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 Burlington, IA 52601
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 www.wastewrap.org



Members: Burlington, Danville,
 Des Moines County, Mediapolis,
 Middletown, Morning Sun,
 Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Union,
 New London, Rome, Salem,
 W. Burlington, Westwood,
 Winfield

A publication of the
 DMC Regional Waste Commission

Land of the Free?



Hal Morton
 Executive Director

The “Land of the Free” does not mean the land of free services. As you are, no doubt, painfully aware, the price to dispose of things you no longer want keeps rising. This is true for all forms of waste management, from landfilling to recycling in all its myriad forms. We do not raise rates for fun. We do not raise them because the “competition” did. We do not raise them to increase dividends to stockholders or investors. In short, we are not here to turn a profit. You, our customers, ARE our stockholders and investors. We view our mission as providing the best environmentally sound services possible at the lowest sustainable rates we can.

Where other businesses already provide competitive environmentally sound services, such as waste hauling or large-scale commercial recycling, we help promote their services, and we consider them as part of our comprehensive waste management plan. When the need arises for new services to meet new state or federal requirements, we have found that private enterprise is often slow to step forward. If this seems counterintuitive,

remember that implementation of new regulations often includes follow-up adjustments or changes, and this element of “the unknown” can be very risky to private investors. In addition, creation of new markets for items or materials often includes a high level of instability in the early years.

Consequently, in several instances we have done the research and initiated services to fill these needs. Examples include curbside residential recycling collection and processing, tire and automotive battery recycling, appliance de-manufacturing and recycling, electronic waste (E-waste) recycling, and household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal. It has sometimes been our experience, however, that once we establish a new service, one or more entrepreneurs get the impression there is money to be made by providing a similar service. And it also seems that sometimes these new private sector services appear to be free or very inexpensive. If we are not making a profit, but are charging more than these private services, how do they do it? Are they saving money with a shrewd business plan? Are they somehow avoiding costs that we are incurring? To put it another way, are they really providing the same service we are?

Since proper disposal of hazardous materials is far and away the most expensive component of recycling appliances and E-waste, it is the consumer’s responsibility to insure this step is properly handled. If a recycler is unable or

unwilling to provide documentation of proper hazardous material disposal, the customer should be very suspicious. Dropping your old refrigerator or stove off at an unmanned location provides absolutely no assurance that the refrigerants, mercury switches, thermocouples, or PCB-containing capacitors will be properly removed and responsibly disposed of prior to recycling the scrap metal. In our area, appliances will probably be transported to Illinois facilities where there are no state laws requiring de-manufacturing prior to recycling. (Federal laws require de-manufacturing, but EPA regions include several states, and enforcement is usually less responsive than at the state level.) Proper handling of E-waste includes recycling of all materials, not just the valuable metals. We are happy to provide verification that all hazardous components of the appliances and E-waste we accept are safely removed and properly disposed of as part of our recycling process.

Some businesses will offer to take back your old items (tires, car batteries, appliances and computers) for a fee when you buy new ones. This practice is sometimes called “product stewardship”. The fee generally covers the retailer’s cost to properly recycle (you should ask what they do with the “trade-ins” to be sure), and may also charge you a little extra for the convenience. So, some people choose to save a few bucks up front and keep their old tires or computers, hoping that they will magically turn to gold, or else some “free” disposal option will come along. While it may make good environmental sense to find a new owner for a slightly out-dated refrigerator that still works, storing these items in your garage or barn indefinitely simply either postpones the inevitable need (and cost) for proper disposal, or creates an environmental liability in the meantime. As described elsewhere in this issue, citywide cleanup and other occasional “amnesty day” programs are not truly “free”, they are simply paid for with hidden fees. And in most cases, paying now is a whole lot cheaper than paying later.

Anything that sounds too good to be true probably is. We encourage you to do your part in protecting our environment. Reduce, reuse and recycle. And to be completely sure, trust, but verify.

