



Spencer's Team News

Hamilton County Announces Truckload Compost Bin Sale for 2004

A truckload compost bin sale will be held Saturday, May 1, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The sale will take place at two Hamilton County locations yet to be announced.

Two types of composting units are being offered by the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District (District). The Home Composter will cost \$25 while the Soil Maker Composter is \$30. The retail cost for each bin is almost \$100. Cash and checks will be accepted at the sale. It is a one-day sale, rain or shine, and while supplies last. In 2000, the District sold over 1,000 compost bins.

Composting turns yardwaste into a rich, organic soil amendment that decreases the need for fertilizers and creates a better living environment for plants. Using compost rather than fertilizer reduces the amount of

nutrient run-off into the streams which drain into the Ohio River.

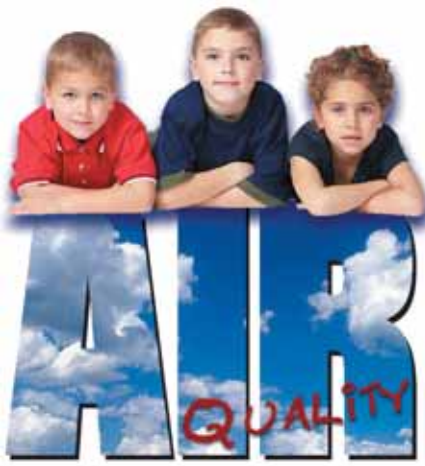
In addition, landfill space is conserved by home composting and it reduces the amount of pollution generated by yardwaste hauling vehicles.



For more information, call the District's Yardwaste and Composting Hotline at 513-946-7755.

Home Composting vs. Yardwaste Drop-Off

Utilizing a yardwaste drop-off site sponsored by the County is a better choice for the environment than landfilling your yardwaste, but the sites cost over \$200,000 annually to operate. Home composting is the best choice.



2004 Air Quality Photography Contest: Making Air Visible

Can you make air visible? This contest for amateur photographers has three categories:

- Air Pollution** - Show us why we need clean air.
- Clean Air** - Capture a beautiful clean day or actions that help to clean the air.
- Making Air Visible** - Use your imagination and make air visible to us all.

Winners will be chosen for each category in both a junior (under 18 years) and an adult competition.

To learn more about this contest and to receive an entry form, please visit www.hcdoes.org or call 513-946-7747.

Photography Contest

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2004 School Waste Reduction Assistance Grant Available

The School Waste Reduction Assistance Grant will distribute up to \$10,000 through competitive grants in 2004. Deadline for grant applications is April 7, 2004. The purpose of the grants is to assist schools with innovative waste reduction, recycling, and/or compost programs, which will significantly reduce the volume or hazardous nature of the grantees' waste stream. PreK - 12 schools within Hamilton County boundaries, recognized by the Ohio Department of Education, are eligible.

Schools applying for a grant may request up to \$3,000, but the District encourages applications for less than \$500. Applicants selected for grant funding will be notified by May 24, 2004, for projects beginning the fall of 2004. For more information, contact Sue Magness at 513-946-7736 or at sue.magness@hamilton-co.org.

2003 Grant Recipient Success Stories

Dater Montessori

In 1999, Dater Montessori began recycling aluminum cans during Earth Week. Now, the program has grown to include plastic grocery bags, bottles and mixed paper. Dater received \$660 to cover Rumpke's monthly service fee and advertising for the program. During the 2003-2004 school year, program responsibilities are being transferred from adults to the student council to ensure sustainability.

Loveland Primary and Elementary

These two schools, with help from their partner, Granny's Gardeners, have turned their campuses into a year-round outdoor learning center with more than 4,500 feet of gardening space. The schools plan to use the \$1,266.45 grant money to ensure their gardens do not add to the waste stream by developing an interactive composting station on school grounds.

South Middle School

South Middle School started a school-wide paper and aluminum-recycling program. A club was formed and members created boxes for each class to collect the paper. The \$595 in grant monies covers the cost of the service container, smaller collection containers and advertising for the program.

