



Sullivan County RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM
© 2003 - 2009 SULLIVAN COUNTY DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE

SUMMER 2009 A

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **2009 HHW Events Planned**
- **Your Questions Answered...**
- **Disposal of Household Medical Waste**



Household Hazardous Waste Events Planned...

Sullivan County's ninth season of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events kicks off on **Sunday, July 12, 2009 from 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM** at the County Landfill in Monticello. Residents of Sullivan County are encouraged to *safely* recycle or dispose of their potentially toxic materials free of charge at these

events. Examples of HHW include fluorescent bulbs, pool chemicals, rechargeable batteries, weed killers, creosote, solvents, pesticides, oil-based paints and even mercury!

Event pre-registration is required. The pre-registration form for the July event is available online at <http://www.scgnet.us/documentView.asp?docid=824>

and it will appear in area newspapers as well by mid-June.

Our *second* HHW Collection Event of 2009 is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, September 12, 2009 from 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM** also at the County Landfill in Monticello. Please call 845-807-0290 for additional information about these exciting chemical cleanup events.

Your Questions Answered...

Q. How should I get rid of old paint?

A. Unwanted paint may be disposed of in several appropriate ways. Liquid paint containing hazardous ingredients like mercury or lead should be saved for disposal at one of the County's upcoming Household Hazardous Waste collection events, scheduled for Sunday, July 12 and Saturday, September 12, 2009 (subject to change). Liquid oil-based paint may also be deposited at HHW events. **Solidified**

paint, whether oil-based or non-hazardous water-based emulsions (latex paint) may be discarded with regular household garbage at any solid waste facility. Once hard, paint becomes inert and may be safely disposed of. **Tip:** Liquid paint can be solidified by adding dry sand or clay pet litter to the liquid paint. Mix well and leave container open in a safe place away from kids and pets until paint mix hardens. Throw away with trash.

Q. What should I do with an old

mercury thermometer?

A. Thermometers or any devices that contain mercury, a highly toxic silvery liquid metal, should be recycled at one of the County's upcoming Household Hazardous Waste collection events. These items now have much safer alternatives, so their proper recovery is critical to protect the environment. Mercury is recycled back into critical-use applications like Compact Fluorescent Bulbs and certain electronics for which replacement materials are unacceptable.

Proper Disposal of Household Medical Waste

NO medical waste (especially '**SHARPS**') of any kind can be recycled in the Sullivan County Recycling Program. In fact, New York State regulations permit us to accept only one type of medical waste for disposal in the Sullivan County Sanitary Landfill: 'Conditionally Exempt, Household-Generated Medical Waste' - may be deposited in the Sullivan Co. Landfill, provided it has been secured properly. Follow these preparation guidelines carefully or face unpleasant consequences:

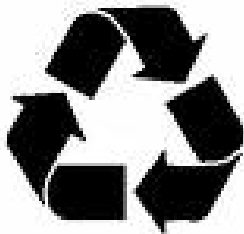
1. Place home-generated 'SHARPS' (syringes, needles) in a rigid #2 (HDPE) plastic bottle with a screw-type lid. Empty bleach or detergent bottles work best.
2. Securely duct-tape the screw cap closed when the bottle is full.
3. Label outside of bottle 'Conditionally Exempt, Household-Generated Medical Waste' with indelible-ink black marker.
4. Place filled, taped and labeled bottle inside a plastic garbage bag for disposal in the landfill. **DO NOT PLACE PLASTIC MEDICAL WASTE CONTAINER IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN!** (It is now a 'contaminated' recyclable, and must be thrown away. The SHARPS-filled plastic bottle is NO LONGER RECYCLABLE. THROW IT OUT.)



Upcoming

Events:

- Saturday, September 12, 2009
Next HHW Event
- 2009 Fall Litter-Pluck Event
- Fall Municipal Cleanup 2009
- America Recycles Day!
November 15, 2009



Recycling Summary...

Most recyclables are FREE—save money by recycling today! Below is a handy list of acceptable Sullivan County recyclables to help you maximize recycling at home and work. Just keep the “like” materials together in their respective categories, and be sure to check with us first if you are uncertain about an item or category designation. Please note that this list applies to materials delivered directly to our facilities, and it may understandably differ from your waste hauler’s specific commercial recycling instructions. The following materials are recyclable in Sullivan County and therefore, should be separated from waste for recycling:

- **Mixed Paper**— recycle old magazines, ‘junk’ mail, telephone directories, chipboard fiber (cereal boxes, TV dinner cartons, paper towel tubes, gray notepad backer), envelopes, school papers and books (with hard covers removed) in this category
- **Newspaper**— Daily newspapers, including glossy inserts
- **Cardboard**— Old corrugated cardboard boxes and brown (kraft) paper bags
- **Glass**— Green, brown, uncolored and blue glass containers and bottles
- **Mixed Containers**— Steel Cans, #1- #7, plastic containers, and aluminum beverage cans grouped together from this category
- **Cell Phones**— Handheld cellular telephones
- **Plastic Bags**— Film plastic shopping bags
- **Scrap Metal**— Old metal furniture, cabinets, piping, appliances, siding, iron, copper, tin, titanium, chrome, brass, steel, aluminum
- **Tires**— rubber vehicle tires, on or off rims
- **Electronic Scrap**— Televisions (all display types), computers, laptops, and monitors
- **Fluorescent Bulbs**— Straight tubes, U-shaped bulbs and compact fluorescent (CFL) lamps
- **Textiles**— unwanted clothing
- **Leaves-Compost**— Deciduous leaves, pine needles, corn stalks, and brown kraft paper bags
- **Used Motor Oil**— Motor vehicle engine oil and transmission fluid
- **Antifreeze**— Vehicle glycol-type coolant
- **Portable Consumer Batteries**— AA, AAA, C, D, and 9 volt style batteries

Recycling Really is Mandatory...

Every so often a caller to the Division of Solid Waste asks if recycling is mandatory in Sullivan County. Yes, it is - Local Law #1 of 1992 made it a civil violation to willfully collect commingled trash and recyclables in the same container. In other words, recyclables and waste must be collected separately from one another, for proper recycling and waste disposal to take place. All private and municipal sanitation haulers are prohibited from collecting waste and recyclables which have not been separated. A hauler misrepresenting the separate collection of designated recyclables from solid waste risks investigation by the proper law enforcement authorities—violations of Local Law #1 of 1992 carry a penalty of up to \$5,000 per instance and denial of access to

Sullivan County environmental facilities upon conviction!

Many solid waste and recycling haulers that do business in Sullivan County provide great collection services. But in any case, if you suspect your hauler is not doing the right thing, ask him or her to provide you with written company-specific recycling instructions and a collection schedule. If they are unwilling to provide you with confirmation of their recycling efforts, seek another hauler who will. If you remain uncertain about a hauler's compliance with the law, please don't break the law yourself and throw valuable recyclables away. Instead, deliver them (recyclables are free of charge) to any Sullivan County Transfer Station - we can help you remain in compliance with the law, and offer a safe and cost-effective recycling/waste disposal alternative to unscrupulous means.

Contact Us...

Please feel free to contact us regarding any recycling, composting, and sustainability questions or concerns you may have in Sullivan County. Our offices are located at 91 Landfill Drive, Monticello, NY 12701. Our telephone number is (845) 807-0290. Our Email is: recycling@co.sullivan.ny.us Web: www.scgnet.us/index.asp?orgid=275&storyTypeID=&sid=&

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Sullivan Co. Div. of Solid Waste, and has been made possible by a grant from the NYSDEC