Ask Professor Garbologist

WasteWrap received this
 urgent plea about cardboard
 contamination

Oh, that cardboard!

Professor Garbologist tells us he has noticed an increase in chipboard and boxboard in the recycling stream



which is cause for concern because those materials cannot be recycled at Area Recyclers. All cardboard is **not** recycled equally, or so the saying (sort of) goes. When recycling cardboard, please make sure that what you are putting out for recycling is **corrugated** cardboard. Area Recyclers only accepts corrugated cardboard for recycling. Corrugated cardboard is the sandwich type cardboard that has the squiggly/wavy middle layer. (Note: City Carton in Mt. Pleasant accepts paperboard products for recycling) Examples of paperboard include: most shoe boxes, tissue boxes, cereal boxes, and shirt or gift boxes. Soda and beer cases are also not accepted at Area Recyclers; they are made of a product called boxboard.

If you have a question or comment for Professor Garbologist please email it to feedback@dmcwaste.org or send to our Facebook page “Area Recyclers.

Summer Holiday Schedules

The DMC Regional Waste Commission does observe the 4th of July holiday as well as Labor Day, September 7th. Area Recyclers, the DMC Regional Landfill, and the HazChem Center will not be open for business on those dates. Due to July 4th falling on a Monday, Burlington area residents who normally have Monday recyclable collection will need to set out their recyclables for collection on Friday, July 1. Friday’s regular route is not affected.

New London, Danville, Middletown, Westwood, and Rome area residents who normally have Monday recyclable collection will be affected by the Labor Day holiday and will need to set out their recyclables on

Tuesday, September 6th. Tuesday’s regular route is not affected.

All residents are asked to have their green Area Recyclers bins set out by 7:30am to ensure collection. If you have any questions, please contact Area Recyclers at (319) 753-8126, 1-800-216-8126, or via e-mail at feedback@wastewrap.org, or “LIKE” Area Recyclers on FACEBOOK. Please remember that recycling drop off containers are located at nine different locations throughout Des Moines County, including the lighted drop off at Area Recyclers.

Keep up to date – “like” Area Recyclers on Facebook!



HazChem Center Coordinator Elyn Holton-Dean receives a recognition plaque in appreciation of 10 years of employment. Congratulations to Mrs. Holton-Dean!

HAZCHEM FILL IN THE BLANK

Fill in the blanks with these choices. To see if your answers are correct, email us at feedback@wastewrap.org!

Mercury	NiCd	1-877-HAZCHEM	Televisions
Button	Latex	Fluorescent	Monitors
Oil	SwapShop		

The HAZCHEM Center only accepts ___ based paint. _____ paint can be dried out (sand or cat litter speeds up the process) and disposed of in your regular trash.

The _____ located at the HAZCHEM center is where you can donate reusable chemicals or pick up items you may need.

_____ is an extremely dangerous toxic metal found in most every home. If this substance becomes airborne in your home, you must take serious safety precautions.

The HAZCHEM center accepts ___ ___ batteries, as do area stores such as Staples and Lowes. The HazChem center also accepts

_____ type batteries commonly found in hearing aides and watches.

The HAZCHEM center will accept _____ light bulbs.

The telephone number for the HAZCHEM center is _____ . The center is located inside the DMC Regional Landfill.

_____ and _____ are banned from landfill disposal and must be taken to the HazChem Center for recycling.

Fact Sheet 10



SWAP SHOP

Get the power over household chemicals



Two simple rules apply to persons interested in using the Swap Shop located inside the HazChem Center:

1. You do not need to bring something to the HazChem Center in order to take something from the Swap Shop. Simply put, if you visit the Swap Shop (by appointment) and see something you can use, simply complete a brief survey (name, address, photo I.D.) and you can take it for free...period.
2. Items taken from the Swap Shop are presented with no guarantees. Materials found in the Swap Shop are believed to be useable in accordance to the product's directions.

Please...Appointments
are REQUIRED

Please contact the HazChem Center today for your appointment.
Call 1-877-HAZCHEM(429-2436)
or email at mshazchem@mchsi.com



DID YOU KNOW...