Queen Of Angels School

The \$297.60 in grant funds were used to purchase collection containers to begin a mixed paper recycling program, as well as purchase materials to build a compost bin and advertise the program.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Students at the Bridgetown school received \$1,275 to cover the monthly servicing fee for a Rumpke recycling container, a concrete slab for the container and classroom collection bins.



Students recycling paper at St. Aloysius Gonzaga School.

New, FREE Classroom Programming! **Recycling Ins and Outs**

Great for Environmental and Science Club Leaders!

Do you lead an environmental or science club and your students want to learn more about recycling and what they can do to recycle in their school? The District has developed a new program just for you!

The District's Education Assistant will come to your location and give you a **FREE** and informative program about recycling and proper recycling procedures. Find out how you and your club can start a recycling program at your school, funding sources and how to make money from recycling.

To set up your FREE program, contact the District's Education Assistant at 513-946-7737 or at errin.howard@hamilton-co.org. Programming is available to Hamilton County, Ohio schools only.



Many Great Classroom Presentations Available

The District has very few time slots remaining this school year for our staff to visit. The District encourages teachers within the City of Cincinnati to contact Keep Cincinnati Beautiful at 513-352-4386. Teachers outside the City of Cincinnati, but within Hamilton County, should contact Sue Magness at 513-946-7736 to discuss program options.

Depending on your focus and budget, we will find someone to present a recycling program for your class. For a comprehensive list of other organizations that provide classroom programs about recycling, visit our website at www.hcdoes.org/sw/STN/Fall2003/outreach.htm.



Solid Waste Field Trip Reimbursement Program

Enhance your classroom solid waste management education efforts with a field trip. Transportation reimbursement, up to \$200 per bus, is available for selected programs and tours related to recycling, composting, landfills and other solid waste related issues. Teachers must spend at least three classroom contact hours teaching about solid waste issues and discussing how to obtain and use a recycling bin with your students.

Download the new application from our website at www.hcdoes.org/sw/travel_voucher.htm. For more information, contact Sue Magness at sue.magness@hamilton-co.org.

Possible Field Trip Destinations:

Anchor Glass Company	Avon Woods Nature Center
Caldwell Nature Center	Rowe Woods
Cincinnati Paperboard	Greenacres
IMAGO Earth Center	Metropolitan Sewer District
California Woods Nature Preserve	Papaw's Farm
Cincinnati Nature Center	Rumpke Landfill
Rumpke's NPK Compost Farm	

HOW TO ORDER MOST FREE STUFF:

Call 513-946-7734, or email:
susan.schumacher
@hamilton-co.org



Free Activity Books

Let's Learn the 3R's: Reduce..Reuse..Recycle*

Grades 1 - 4, 16-Page Activity Book

A Child's Book of Recycling*

Grades PreK - 3, 8-Page Coloring Book

Woody Owl Activity Guide & Lend a Hand Care for the Land 4 R's Fun Pack*

Grades K - 3, 12-Page Activity Book and Teacher Guide

**The above are free to Hamilton County Teachers; a fee is applied to requests outside of Hamilton County.*

My Life As A Can

Grades 1 - 4, Coloring Book

Contact Alcan Aluminum Corporation, 6060 Parkland Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44124 or call 440-423-6600.

Almost Free Stuff / Subsidized Giveaways

The following resources are offered for a small fee. If a school district can not afford the fees, but can prove the materials will be used in an effective manner, contact Sue Magness at 513-946-7736 to discuss options. Descriptions of giveaways available at www.hcdoes.org. Teachers outside of Hamilton County, Ohio must also pay for shipping.

Earth Tomorrow®

Year-round, community-based club for high school students. Enrollment is \$10. Contact: The National Wildlife Federation, PO Box 975, Newark, NY 14513-3092 or 716-461-3092; or www.nwf.org for more information.

