



# Spencer's Team News

## Recycling Assistance Program: Off to a GREAT Start

One year ago, the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District initiated the Recycling Assistance Program to aid schools in setting up new or improving existing recycling programs. More than 30 schools have registered their recycling plans with us, taking advantage of the extensive support the District provides in the form of FREE recycling containers, classroom presentations, school assemblies, field trips, student incentives, training, and lesson plans. We want to thank the following schools, their recycling coordinators, principals, and students for participating in our Recycling Assistance Program. Further, we acknowledge them for their efforts and successes in reducing the amount of solid waste going to the landfill:

Amity Elementary  
 Bond Hill Academy  
 Cheviot Elementary  
 Dater Montessori  
 Frost Elementary  
 Holy Family School  
 Immaculate Heart of Mary School  
 Kilgour Elementary  
 Lakeside Elementary  
 Little Flower School  
 Madeira Middle School  
 Monfort Heights Elementary  
 Mt. Healthy North Middle School  
 Our Lady of Victory  
 Parham School  
 Princeton Community Middle School  
 Purcell Marian High School  
 Roger Bacon High School

Sands Montessori  
 Schiel Primary School  
 School of Creative and Performing Arts  
 St. Aloysius Gonzaga School  
 St. Catharine of Siena School  
 St. John the Baptist School  
 St. Joseph School  
 St. Teresa of Avila School  
 St. Vincent Ferrer School  
 Sts. Peter and Paul School  
 Summit Elementary  
 Sycamore High School  
 The Seven Hills School  
 Walnut Hills High School  
 Westwood Elementary School

**Keep up the good work!**

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**Recycling Assistance Program  
 Registration Open for  
 2007-2008 School Year**

Does your school recycle already but you don't see your name on the list? Do you need help getting started? Would you like to take your recycling program to the next level? Whatever your circumstances are, we can help. Contact the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District today and speak with Sue Magness (513-946-7736 or [sue.magness@hamilton-co.org](mailto:sue.magness@hamilton-co.org)) or Catherine Walsh (513-946-7737 or [catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org](mailto:catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org)).

## Newsworthy Notes: What's Happening in Hamilton County?

- Emerald Ash Borer

There could be a new beetle in town, and we're on the lookout for it. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a very small but destructive beetle native to eastern Asia, probably landed in North America hidden in wood packing materials used to ship consumer goods and auto parts. The US Department of Agriculture has quarantined the state of Michigan, parts of northwest Ohio, and parts of Indiana to halt the spread of the EAB. The quarantine means that certain materials are prohibited from leaving those areas. These include ash trees, logs, limbs, and branches; all hardwood firewood with bark and outer half-inch of sapwood intact; and ash wood chips and bark pieces larger than one inch. Close to home, the EAB quarantine extends to Warren County. Hamilton County is under observation, although no quarantine has been issued.



### **EAB Facts**

- Attacks only ash trees
- Always fatal to a tree
- Responsible for the death or decline of 15 million ash trees in the Detroit area

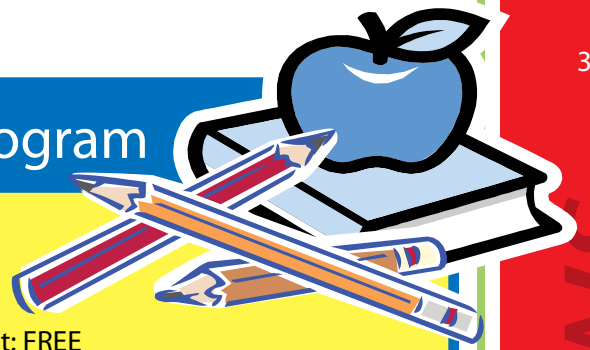
So what does this mean to us? Thousands of ash trees live in southwest Ohio. The City of Cincinnati alone has counted more than 6,000 ash trees in the public access ways. This number does not include any trees on private property or in parks. If the EAB shows up in our area, tens of thousands of trees in the county may eventually have to be felled and require disposal. That's a lot of wood to get rid of! County and municipal officials, along with other interested parties, are working together to develop economical options for dealing with this potentially enormous waste disposal problem. To learn more about the EAB, visit [www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab).