Every Ton of Recycled Paper

- Saves about 17 trees!
- Saves 7000 gallons of water!
- Keeps almost 60 pounds of air pollution effluents out of the air!
- And could save you \$\$\$!



Contact Us Today!



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www.CityCarton.com Joe.Hummel@citycarton.com
(319) 385-7206

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We Support Recycling and Thank Everyone Who Does!

Danville State Savings Bank

New London, IA 319-367-5100 1-877-367-5100	Danville, IA 319-392-4261 1-877-392-4261
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The Hawk Eye • Saturday • June 18, 2011

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**Clip and save this handy reference for common disposal questions.
Not a complete list- please call the DMC Regional Waste Commission at
319-753-8126 or 800-216-8126 for specific materials questions or
check us out on Facebook- like "Area Recyclers".**

Area Recyclers

#1 Plastic Containers
#2 Plastic Containers
Catalogs, magazines
Copy/office paper
Corrugated boxes
Glass
Tin/Aluminum cans
Newspapers

DMC Regional Landfill

Household Garbage
Unusable Furniture
Broken Lamp
Carpet
Grass/Leaves
Siding/Shingles
Kid Swimming Pool
Car batteries
Tires

HazChem Center

Spray Paint*
Pesticides*
Car Wax*
Flea Spray*
Varnishes/Stains*
Cleaning Supplies*
Lawn chemicals*
Televisions**
Monitors**
Computers**

*requires appointment for disposal- call (319) 753-8758 for information.

**fees may apply for electronics- see pg 7 for details.

The Iowa Waste Exchange- providing disposal solutions to businesses

The Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) is the nation's premier materials exchange program that is free, non-regulatory and confidential with waste management professionals available to provide individualized and expert waste management and business assistance services resulting in both economic and environmental benefits. Since its inception in 1990, the Iowa Waste Exchange has matched more than 2.8 million tons of by-products and wastes with groups interested in using or recycling those materials and saved Iowa industries over \$65 million in disposal costs. Our team of representatives has over 90 combined years of experience in the waste management field. The IWE helps business and industry, schools, hospitals and communities save disposal costs and protect the environment by reducing, reusing and recycling materials that would otherwise end up in the landfill.

Jim Reimer, Iowa Waste Exchange Area 6 resource specialist has worked with Darven Kendell and others for the last 11 years assisting companies in Southern Iowa with their waste streams, by-products and used equipment. Please feel free to contact Jim at the following address, phone, or email:

Iowa Materials Exchange
2041 715th Avenue
Albia, Iowa 52531

email: jimreimer.iwe@gmail.com
office: 641-938-2845
cell: 641-777-7949



RAIN BARRELS AND COMPOSTING BINS

The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District is selling rain barrels and tumbling composters that are made from recycled materials. The barrels and composters are each 55 gallon. Rain barrels are priced at \$70 each, the tumbling composters are \$135 each. Payment can be made with cash or check only. The Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation offices are located at 3625 Flint Ridge Drive, Burlington, IA. Barrels and composters may be purchased during regular business hours of 7:30am-4:00pm Monday-Friday. If you have any questions please call the Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

RECYCLE RECYCLE



- Yard waste pick up and drop off.
- Recyclable pick up.
- Cart service.
- Roll offs 11 thru 50 yards.

- Stationary compactors.
- 1-6 yard containers.
- Daily, weekly, monthly and call in rates.
- Free estimates.



LaVeine Sanitation, Inc.

1022 N. Gear Ave.
West Burlington

319-753-0405

Residential & Commercial Waste Disposal



Volunteers from Mediapolis High School help unload paper brought to this year's Clean Out Your Files Day

Clean Out Your Files Day 2011- They came, they saw, they recycled!

