

# Environmental Protection Begins with You

*A Guide to Environmental Community Service*



*Make a Difference in Your  
Community—Volunteer!*

# *The ABCs of Volunteer*



## Recycling Projects

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## **Penn State Beaver Stadium Post-Game Recy**

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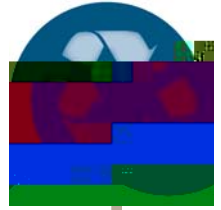
**Solid Waste Agency of Northern  
Cook County**  
*Glenview, I*

SWANCC's close relationship with area schools and other entities has made it possible to educate students and adults about the importance of reducing, reusing, recycling, and buying recycled. Nike's "Air to Earth" shoebox—containing a video and a sliced shoe with samples of Nike Grind and sport surfaces—helps students understand the importance of closing the loop in a product's life cycle.





**Perry County Recycling**  
*Perry County, Pennsylvania*



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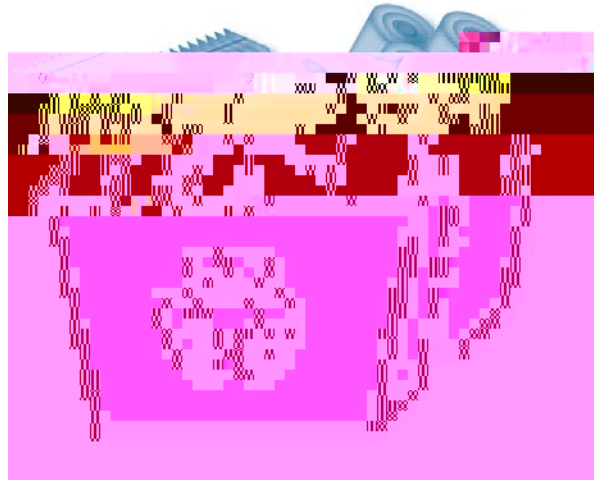
## A History of Recycling Seattle University's Recycling Program *Seattle, Washington*

**W**aste reduction and recycling on Seattle University's campus began in 1988, with small-scale ventures by individual offices and student groups that collected aluminum cans to raise party funds and do something good for the environment. As the cost of solid waste disposal increased, the university began to realize that institutionalizing recycling efforts could be both environmentally and economically advantageous.

In 1993, the university re

metals, ink cartridges, books, pallets, and noncompostable scrap wood. It also conducts surplus sales and recycles construction and demolition debris.

The university also operates an organics recycling program that includes composting pre-consumer food scraps and coffee grounds at its onsite composting facility. Landscaping debris is sent off campus to be composted. In addition, campus staff practices grasscycling (allowing mowed grass clippings to break down naturally in the lawns and feed the soil), and using coarse woodchip mulch from local tree services in planting beds.






## Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County *Palm Beach County, Florida*

**C**ommunity volunteers play a vital role in disseminating information, educating residents, and promoting the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) of Palm Beach County's environmental efforts. These volunteers are a valuable asset to SWA's programs because of their dedication to the environment and willingness to promote SWA messages.

Implemented in 1994, the SWA volunteer program assists SWA in reducing annual solid waste generation in Palm Beach County. SWA volunteers support the community's environmental initiatives in numerous ways:

- **Neighbor-to-Neighbor**—This community-based program, available to all Palm Beach County residents, promotes the three Rs of solid waste management (reduce, reuse, and recycle) at the grassroots level. Volunteers are proactive in their communities by educating their families, friends, neighbors, and coworkers about waste prevention and recycling.
- **Green Team**—Volunteers assist SWA staff with special events held throughout the county. These events are designed to educate residents about the authority's waste prevention and recycling programs.
- **Litter Matters: Adopt-A-Spot**—Adopt-A-Spot involves the adoption of specific areas by individuals or organizations for litter a



Linda Moreno  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Solid Waste Authority of PBC  
7501 North Jog Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33412