- Composting

After paper, plastics, and food waste, yard waste is the fourth largest waste stream going into Ohio's landfills. Unlike paper and plastics, yard waste cannot be recycled in the traditional way. But that doesn't mean it has to go to the landfill. In 2005, more than 56,400 tons of leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste were composted by private haulers and municipalities in Hamilton County. Composting is the natural method by which waste plant material decomposes and is transformed into a useable soil amendment, fertilizer, or mulch material. To find out if your community has a separate yard waste pick-up program, contact your municipality or call Hamilton County's Yard Waste Hotline at 513-946-7755. If you want to learn how to compost your own yard waste, check out the information at [www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org/sw/swhome.htm](http://www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org/sw/swhome.htm) and look for the Yard Waste at Home Handbook.



# 2007-2008 Classroom Outreach Program



## Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District

- **Composting 101** - Grades K–8, 45 minutes, Cost: FREE
- **Community Recycling 101** - Grades 3–Adult, 45 minutes, Cost: FREE
- **Early Childhood Community Recycling** - Grades K–2, 45 minutes, Cost: FREE
- **School Recycling Rocks!** - Grades 3–12, 45 minutes, Cost: FREE

Contact: Catherine Walsh, Hamilton County, 513-946-7737 or [catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org](mailto:catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org).

## Crystal Clear Science

- **R's for Life!!! Live "Spokes-Animals"** - Grades K–8, 45 minutes, Retail Cost: \$75, Cost with District subsidy: \$37.50, Low income school cost: \$10.
- **EnviroScape Landfill Model** - Grades 3–Adult, 45 minutes, Retail Cost: \$75, Cost with District subsidy: \$37.50, Low income school cost: \$10.
- **Paper Recycling** - Grades K–Adult, 45 minutes, Retail Cost: \$75, Cost with District subsidy: \$37.50, Low income school cost: \$10.

Contact: Michelle White, Crystal Clear Science, 513-553-2252 or [crystalclearscience@hughes.net](mailto:crystalclearscience@hughes.net).

## Mother's Nature

- **Recycling: Where Does Our Garbage Go? Puppet Show** - Grades PreK–4, 30 to 45 minutes, Retail Cost: \$75, Cost with District subsidy: \$37.50, Low income school cost: \$10.
- **Composting: Let it Rot** - Grades 1–4, 45 minutes, Retail Cost: \$75, Cost with District subsidy: \$37.50, Low income school cost: \$10.

Contact: Jane Gonzales, Mother's Nature, 513-697-8826 or [janegonz@cinci.rr.com](mailto:janegonz@cinci.rr.com).

## Newsorthy Notes continued....

### • Rumpke Landfill Expansion

Approximately 80 percent of the waste disposed by Hamilton County schools, residents, and businesses ends up in the Rumpke Sanitary Landfill located in Colerain Township. Annually, Rumpke receives about two million tons of trash from the region. Recently, the company submitted an application to rezone the land east of the landfill. Rumpke's plan includes 206 acres of landfill expansion, 85 acres of green space, and 59 acres of light industrial development along I-275. Hamilton County Regional Planning unanimously voted to recommend Rumpke's expansion in May 2006; Colerain Township Trustees voted to deny the plan in November 2006. Rumpke filed a lawsuit against Colerain Township to acquire the necessary zoning to develop its land as future landfill space. The landfill, which is permitted by the Ohio EPA, has been in operation since 1945. At present, it comprises nearly 500 acres total, with 334 acres permitted for waste disposal. Rumpke Sanitary Landfill has approximately 17 to 18 years of capacity remaining. The proposed eastern expansion offers an estimated 30 additional years of disposal space. Stay tuned to see how this complex issue gets resolved. In the meantime, do your part to extend the useful life of the landfill: **keep recycling!**

## 2007 Free Field Trip Opportunities

### Compost Kids

**Grades:** 2 - 6  
**Location:** Civic Garden Center of Cincinnati  
**Cost:** No student fees and a free bus ride  
**Contact:** Catherine Walsh, 513-946-7737 or [catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org](mailto:catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org)

Students can learn about composting, healthy soil, and environmentally friendly gardening from Master Gardeners while participating in a number of hands-on activities. Some of the activities include:

- Examining compost under a magnifying glass.
- Searching for and identifying bugs.
- Screening compost.
- Making potting mix and paper pots.
- Planting seeds.
- Participating in a Decomposition Scavenger Hunt and a soil squeeze (looking at different soil types).

The trip takes about 3½ hours, not including transportation time, and is limited to a maximum of 30 students. Free transportation provided. Qualifications apply. Limited dates available. Approximately 10 trips are offered each spring and fall.

Applications are available at [www.hamiltoncountycycles.org/sw/swhome.htm](http://www.hamiltoncountycycles.org/sw/swhome.htm). Follow links to Education Outreach and Field Trips.