Slow, steady, and successful are three words to describe the 2011 Clean Out Your Files Day. Over 190 people delivered about 38,000 pounds of paper and cardboard to the Burlington Depot parking lot during the one day event that coincides with Earth Day. Nearly 50 people participated in the event held in Mt. Pleasant at the City Carton Recycling plant. Event sponsor Hope Haven Document Destruction collected 12,000 pounds of sensitive papers which were taken to their facility for secure shredding. The confidential paper disposal is always a popular option at Clean Out Your Files Day and businesses and residents alike are encouraged to contact Hope Haven anytime at 319-754-4689 for year round confidential paper destruction.

This year's event benefitted from several groups of excellent volunteers. On behalf of Area Recyclers and City Carton Recycling we send a huge thank you to this year's group of volunteer help and in particular to Mediapolis High School and environmental science teacher Stacey Rector and her students. Another big thank you is extended to Greater Burlington Partnership staff Dennis Hinkle, Jaime Howard,

Beth Nichols, to Downtown Partners staff Steve Frevert, to Des Moines County Conservation Director Kim Perlstein, and to Klingner Associates staff Bryan Bross. Mark Hempen from 101.7 the Bull provided on location broadcasting from 8am-1pm. The continued success of this event is no doubt related to having excellent help available to unload paper and cardboard from participating businesses and individuals.

Residents and businesses are reminded that recycling need not be a once a year event. Area Recyclers provide drop locations throughout Des Moines County and also have a drop off location located in the parking lot at 1818 W. Burlington Avenue, Burlington. For additional convenience, businesses are also able to drop off materials inside of Area Recyclers during normal business hours. City Carton Recycling also has a drop off location at their facility at 301 N. Harvey Place, Mt. Pleasant. Hope Haven Document Destruction accepts items to be confidentially shredded during normal business hours at their offices at 1818 Douglas, Burlington. For more information about document shredding including fee information please contact Hope Haven at (319) 754-4689.



City Carton Mt. Pleasant plant manager Kevin Bumgarner watches as volunteers help unload a U-Haul truck filled with files and cardboard at this year's Clean Out Your Files Day.

Small businesses shine with waste reduction and recycling awards

Each of the award recipients for 2011 were first time winners! The first small business waste reduction and recycling award presented at the Greater Burlington Partnership sponsored small business appreciation breakfast was given to Casebine Community Credit Union. In 2009, Casebine began transferring their old paper files to electronic storage. This process resulted in the generation of more than 300 30-gallon bags of shredded paper over the next two years. The credit union faithfully delivered the bags of shredded paper to Area Recyclers on a weekly or as needed basis. After noting how easy it was to recycle this paper, this company installed recycling stations at both of its locations to recycle cans and bottles and continues delivery of these to Area Recyclers. At Casebine's annual meeting in February 2011, they presented all of its members and employees with aluminum water bottles in an effort to reduce wasteful bottled water usage. Casebine has also installed energy efficient lighting and no longer allows computers to run on standby during off weekend hours.

The second award for excellence in waste reduction and recycling was presented to a business and an employee as a "passionate garbage lady". Lori "passionate garbage lady" Moore and Burlington Trailways recycling efforts include corrugated cardboard- (you know, the wavy kind of cardboard- NOT cereal boxes and pop cartons), office paper, shredded paper, #1/#2 plastics, glass, and pop cans. As needed, Lori will faithfully load up her trunk with their recycling and deliver it to Area Recyclers. The business has a

designated paper recycling station to collect all of the magazines, newspapers, and paper items left behind by its customers. While some businesses see no benefit to putting forth a small effort to recycle, Burlington Trailways firmly believe that recycling is something that should be done to demonstrate responsibility for our environment.

Our resources, whether they be landfill space, trees, or natural gas, are not without limits and their costs are constantly rising. While some may say "I don't have the time to recycle", others, as evidenced by this year's awards and for each of the 11 years these awards have been presented, are clearly leading by example. Many times businesses will say that at first they started

recycling because they felt like it was the responsible thing to do, and then they go on to tell us how much money they have saved by reducing their waste stream. If you have questions about recycling or about how to reduce your businesses waste, please contact Darven Kendell at Area Recyclers, (319) 753-8126 or via email at feedback@dmcwaste.org. Learn more about recycling via our website www.wastewrap.org or visit Facebook and "like" Area Recyclers.