***Note:** The District will pay the enrollment fee for schools participating in school-wide recycling or composting programs.*

716-461-3092;. Visit www.nwf.org/school-yardhabitats/creatinghabitatsites.cfm for more information.

Note: The District will purchase supplies for schools who commit to composting education station on their school grounds.

Schoolyard Habitats Kit and Video

Grades K - 12

Kit is \$18.95. The Schoolyard Habitats® Video showcases more than 25 successful Schoolyard Habitats® programs and costs \$10. Contact the National Wildlife Federation, PO Box 975, Newark, NY 14513-3092 or call

Farmer Willie's Worm Wheel: A Complete Guide to Composting with Worms, 25 cents each. Grades 3 - 12.

Rott Wheeler: Composting Made Easy the ins-and-outs of composting, 25 cents each. Grades 3 - 12.

Natural Resource Kit

Each are \$1, limit one, Grades K - 12.

FREE Fun Giveaways for Students

Alcan Corporation has a variety of items available for recycling education. Contact Alcan Corporation at 6060 Parkland Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44124, Attn: Corporate Communications or email at mayfield.communications@alcan.com or call 440-423-6673.

Items Available Include:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Can Man Tatoos | Aluminum Rules Rulers |
| Can Banks | Factoid Cards |
| Brochures | Lesson Plans |

**Don't Forget!
Aluminum
Cans are
Recyclable!**



FREE Computer Recycling Collection Event

Fall 2004; Hamilton County Fairgrounds

The District will host a fall collection event for schools, businesses and residents in Butler, Hamilton, Clermont, and Northern Kentucky Counties. Dates and times are to be announced this summer. Registration is required to participate. To register, please address an e-mail as "computer mailing list" with your full name, school name, full address including your city, state, and zip code, and phone number to christy.kellner@hamilton-co.org.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Pilot Program

April - June, 2004; Location to be announced

The District is offering a pilot, permanent household hazardous waste facility. It is available only to Hamilton County residents on select days during an April to June, 2004 period. There is no cost to residents to drop-off waste. For details call 513-946-7734 or email susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org.

Earth Day Celebration

April 17, 2004, 1:00 p.m. - Dark; Sawyer Point, Downtown Cincinnati

Sponsored by the Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition, this event features educational displays, crafts, music, and food. For more information, contact Pati Schultz at 513-569-7966.



FREE Tree Seedling Program

April 22, 2004; Funke's Greenhouse

The District, along with the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services - Air Quality Management Division, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Funke's Greenhouse Inc., are providing tree seedlings for educators. Teachers in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties are eligible. Seedlings must be planted on or near school grounds. For take-home projects, they may be purchased for 25 cents and a permission slip is required outlining seedling care responsibilities. Registration is required, visit www.hcdoes.org to register by the April 7, 2004 deadline. Seedlings must be picked up on April 22, 2004, during business hours at Funke's Greenhouse, 4798 Gray Road, Cincinnati, OH 45232.

Great American Clean-up

April 24, 2004; Hamilton County, Ohio

For more information, contact Keep Cincinnati Beautiful at 513-352-4380. The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District is a proud sponsor of the "Tire Round-Up" component of this event.

Bugfest 2004

June 5, 2004, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Cincinnati Museum Center, Union Terminal

People of all ages can participate in insect-based activities, crafts, exhibits and mini-lectures. Contact Kelly Schwartz at 513-287-7000 ext. 2397 for more information.

FREE Great Outdoor Weekend

September 25 - 26, 2004; Various locations in Greater Cincinnati

At this free, Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators sponsored two-day event, residents will sample the nature and environmental activities in the Greater Cincinnati area. To receive information call 513-946-7736 or email sue.magness@hamilton-co.org.





FREE School Waste Reduction and Grant Writing

Workshop March 24, 2004, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District; Grades K - 12

Find out how to start and fund a recycling or composting program with a School Waste Reduction Assistance Grant from the District. Workshop covers successful grant writing and common mistakes to avoid when starting a waste reduction project. Participants receive a free copy of Keep America Beautiful's *School Recycling Guide: Setting Up Solid Waste Recycling Programs in Schools* (\$7.50 value). Participants can begin writing a grant at the workshop. Snacks and beverages are provided. Registration is required, seating is limited. Contact Susan Schumacher at susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org or call 513-946-7734 for registration materials.