### "Where Does All the Garbage Go?"

#### Rumpke Landfill Tour and Cincinnati Parks Nature Center Recycling Program

**Grades:** 3 - 8  
**Location:** Rumpke Landfill and Cincinnati Parks Nature Center  
**Cost:** No student fees and a free bus ride  
**Contact:** Catherine Walsh, 513-946-7737 or [catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org](mailto:catherine.walsh@hamilton-co.org)

In this two-part trip you tour the Rumpke Landfill and experience recycling in nature at a Cincinnati Parks' Nature Center. At Rumpke, students witness up-close views of an active, working landfill. A Rumpke representative guides students to various operation sites, such as the working face, the methane gas recovery system, the truck wash, and parts of the mining operation. Students learn about Rumpke's history, the different vehicles used, and the many ways our environment is protected from this mountain of garbage. The 45-minute tour at Rumpke Landfill is entirely on a bus. At Cincinnati Parks' LaBoiteaux Woods, Caldwell Nature Center, or Avon Woods, students will participate in an interactive program that includes a hike to observe decomposition and natural cycles, followed by games and activities about recycling, composting, and natural cycles. Students will make

comparisons of the many ways both ecosystems and humans recycle. The program is designed to present Ohio Content Standards related to renewable and non-renewable resources, and reducing and recycling solid waste. Applications are available at [www.hamiltoncountycycles.org/sw/swhome.htm](http://www.hamiltoncountycycles.org/sw/swhome.htm). Follow links to Education Outreach and Field Trips.

### Rumpke Sanitary Landfill

**Grades:** K-12  
**Location:** Colerain Township  
**Cost:** No student fees  
**Contact:** Lindsey Yoder, 513-851-0122 ext. 6765 or [lindsey.yoder@rumpke.com](mailto:lindsey.yoder@rumpke.com)

The tour begins with a brief history of the company and a demonstration of how trucks are weighed. Rumpke's tour bus then travels around the landfill while the guide explains exactly what happens after garbage leaves our homes. Methane gas removal, leachate collection, surface water controls, the working face, and other points of interest are viewed and discussed. The tour concludes with an explanation of the final landfill cover and capping process and the future uses of the landfill property. The tour lasts approximately 45 minutes.

### Rumpke Recycling Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Location:** St. Bernard  
**Cost:** No student fees  
**Contact:** Anne Gray, 513-242-4401 ext. 7164

Did you know...incinerating 10,000 tons of waste creates one job; landfilling 10,000 tons of waste creates 6 jobs; and recycling 10,000 tons of waste creates 36 jobs?

## Need a Free Bus?

### Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Travel Reimbursement

Are you teaching a unit about landfills, recycling, composting or other municipal solid waste issues? If you are spending at least three classroom hours and agree to distribute and discuss Hamilton County's "Get a Bin" brochure, you could qualify for bus transportation reimbursement to the landfill, recycling center, or other locations with municipal solid waste education programs. For an application and more information, visit [www.hamiltoncountycycles.org/sw/travel\\_voucher.htm](http://www.hamiltoncountycycles.org/sw/travel_voucher.htm) or call 513-946-7736.



## Field Trip Opportunities continued...

Check out the Cincinnati area's amazing Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and see what happens to your recyclables after they are picked up at the curb. This field trip consists of a presentation and guided tour of Rumpke Recycling's MRF where students will witness the operation of the Single Stream Processing operation. Students will view the operation of the \$15-million state-of-the-art equipment made up of electro-magnets, eddy currents, trommels, bailers, and gravity-fed conveyor belts. They will see where Rumpke sorts, bails, and ships approximately 80,000 tons of material to market each year. Because this is essentially an active construction site, this field trip is available only to high school students (grades 9-12) and requires strict compliance with Rumpke's safety operations. Students must wear closed toe shoes. Hardhats and safety glasses will be provided by Rumpke.