Phone: (561) 640-4000 ext.4327  
E-mail: [Lmoreno@swa.org](mailto:Lmoreno@swa.org)  
Web Site: [www.swa.org](http://www.swa.org)

## Columbia Public Works *Columbia, Missouri*



**W**ith a mission statement that emphasizes utilizing the unique talents, skills, and knowledge of volunteers to extend waste reduction and environmental cleanup programs, the Columbia Public Works' volunteer program is an integral part of the community. Volunteers are involved in numerous activities, ranging from assisting at household hazardous waste collections to teaching compost workshops, distributing compost bins, researching and writing informational publications, and helping to promote events such as Earth Day and "A Day With Wildlife." Volunteers even get the opportunity to wear a costume at schools and events and work on campaigns such as the Use Less Stuff holiday campaign.

One of the most popular events is the Recyclabration. Held in the children's area at the Columbia Festival of the Arts, it has become an attraction for all ages. Volunteers collect materials for use in making artistic creations and set up tables at which participants can work. In fall 2005, hundreds of people crammed the tables making envelopes from old calendars, flowers out of plastic six-pack plastic rings, and art from CDs and phone wires. The opportunity is used to promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, to educate people about the importance of proper recycling and the location of recycling collection sites for special materials, and to answer questions. Attendees enjoy being gi

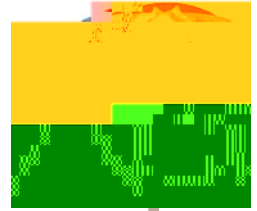


## PA CleanWays *Greensburg, Pennsylvania*

**E**very county in Pennsylvania is plagued with numerous illegal dump sites. To help combat this problem, PA CleanWays, a statewide nonprofit organization, fights illegal dumping and littering through a comprehensive approach that includes facilitating community cleanups, addressing problem disposal items, offering education, beautification, and adoption opportunities. T



## Rock the Earth *Denver, Colorado*



**R**ock the Earth, founded in 2002 by environmental attorney Marc Ross, is dedicated to bringing about positive and beneficial environmental changes through active litigation and negotiation on behalf of members of the music industry, their fans, and the general public. The organization also focuses its efforts on reducing the ecological footprint of music tours through the use of recycling, biodiesel fuel for tour buses and trucks, organic clothing for merchandise, and wind power credits to offset tour emissions. The organization consists of a 25-person volunteer staff of environmental attorneys, technical consultants, public relations professionals, marketing and media relations experts, and a fundraising team.

The organization strives to become the primary voice of the music industry as it pertains to current environmental initiatives by 1) bringing togeth-

### **1-800-Volunteer.Org**

Points of Light Foundation  
1400 I Street, NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 729-8000

E-mail: [1800support@1800volunteer.org](mailto:1800support@1800volunteer.org)  
Web Site: [www.1-800-volunteer.org](http://www.1-800-volunteer.org)

1-800-Volunteer.org connects you to volunteer opportunities in your community, helps you track your volunteer service, and sends you automatic e-mail notifications—enabling you to respond when you're needed most. You can also conduct a search for volunteer opportunities based on issue and zip code.

### **America Recycles Day**

Web Site: [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org)

America Recycles Day is a national grassroots campaign dedicated to increasing the purchase of recycled-content products and recycling throughout America.

### **Action Without Borders**

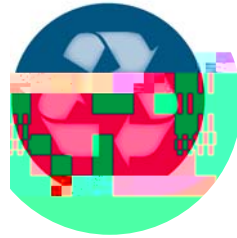
360 West 31st Street, Suite 1510  
New York, NY 10001  
Phone: (212) 843-3973  
Fax: (212) 564-3377  
Web Site: [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org)

This organization maintains an Internet database, Idealist, which currently boasts the most detailed community of nonprofit and volunteering resources on the Web. Information is provided by 20,000 organizations in 140 countries. Volunteers can search for opportunities based on a variety of criteria, including their area of interest, geographic location, or the duration of time they are available.

