

September — Paper Reduction



Why Should We Minimize Use of Paper Products

One of the areas where there exists great waste is in paper products. The question is, just how many trees are chopped down to keep up with the demand? The trees live off of carbon dioxide that is in the air, and as the trees get fewer, there is more carbon dioxide present in the air. It is difficult to say how it has affected our earth but it wouldn't hurt anything to have more trees. To help this situation, there are several ways to minimize the use of paper products, not merely at home, but at work too.

Here Are Some Ideas

Among the big wastes of paper, and time too, is unwanted mail so opt out of it when possible. When you purchase paper products, go with brands that use recycled materials. Try using paper that has been used already for scratch paper. Anything that doesn't demand a professional look can use paper with an unused side. If you are needing to print out a long report, see if your printer is able to print duplex.

Here are the good ideas about recycling that were submitted last month.

1. Reuse large plastic containers (such as 5 gallon paint jugs and cat litter containers) to store fertilizer. The handles make handling the fertilizer easier than the paper or plastic bags it comes in and will not rip apart. Large plastic containers have other uses such as shading shrub and plant transplants, water pails, and pretty much storing anything. The lids protect the contents from rodents if stored in the garage.
2. Reuse old coolers for storage containers. Pretty rodent proof as well.
3. Use prescription bottles for storing powder camping condiments such as pepper, salt and spices.
4. Place old tires on plastic or tarps to hold them down.
5. When the plastic bucket grip breaks do not throw out the bucket. Cut and slice a small chunk of old garden hose and drape on the metal handle.
6. Use an old CD as a emergency reflector when hiking or backpacking. It weighs nothing and is pretty indestructible.
7. Compost, compost, compost. Other compost materials besides food products can be plastic free and soy based ink paper materials such paper towels, office paper and paper bags. Every couple of weeks I have a 5 gallon bucket filled with compost material. Harness the recycling power of Mother Natures instead of throwing it away to rot for an eternity in the garbage heap.
8. Use scrap paper to write notes or take messages. At the jail we only use scrap paper to take notes- and there are a lot of notes.
9. Put your tote bags straight back into the car after you have put away your groceries as often times you get to the store and realize that you have forgotten your bags.
10. If you do have some plastic bags at home use them for bin liners in your small bathroom trash cans.
11. Use cloth napkins instead of paper for meal times. They are so much prettier anyway.
12. Use fresh produce instead of canned or frozen. They are more nutritional and there is no packaging involved.
13. Put a time of day meter in your house and only do laundry, dishes, vacuuming etc during off peak times. It really does save you money.
14. Put a brick into the water tank in your toilet. You will use less water when you flush.
15. If you have **county owned** electronic equipment (printers, calculators, PCs) you want recycled please bring them to the Blackstock Building before 1pm Tuesday Aug. 16.

Got any ideas that might benefit others?

Let us know and maybe win \$50 bucks.

Mike Lee is the lucky winner of last months drawing.

In order to become eligible for this month's \$50 drawing, send an email to the Green Team GTeam@gunnisoncounty.org by October 15th.



GUNNISON COUNTY

200 E. Virginia Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230

Phone: 970-641-0248
E-mail: gteam@gunnisoncounty.org