## Save the Date!

### Special Events

#### Earth Day

April 21, 2007, Sawyer Point  
[www.earthcoalition.net](http://www.earthcoalition.net)

#### Space Day 2007

April 21, 2007, Noon – 4:00 PM  
 Sycamore High School  
[www.ispaceohio.org](http://www.ispaceohio.org)

#### Cincinnati Flower Show

April 21-29, 2007  
 Lake Como at Coney Island  
[www.cincyflowershow.com](http://www.cincyflowershow.com)

#### Hamilton County Arbor Day

##### Seedling Distribution

April 26, 2007, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
 Gardens at Village Green  
[www.hcdoes.org/sw/education.htm](http://www.hcdoes.org/sw/education.htm)

#### Ultimate Educator Expo

September 11, 2007, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
 Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens  
[www.gcenvironmentaleducators.org](http://www.gcenvironmentaleducators.org)

#### Great Outdoor Weekend

September 29-30, 2007  
 Throughout the Greater Cincinnati area  
[www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org](http://www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org)

## 2007 Professional Development Workshops and Teacher Training

### "Exploration of Energy, Economics and the Environment"

**Grades:** 4-6  
**Date:** Saturday, May 12, 2007, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Hamilton County Environmental Services  
 250 William Howard Taft Rd. 1st Floor  
 Cincinnati, OH 45219  
**Registration:** \$55 fee includes lunch, curriculum and other resources

Want your upper elementary students to learn about energy and environmental issues? This workshop offers ready-made lesson plans that give you the tools to teach this content in interactive and innovative ways. Learn decision-making models as you explore issues around forests, water, energy, and economics. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, and is presented with financial support from the Linnemann Foundations. Participants receive "Energy, Economics, and the Environment" instructional guide and other resources. Graduate credit is available. Contact Doug Haskel at [douglas.haskell@uc.edu](mailto:douglas.haskell@uc.edu) or 513-556-2951. To register on-line, visit [www.cob.uc.edu/EconCenter/Course\\_Detail.aspx?ID=190](http://www.cob.uc.edu/EconCenter/Course_Detail.aspx?ID=190).

### "Project Learning Tree: Municipal Solid Waste" Field Trip Workshop

**Grades:** PreK - 12  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 27, 2007, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Winton Woods Visitor Center  
 10245 Winton Rd.  
 Cincinnati, OH 45231  
**Registration:** \$10 fee includes light breakfast, lunch, curriculum and great resources  
**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award-winning education program that looks at many environmental issues, such as water quality, solid waste, air quality, energy, and, of course, trees. Through hands-on, interdisciplinary activities, PLT provides students with opportunities to investigate environmental issues and encourages them to make informed, responsible decisions. This workshop focuses on the topic of municipal solid waste management. Participants will tour Rumpke Recycling's Material Recovery Facility and their municipal solid waste landfill to view actual operations. The remainder of the workshop will involve working through lesson plans in PLT's updated PreK-8 Activity Guide (2006 edition) and PLT's Secondary Municipal Solid Waste Module. Participants will receive a copy of both books. Graduate credit through the University of Cincinnati is available. To register, contact Susan Schumacher at 513-946-7734 or [susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org](mailto:susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org).

## An Outstanding Example: The Seven Hills School

This year at the 2nd Annual Recycling Awards Luncheon, the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District recognized The Seven Hills School in Cincinnati as its Outstanding School Recycling Program for 2006. Seven Hills not only has successful recycling programs at both campuses, but it is at the forefront of environmental and sustainability educational initiatives both locally and nationally.

The Seven Hills School's commitment to recycling and environmental sustainability is multi-faceted and incorporated into school operations, academics, and community involvement. Some of the school's efforts include:

- Classroom and building recycling managed by the students through the Environmental Club. The school participates in Rumpke's single-stream program, so they recycle paper and paperboard, cans, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, glass, and cardboard.
- Initiating Ohio's first school-wide vermicomposting program that processes the cafeteria's compostable waste. Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District awarded the school a grant to purchase and use the Worm Wigwam Composter®.
- Developing and offering a series of parent-child workshops in partnership with the District that focus on the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle); composting; and local, community, and global sustainability issues.
- Operating the school's Resale Shop, which is an established venue for community reuse of "gently used" clothes and household items.

Led by the Sustainability Committee, Seven Hills' commitment to becoming a "green" school is evident throughout its two campuses. Changes this school year include the use of silverware and reusable plastic trays in the cafeterias, instead of plastic utensils and Styrofoam plates; increasing the use of electronic communication, rather than paper; and exploring ways to increase sustainability education opportunities in the school and wider communities. Plans are underway to expand the backyard composting by the school garden, as well as to initiate a solar energy program. Robert Horne, Director of Finance and Operations, leads the "Sustainability Initiative" at The Seven Hills School. Karen Glum, a science teacher at the middle school, works in collaboration with the District to bring valuable environmental education programming to students and parents.

## Local Schools Can Generate Extra Money by Recycling

Local schools and organizations have earned nearly \$25,000 since August 2005 through The Recycle Challenge program, sponsored by Rumpke Recycling and Sea World/Busch Gardens. The Recycle Challenge is a nationwide program currently hosted by cities in Missouri, Georgia, Texas, and Indiana. Cincinnati is the first Ohio city to participate.

