



School Recycling News

Meet the Feed the Bin Recycling Team!

Welcome back to a new school year recyclers! I hope that you all have made some new friends and are enjoying your new classes. The Feed the Bin Staff has been very busy this year. Here's what they have been up to...

Ms. Liani has been spending her time battling against the forces that litter our streets and roadways. Her mission? To provide tools to help school groups and other volunteers collect the litter that is around their school community. She has even created a website where

anyone can sign up to borrow a Litter Clean-up Kit. In the kit are some really fun tools, like litter "grabbers", so you don't have to bend over and pick up the trash. The kit also has orange safety vests that you need to wear to be safe, thick gloves to protect your hands, and a supply of trash bags for the cleanup. And, if you get a group of friends together to help you with the cleanup you all can be entered to win a T-shirt made from recycled plastic bottles! Go to our website to learn more about the anti-litter



program. [Don't Leave Trash In Your Wake!](#)

Ms. Chrissie has also been doing many different things. She has been digging through the pile of emails that we receive every day but she's also working on landfill programs. Our South Wake Landfill is a very special place and I'm not talking about the garbage!! She is holding monthly tours of the landfill for public citizens in Wake County on the second Monday of each month. FTB will continue to provide these tours every month if requested.

Ms. Chrissie and Ms. Liani are overseeing the new stream that was rebuilt near the landfill. Some student groups have come out to test the water in the stream as part of their learning and help to keep it healthy. She is also keeping the FTB webpage looking fresh and fun. Did you know that we have 2 contests going on? Visit <http://www.wakegov.com/recycling/schools> to learn more!



Go-Green- Recycle!

Ms. Becky is keeping track of all the pounds of paper that your school recycles each month so that it can be posted to the web page. Have you looked to see how many pounds your school recycled last month? Last year, [Leesville Rd High School](#) recycled the highest pounds of paper— 28,141 pounds!! [Partnership Elementary](#) recycled the most paper per student which means that each student recycled about 27 pounds in one year! [Morrisville Elementary](#) improved their recycling from 2,556 pounds of paper in 2008 to 6,586 pounds in 2009! [Mrs. Hynus from Martin Middle School](#) was nominated as an Outstanding Recycling Coordinator for the year.

Ms. Becky is also working on the lesson plans that your teachers use to teach you about recycling. Also, **be on the lookout for a new recycling presentation** to come out this year about the "3 R's"- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Whew! That's a lot of work! And you probably thought that we just hang out all day with PaperGuy and have fun.... See you next time!

The Feed The Bin Team

Special Upcoming Events:

Nov 11- Veterans' Day, no school

Nov 15- America Recycles Day
Southeast Raleigh "Going Green"- 2-5 PM @ Walnut Creek Wetland Park Facility

Nov 26- Happy Turkey Day!

The Great Garbage Patch: a study on plastic

Did you know that over the summer a scientific study was being performed on ocean waters that contain a giant floating mass of plastic and other garbage? The North Pacific Gyre (pronounced “j-ire”) or the Great Garbage Patch is located between California and Hawaii and reaching as far as Japan.

The swirling pool of ocean water has collected million of tons of plastic pieces and other debris because of four different ocean currents that join together. So, how did all that plastic end up there? From people on land and ships that travel the ocean waters. Most often, litter from human-use ends up in storm drains that carry it to the coastal areas which then go out to sea.

Scientists from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation spent several weeks collecting samples of the plastic from the garbage patch and removing old fishing nets that may entangle marine life. Most of the items that they found

were small pieces of plastic such as bottle caps and tiny resin pellets which are used by factories to make a certain type of plastic product for our use. The most common types of plastic found in the ocean waters are #1 PETE, #5 PP, Styrofoam®, and #2 LDPE. (To find out what type of plastic the container is look for this symbol with a number in the middle).



You're probably thinking that why can't we just go in and scoop it all out? Some of the larger items like nets are easier to retrieve but most of the plastic is very



Plastic sample from the Garbage Patch



Workers collecting plastic along a Los Angeles coastline

small and reaches miles wide and miles deep. Picture sprinkling confetti in the ocean and trying to scoop it out! Some ships and other volunteers try to collect as much as they can but Charles Moore of the Algalita Foundation says that the best way to solve the problem is to reduce how much plastic we use and make sure that it ends up in a recycling bin or other collection place.

If you want to learn more about this or to see pictures go to the Foundation's website at: <http://www.algalita.org>

Fast Facts!

There are many items that cannot go into our garbage here in Wake County such as:

- Batteries
- Electronics (like radios, TV's, iPods)
- Chemicals (like bleach, paint, cleaners, nail polish remover)
- Automobile oil, cooking oil
- CFL light bulbs (the curly-cue bulbs)
- Aluminum cans
- Rubber tires
- Appliances (like stoves, refrigerators)



Don't throw that bottle out! Plastic bottle ban in N.C.



Did you know that plastic bottles are not allowed to go in the trash? Since October 1, 2009 North Carolina placed a ban on all plastic water and soda bottles. According to the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance we are throwing away 100 plastic bottles every second! Only 18% of the people who live in our state are recycling #1 PETE bottles which means that 82% of them are ending up in the landfill.

What does a #1 bottle look like and where do you find the number? Any water, soda, juice, and some types of salad dressing containers are #1 plastic. Usually the number can be found on the bottom of the bottle in a three-arrow recycling symbol or triangle. So, start looking for that number and be sure to recycle all those plastic bottles you use each day.

You may be wondering why is this such a big deal? Haven't we already been recycling plastic for years? It is an effort to discourage others from throwing away something that can be recycled and to save room in the landfill for the other garbage that we can't recycle. It's important to conserve space in a landfill because once it is filled up we have to find another large area of land to build a new one for the trash. An average landfill can only remain open for about 25-30 years.

Have questions or comments for the Feed the Bin Staff?

Email, snail mail, or call us!

Email: feedthebin@wakegov.com

Snail Mail:

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We're on the Web!

www.wakegov.com/recycling/schools

Sources for articles:
<http://www.algalita.org>
<http://www.pay2pays.org/BannedMaterials>
<http://www.wakegov.com/recycling/residents/houshazwaste.htm>