

KBCB NEWSLETTER

Going Green

On the Home Front

Have you ever taken a look around your house at all of the everyday things that you use? I did this not too long ago and made a list of the items and products that I use daily. I have cleaning products, about six separate plastic containers, then there are the laundry supplies, five separate items. In the bathroom I have shower supplies, hair products and makeup. I'll leave out the item count because it is too embarrassing. Then we have the kitchen. Just about everything in a container is packaged in plastic or paper and there are way too many to count. I also have dish detergent and automatic dishwashing detergent, both in plastic containers and, of course, trash bags.

Do you see a pattern here? Most of the items we use on a daily basis are in recyclable containers. But what happens to the products that are in those containers? Some of them are consumed, others are basically washed down the drain and some are thrown away such as dryer sheets and trash bags. I started taking a closer look at those items that are used for cleaning and decided to do some research. I took my list to the computer first and looked up several of the items I use. What I found was that many are not just harmful to the environment, which I already knew but choose to ignore, but that exposure to some of these products was not safe for children or pets. Some research even suggests that exposure to some of these products can cause permanent damage to children's developing neurological systems. Wow! After discovering this I decided to take my list to the grocery store

and see what environmentally safe products were available. I spent hours looking over the different choices I had. The products came in several different shapes, sizes, colors, scents and price ranges. I found everything from post consumer toilet paper to bath products. I was able to replace all of my household cleaning supplies with environmentally safe ones, even my dryer sheets, and the cost was no more than what I usually pay. The biggest surprise was when I used the products. Not only did they work great but they smelled so good and they didn't irritate my skin. I also want to mention the way you feel when you know you are doing something good for your planet and your family. It gives you a sense of satisfaction, and yes, joy (even in cleaning).

Last fall I spent America Recycles Day at Lowes Home Improvement handing out information about recycling in Brunswick County and I decided to get some environmentally friendly products to display at my recycling table. I was amazed at how many people stopped and inspected and smelled these supplies. They wanted to know more. Where do you get these? How much do they cost? And the constant statement was "I didn't even know this was available." Well, neither did I but I'm glad I do now.

In closing, what I am trying to say is that you shouldn't just look at what you can recycle but look at what you use. Investigate to see if you can reduce your environmental footprint by pre-cycling. Simple choices can make a big difference.



Civic Groups & Clubs

Brunswick County Solid Waste / Recycling and Keep Brunswick County Beautiful is always happy to do presentations for your civic groups, clubs, businesses, schools and groups of all ages.

To schedule an event or presentation all you have to do is contact the Brunswick County Solid Waste / Recycling office at 910-253-2524. We will need an approximate number of people attending, time and location. We will provide hand outs.

The presentation will be tailored to fit into your time frame and topics discussed may include recycling, landfills, the environment and litter prevention. This is a wonderful way to support your environment and encourage your friends, neighbors or coworkers to recycle and be environmentally friendly.

Fall Free Week & HHW

The Brunswick County Fall Free Week is scheduled for September 13 through 18. This is the time to do your fall cleaning. Residents may dispose of items at the Brunswick County Landfill for free during this time. Please remember this does not include regular household garbage or commercial businesses. The Brunswick County Landfill will be open September 13 through 18 from 8 am until 4 pm.

On Saturday, September 18 Brunswick County will be hosting their Fall Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics Collection and Clothing Drive. The event will run from 9 am until 2 pm. At this time the location for the collection has not been determined. I will send out a special announcement as soon as the location has been approved. The location will be in the Southport area of the County. This is for residential use only. Commercial vehicles will be turned away.

All residents will be required to show proof of residency. This may be a drivers license, tax papers, lease or utilities bills. Those without proof of residency will be turned away. For more information about either event contact the Solid Waste Office at 910-253-2524 or send an email to kthompson@brunSCO.net.



NC Big Sweep

August 1st kicked off the 2010 NC Big Sweep event and it runs through October 31. The designated Big Sweep day for North Carolina is October 2. Brunswick County has several groups organizing cleanups throughout various communities.

If you're interested in signing up for a group of have an area you would like to organize a cleanup in please contact the Solid Waste / Recycling Office at 910-253-2524 or send an email to kthompson@brunSCO.net.

Operation Medicine Cabinet Tuesday, August 24th 9 am - 1 pm

Dosher Memorial Hospital, in cooperation with the Southport Police Dept., Brunswick County Sheriff's Dept., and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency is sponsoring the collection of out-of-date or unwanted medications. Simply drive under the front canopy of Dosher Memorial Hospital and staff from the hospital will be on hand to receive your prescription and non-prescription medication and controlled substances. They will also be collecting unwanted hypodermic needles and pet medications. All collected items will be incinerated and properly disposed of.

It is very important to dispose of medication and medical supplies properly. Prescription drugs have become the "drug of choice" for many teenagers. It has also be found that washing medication down the sink or flushing the medication down the toilet can lead to the contamination of our water supply. So clean out your cabinet and go to Dosher Memorial Hospital at 924 N. Howe Street, Southport, NC on August 24th between 9 am and 1 pm. This is an easy and safe "Green Living" practice.

To sign up to receive this e-newsletter or to discontinue receiving this e-newsletter please send an email stating your wish to kthompson@brunSCO.net