The Recycle Challenge is a free fundraising opportunity available to schools, churches, and other community organizations. Participating organizations collect aluminum cans in specially marked dumpsters provided by The Recycle Challenge. Rumpke Recycling collects and processes the materials, and schools receive paybacks for cans collected based on current market values. Depending on amounts collected, schools can earn as much as \$3,000 annually.

In addition to the money schools earn from the payback on all cans collected, there are also quarterly prizes given for most cans collected per student and other competitions for schools to earn additional money and prizes. Every quarter, the top two recyclers become Recycling All-Stars based on collecting the most pounds of aluminum cans per person. These organizations win additional money by achieving this honor. St. Ann School and Our Lady of Lourdes School were the previous quarterly winners.



Mr. Harold Boyd and some Seven Hills students examine the Worm Wigwam® which is used to process the school's food waste.

## Can Recycling continued...

St. Ann School collected 880 pounds of cans (29,392 cans). Their goal is to raise money for more technology. Rumpke Recycling and Sea World/Busch Gardens are giving the school a \$500 bonus for receiving the Recycling All-Star designation. St. Ann School has been honored with this award three times, recycling more than 4,720 pounds of cans and earning nearly \$4,000 since the program started in 2005.

Our Lady of Lourdes School finished second this quarter collected 560 pounds of recyclables (18,704 cans). Our Lady of Lourdes is raising money for the school's Ways and Means project. Rumpke Recycling and Sea World/Busch Gardens awarded the school a \$250 bonus check. Since joining the program in spring 2006, Our Lady of Lourdes has recycled more than 2,440 pounds of cans, earning more than \$1,500.

Last fall, The Recycle Challenge hosted a Cincinnati

Bengals football prize package give-away. Schools earned chances in a drawing by either signing up for the program or receiving a ticket for every pickup over 200 pounds. The prize included two tickets to the Bengals vs. Raiders game on December 10, a spot on the Bengals jumbo-tron during the game, \$100 Bengals Bucks, and an additional \$250 for the school.

The winning schools were Mt. Notre Dame High School, which collected 108,216 cans and Oakdale Elementary School, which collected 112,892 cans.

The program can accommodate 75 participants. Interested schools or organizations must designate a program coordinator and complete The Recycle Challenge application available at [www.thecyclechallenge.com](http://www.thecyclechallenge.com) and [www.rumpke.com](http://www.rumpke.com). Interested individuals can also call Anne Gray at 513-242-4401 ext. 7164 for more information.



## Ideas for the End of the School Year: Leave No Child Inside

The final weeks of the school year lend themselves to getting you and your students outside, whether it's for a break from Ohio Achievement Test preparation or just an opportunity to stretch after a long winter inside. Maybe you've even toyed with the idea of working outdoor class meetings or projects into your lesson plans. Don't hesitate. There is a growing body of scientific evidence that indicates that frequent play in nature is essential for mental, physical, and emotional health of all children.

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, makes a case for immersing children in the natural world, whether during summer camp, recess, class time, or backyard play. He chronicles the physiological and psychological benefits of nature education, including reducing childhood obesity and symptoms of ADD. Louv suggests simple ways that parents, teachers, and caregivers can make a positive difference in a child's life by reconnecting with the outdoors.

### Some ideas for facilitating and encouraging your students' reconnection with the natural world:

- Make a birdfeeder (shortening or peanut butter and seeds on a pine cone), or provide bits of yarn for birds to make their nests.
- Find a great grassy area to lie down on and watch the clouds. What do they look like? Which way are they moving? What makes them move? You can even bring a lunch and a blanket.
- Build a toad abode, bat house, or birdhouse and place it outside. Check on it daily and keep a journal about what you see. You can illustrate your journal.
- Make compost or talk about how worms make an important component of soil.
- Turn over rocks in a stream and look for critters that are hiding underneath. Can you identify any?
- Use a hula hoop and pick a spot outside to toss your hula hoop on. Record plants and animals that are found within the hoop (for smaller kids - just count). Toss the hoop again in a different location and compare the findings.
- Make some Solar S'mores. Recycle an old pizza box and some foil by turning them into an "oven" to melt your marshmallows and chocolate. Talk about stars, our star - the Sun, and alternative and renewable energy sources.

For more ideas or additional information, check out Leave No Child Inside of Greater Cincinnati's website at [www.LNCIgc.org](http://www.LNCIgc.org).