### **Citizens' Environmental Coalition**

33 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210  
Phone: (518) 462-5527  
Fax: (518) 465-8349  
Web Site: [www.cectoxic.org](http://www.cectoxic.org)

The Citizens' Environmental Coalition is a statewide environmental organization that aims to eliminate pollution in the state of New York. Volunteers work to empower, educate, and assist others who are concerned about environmental problems and to eliminate solid waste and create healthier communities.



### **Cornell Composting**

Web Site: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/composting.html>

This Web site offers a comprehensive listing of composting resources as well as examples and case studies from Cornell's Waste Management Institute.

### **Corporation for National & Community Service**



National Service currently has three main service initiatives—Learn and Serve America, AmeriCorps, and the National Senior Service Corps—as well as partnerships with other national organizations.

**National W**

### **Recycler's World**

Web Site: [www.recycle.net](http://www.recycle.net)

This site is a worldwide trading center for information related to secondary or recyclable commodities, byproducts, and used and surplus items or materials. The site also offers a calendar of events, a listing of associations, and a publications list.

### **The Compost Resource Page**

Web Site: [www.oldgrowth.org/compost](http://www.oldgrowth.org/compost)

This site offers a detailed overview of composting and a list of additional resources on home composting and vermicomposting, as well as composting toilets.

### **The Freecycle Network™**

P.O. Box 294

Tucson, AZ 85702

E-mail: [info@freecycle.org](mailto:info@freecycle.org)

Web Site: [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

Freecycle aims to build a worldwide gifting movement that reduces waste, saves precious resources, and eases the burden on landfills while enabling members to benefit from the strength of a larger community. Membership is free. Individuals in a given community give and receive unwanted items as a way to reuse and recycle.

### **The Master Composter Site**

Web Site: [www.mastercomposter.com](http://www.mastercomposter.com)

Visitors to this site can learn everything they might ever want to know about making and using compost. The information is geared toward home composters and includes directions on how to build a compost pile and contact information for local composting programs.

### **The Heart of America Foundation**

401 F Street, NW

Suite 325

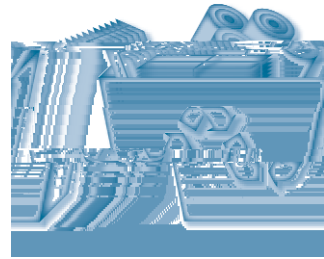
Washington, DC 2002

Phone: (202) 347-6278

Fax: (202) 347-8599

Web Site: [www.heartofamerica.org](http://www.heartofamerica.org)

The Heart of America Foundation is a national humanitarian network that celebrates, honors, and empowers both young people and adults. One of its initiatives, Heart Corps, is a college scholarship program that rewards students with financial credits for their future education based on time volunteered for community service. Heart Corps gives students an opportunity to nourish their self-esteem, improve their neighborhoods, and earn financial credits toward their education through serving their communities.



### **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste**

## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Volunteer Clearinghouse

Phone: (800) 865-8337

Web Site: [www.orn.usace.army.mil/volunteer](http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/volunteer)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Volunteer Clearinghouse is a nationwide, toll-free hotline for individuals who want to volunteer their time with the Corps. By calling the hotline, a potential volunteer can express interest in any Corps project nationwide. The Clearinghouse gives the individual a point of contact for the area they have requested, as well as written information about the area's volunteer opportunities.

## **VolunteerMatch**

385 Grove Street

San Francisco, CA 94102



**Recycling:** Collecting, sorting, processing, and converting materials that would have been thrown away into raw materials used to make the same or new products.

**Refurbish:** To repair, clean, and make useful again. Some electronic manufacturing companies and other businesses take back used equipment, refurbish it, and sell it again.

**Source reduction:** Any change in the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products (including packaging) to reduce their amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste. Source reduction also refers to the reuse of products or materials.

**Trash:**





United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
(5305P)  
Washington, DC 20460

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[www.epa.gov/osw](http://www.epa.gov/osw)