DMC Regional Solid Waste Executive Director Hal Morton presents plaques to Casebine Community Credit Union (left) and Burlington Trailways (right) for the 2011 Small Business Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards.



"Alex, I'll take Free and Easy disposal, please"

If life truly was a game of Jeopardy, what would the question be under this category? Would it be something like "where can I take my broken microwave for free disposal"? Maybe the question is "I lived in Whatatown, Minnesota and tire disposal was free. Why can't it be free here? Or maybe the question is "Where do I take my TV or computer monitor for free disposal?" The short and simple answer to any of those questions is a blunt "there is **no such thing** as "free" anything!" Furthermore, somewhere, somehow, a fee, tax, or charge was assessed but perhaps you as a resident did not realize it. Most people realize that there is a fallacy in saying that something is indeed free. Some, however, will insist that they received or are owed something for "free". If something is believed to be free, doesn't that remove some of the personal accountability from the equation of responsible citizenship? Full accountability will reveal that even if the person received a service free via a county or city clean up event, the money used to cover the cost of that event had to come from somewhere. After all, the persons charged with picking up or delivering the material to a landfill or other appropriate disposal site deserve to be paid for their work. And, the individuals

charged with handling said material after it arrives at its destination deserve to be paid for their work. Additionally, the equipment needed and the regulatory requirements for handling cleanup material do not come without costs- these must be somehow covered. Thus, there is no such thing as "free".

Locally, the DMC Regional Waste Commission provides its member entities with a credit that they may use as they wish for community cleanups. The cleanup credit is money given back to member entities in an amount proportional to their size. For example, the city of Burlington would have a larger credit than the city of New London. The credit is something that the Commission as a whole decided to implement. The credit transfers money that users of the landfill have paid via tipping fees and returns a portion of it to member entities to use as a credit. Thus, when a cleanup event is occurring where you live, take note that the event is not "free". The cost to cover that cleanup did not magically appear. You paid for it in your tipping fees. If you have any questions about community clean up credits please contact Hal Morton, Executive Director for the DMC Regional Solid Waste Commission, at 319-753-8126.

Summer energy saving tips

With utility and gasoline costs continually rising, readers of WasteWrap can follow these relatively simple tips to help stretch household energy dollars.

For your car or truck:

- Ensure your vehicle is properly tuned and your tires are inflated properly. An often overlooked item is your air filter which is typically a do-it-yourself project costing less than \$20 but can increase fuel economy by 3-5%.
- When driving- a/c on or off? Rule of thumb is off for in town driving, on for highway.
- Easy-does-it driving.
- Dust off and tune up your bicycle.

For your home:

- Leave the air conditioner off as much as possible. Using portable fans and ceiling fans can make a room feel as much as 10 degrees cooler.
- Use an attic fan/ventilator to draw in cool morning and late night air into your house plus it will exhaust warm air from your house and attic. Turn it off when the temperature begins to rise.
- Use your basement as a cool haven to retreat to. Remember- warm air rises so upper floors and the ceiling area of your house will be the warmest.
- Close window shades in sun facing areas of your house to reduce solar heating. Check your attic insulation level- most experts recommend R-30 or greater.
- Make sure your air conditioner filter is clean and/or have a reputable heating and air conditioning contractor perform a tune up/spring cleaning of your central a/c unit.

Alliant energy customers can save \$8 per month in the months of May, June, July, and August by signing up for central air conditioner cycling during peak alerts. Customers with electric water heaters can save an additional \$2 during this time period. Visit <http://www.alliantenergy.com> or call to call 1-800-723-7635.

Ever wonder just how much it costs to use different items around your house? Check out the website <http://www.msbo.org/services/energy/ApplWattageList.pdf> for a comprehensive list of items and their typical monthly energy costs.

