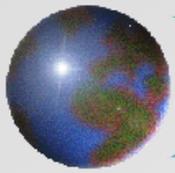




# Composting Animal Manures

- ❖ Manure may be composted on site at the fairgrounds or transported to facilities that are permitted to accept animal manure and bedding. Every animal barn should have a system to gather manure and bedding and collected in a central location.
- ❖ Make sure animal waste is stored and/or composted far away from concession areas and wetlands, and in a location that reduces the risk of contaminating it with other trash. Work with animal exhibitors to ensure proper management.

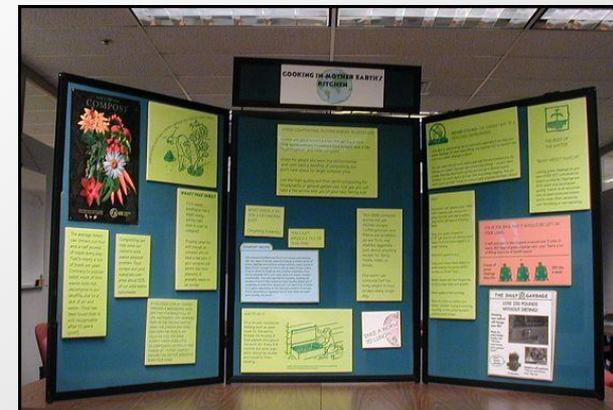


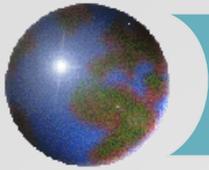


# Outreach Ideas

## Get the word out!

- ✦ Highlight recycling efforts in a press release.
- ✦ Include recycling and composting info in the fair program.
- ✦ Run promotional recycling pieces and interviews prior to, during and after the fair.
- ✦ Invite local recycling officials, civic groups, or fair volunteers to manage a booth to promote recycling and composting at the fair, home, school, and work.





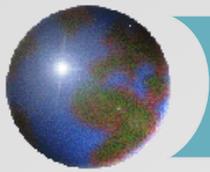
# Going Beyond Recycling

## **Waste reduction**

- ✦ Limit the number of printed materials and print double-sided.
- ✦ Ask vendors to supply drinks in recyclable containers.
- ✦ Require vendors to carry-out all waste they generate. Consider fines if no compliance.

## **Reuse**

- ✦ Choose reusable signs, recycling containers, and other equipment that can be stored for reuse in future years.
- ✦ Encourage and facilitate vendor efforts to donate leftover items, such as food or durable products.

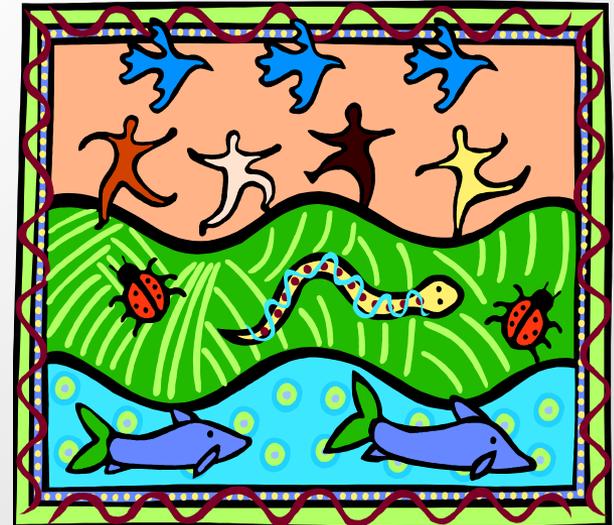


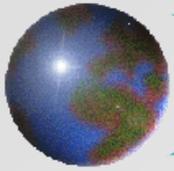
# Thank You for Reducing Waste

When we reduce, reuse, and recycle, we produce and dispose of goods and products in a more environmentally preferable manner - resulting in:

- Improved energy utilization
- Reduced air & water pollution
- Greater water conservation
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Decreased disposal capacity needs

**AND WE ALL WIN!!!**





# Additional Information

- ✦ Check the DEEP Website [www.ct.gov/DEEP](http://www.ct.gov/DEEP) for more information on:
  - ✦ Recycling at fairs and special events: type “fairs” in the search box.
  - ✦ Composting : [www.ct.gov/dep/composting](http://www.ct.gov/dep/composting)
  
- ✦ Call DEEP Source Reduction and Recycling at 860-424-3365.