Air Quality Workshop

March 26, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services; Grades 3 - 12

Come and learn about air quality and your health, transportation, economic and social issues. Participants will be taken on a tour of the Air Quality Lab to learn about local air quality monitoring and how the pollen and mold count is conducted. The workshop includes breakfast, lunch, a grade-level appropriate air quality curriculum, classroom resources, and a \$70 stipend. To register, contact Lynn White at 513-946-7754, or lynn.white@hamilton-co.org or visit our website at www.hcdoes.org. A \$15 deposit is required at registration and will be refunded at the workshop.

Soils, Composting and Fertilization

April 28, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati;
 Compost Demonstration Site

Healthy gardens begin with healthy soil. Increase your chance for success and improve your soil by learning the basics of soil structure, preparation and composting. Learn about and conduct basic soil tests for pH, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium and the issue of fertilizers. This class is a great introduction to the Master Composter class. To register, contact Ali Mramor at 513-221-0981 ext. 11. Learn more about the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati at their website at www.civicgardencenter.org.



Follow-up the Soils, Composting and Fertilization class with a Master Composting Class at the Civic Garden Center.

FREE Master Composting Class

Summer Classes: July 7, 14 and 21, 2004, 3:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m.

Fall Classes: October 2, 9 and 16, 2004, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati

Grades K - 12 and Adults



The Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati and the District are offering three weeks of intensive composting training. Topics include; compost pile location, compost bin types and construction, how and when to turn compost and incorporating compost into a garden. Attendees will build their own wire compost bin and have the the option of making a vermi-composting system for a nominal fee.

This three-week course is absolutely FREE! All we ask is for you to take what you learn and pass it on! Fifteen hours of volunteer service is required to complete the course. Attendees have one year from the last class to complete their hours. There are a number of volunteer options to suit your needs and aspirations! To register, contact Ali Mramor, Youth Education Coordinator at the Civic Garden Center, at 513-221-0981 ext. 11.

Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO) 37th Annual Conference

April 2 - 4, 2004

Deer Creek State Park; Mt. Sterling, Ohio (30 min. south of Columbus)

The EECO is reaching across the state of Ohio from Regions 1 to 12 to bring formal and non-formal educators together to learn the integrated lessons of environmental education. The conference will look back on the basic building blocks and ahead to the new opportunities in academic standards and community partnerships in our classrooms, our parks, our camps and our communities. For more information, visit www.eeco-online.org/conference04/.

North American Association for Environmental Educators (NAAEE) 2004 Conference

November 6 - 10, 2004

Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Hotel; Biloxi, Mississippi

This conference will begin with two days of pre-conference workshops and field trips, then three full days of concurrent sessions, keynote speakers, exhibit fair, social activities, awards recognition and other special events. For additional information, visit <http://naaee.org/>.



EECO Announces New Regional Director

The Environmental Education Council of Ohio is pleased to announce Sue Magness as the newly appointed Regional Director for Southwest Ohio-Region Five.

Region Five is an eight-county area including Butler, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Hamilton, Highland and Warren Counties. Any teacher, non-formal educator or administrator in Region Five interested in finding out more about environmental education opportunities, community partnerships, or seeking consultation related to special projects, workshops, landlabs, or grant writing is encouraged to contact Sue Magness for assistance.

Ms. Magness is also looking for representatives from each county to network and serve on an informal advisory committee for Region Five. If interested, contact her at 513-946-7736 or email her at sue.magness@hamilton-co.org.



Sue Magness at the North American Association of Environmental Educators (NAAEE) 2003 Conference. Pictured here on a Polar Bear Expedition in the Arctic Circle, standing next to a whale bone on Barter Island. See page 7 for NAAEE and EECO conference information.

HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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