Alliant energy customers have appliance recycling option

Customers who have an older refrigerator or freezer that is still in working order have an additional option for recycling their appliance. In an effort to encourage energy efficiency, Alliant Energy-Interstate Power and Light Company will arrange to have your old refrigerator or freezer picked up at your home and *you will receive a check for \$35*. The appliance will be collected by an environmentally-qualified recycling contractor. The appliance must be operating and cold when the contractor arrives to pick it up. This program is available to residential and small business electric customers in Iowa, although certain restrictions apply. For more information, call Alliant Energy at 1-800-723-7635 or check out appliance recycling on their website at www.alliantenergy.com.



Visitors to this year's Day of the Child enjoy spinning the Waste Wheel with Professor Garbologist. Participants received prizes for their answers to waste and recycling questions. This year nearly 250 children and their families visited our booth.



Volunteers from RSVP work to prepare mailings for this year's Clean Out Your Files Day and for Small Business Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards. A special thank you to RSVP for helping with this project over the past 4 years.



Printed with environmentally friendly soybean oil ink.

THE HAWK EYE
People **Informing** People

To subscribe call 319-754-8462 or 1-800-397-1708.



Area Recyclers driver Ryan Gehringer is presented with a semi-finalist award from the National Solid Waste Management for Driver of the Year. Congratulations to Ryan for 20+ years of safe driving!

DMC Regional Landfill Fees as of July 1, 2011

Material	Rate
Solid Waste	\$45.00/ton
Demolition	\$39.00/ton
Minimum landfill fee	\$10.00
Wood waste	\$24.00/ton
Contaminated Soil	\$25.00/ton
(\$60 per event testing fee)	
Special Waste	\$60.00/ton
Asbestos- loose (minimum \$20)	\$200.00/ton
Asbestos- solid	\$60.00/ton
Batteries	\$2.00/each
Tires-	\$250.00/ton

The fee increases are attributed to increased capital and operating costs resulting from Iowa Department of Natural Resources landfill regulations. If you have any questions about the fees, please contact Mr. Hal Morton, executive director for the DMC Regional Waste Commission, at (319) 753-8126.

Electronics fees as of July 1, 2011

CRT Monitors	\$7.00
Televisions (all sizes)	\$15.00
All other electronics	\$.25/lb
High Intensity Discharge bulbs	\$2.25/each
All other bulbs	\$.65/each
Minimum electronics fee	\$5.00

Helpful reminders for your next landfill visit

Covered Loads

All loads delivered to the landfill must be reasonably covered and secured with a tarp (even if waste is in bags or containers) so as to prevent material from falling or blowing from the load. Trucks and trailers without tailgates must ensure that the rear of the load is also secured with a tarp. The only exception to this policy is that brush or other suitable clean items may be securely tied instead of being tarped.

The scale attendant may require partial untarpering of the load at the scale to view the contents of the load. Removal of tarps prior to load viewing by landfill crew will constitute violation of this policy.

Failure to comply with this Covered Loads Policy will result in a \$10.00 surcharge per load from the driver's own residence in addition to any other fees or rates charged for the load. Unsecured loads resulting from commercial activity, including hauling or contracting, will result in a \$100.00 surcharge per load.

Inappropriate Dumping

Customers or persons dumping inappropriate materials

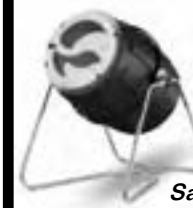
(which are otherwise accepted at the landfill) in the designated dumping areas of the landfill will be assessed a surcharge of \$10.00 per load in addition to having the entire load charged at the highest fee level of any type material in the load. (Each individual rolloff container in the public dropoff area shall constitute separate designated dumping areas.) Each infraction of this policy at a different designated dumping area shall constitute a separate load, even if the loads arrived on the same vehicle. In addition to the surcharge, the customer or person may be required, at the landfill operator's discretion, to clean up any inappropriately dumped materials.

If the inappropriate dumping is identified after the hauler has left the landfill, any additional charges will be added to the hauler's account, and a written explanation mailed to the hauler. Each successive infraction of inappropriate dumping by the same hauler (within a 6 month period) will result in a \$10.00 per load increase in the surcharge.

Customers or persons dumping illegal materials, or materials the landfill is not permitted to accept, may be subject to other legal action at the discretion of the landfill operator.

Thank You!
to Everyone Who
Supports Recycling

COMPOSTER



Sale Price \$89⁹⁹

- Tumbling function makes compost in 3 to 4 weeks
- 6.5 cubic foot useable capacity
- Galvanized steel stand (1" dia. tubing)
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- Latching lid on both sides

Earth Friendly Products



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of Beavertdale
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ACE
The helpful place

339931

Is it difficult to start a recycling program?

WasteWrap is interviewing Jens Lee, Administrator at the New London Nursing & Rehab Center in New London, IA about their recent implementation of a recycling program.

WW: Mr. Lee, how did your recycling program come about? Were there specific staff interested and how did Area Recyclers assist you?

Mr. Lee: I was first approached by some employees of our kitchen who were concerned because of all the items that they were throwing away that were recyclable. There were lots of boxes and bottles and food containers that were just getting tossed in the dumpster when done. We had two large dumpsters and I had to increase the pickup times to 3 times a week due to all the "stuff". Other employees also were echoing this as nursing and housekeeping were also going thru many boxes everyday. I must admit I was a little hesitant at first - I was concerned about the amount of space a large recycling area would take along with all the extra costs I thought would go into this. I knew with all the stuff we had we just could not accumulate it inside and set it on the curb every two weeks like I do at home. I thought I could at least look into it so called Area Recyclers to come out and have a meeting with us. Darven Kendell visited our Center several times and met with myself and our staff to help implement the program.

WW: What has surprised you as a result of your recycling efforts? What has been the reaction from your staff, residents, and their families to your recycling program?

Mr. Lee: First off, I was worried about all the extra cost but in reality we are saving a lot of money! Because we are a non-profit organization we are able to do our recycling at no cost plus we are recycling so much that we are throwing a lot less away. Because of our program we were

able to get rid of one of our two dumpsters which is saving us money with the less garbage. The other worry I had is the space it would take, but our recycling shed does not take much space at all. The reaction from our staff has been very positive and they are all helping with our recycling program. Our families and residents have been very supportive of the program as well.

WW: Were there any costs associated with implementing your recycling program? Have there been any cost reductions as a result of your recycling program?

Mr. Lee: Yes, there was. We did have to build a small recycling shed outside which our maintenance group built. So, there was some initial cost for lumber and time. We initially started building the small recycling area and attached it to the building but the fire marshal did not like that and said it had to be at least 25 feet from the building for code. Because of this we had to tear down what we started and rebuild it away from the building. So initially there was a cost, but since then we are saving a lot of money every month so we probably made up for this cost within a couple months and now are saving money going forward.

WW: What would you say to someone reading this who may be thinking about starting a recycling program in their business? Any final thoughts?? Thanks!

Mr. Lee: I would encourage it. It takes some work at first but then it pays benefits and is so easy to do. We all feel better about being able to reuse all the stuff we accumulate all the time. Finally, I have to thank our staff. They approached me about this idea and really helped plan it out and it turned out to work great - honestly, I would never have thought of doing this on my own, so they get all the credit for this great idea.



Area Recyclers employees work to empty the new recycling storage area at the New London Care Center.



Professor Garbologist explains plastic recycling to a group of pre-schoolers from Black Hawk school. Area Recyclers hosted nearly 500 children and adults for tours this spring. If your group would like a tour or presentation, contact Darven Kendell at Area Recyclers, 753-8126 or contact us via Facebook- "like" Area Recyclers!



On the left side of this photo workers install an abutment liner on the side slope of the working face at the landfill while on the right side the compactor works on recently disposed of trash. The abutment liners are required under the most recent IDNR regulations.