

Business Recycling News

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The Recycling Restaurant: Leonardo's 706

Healthy cooking, quality food, and a delightful atmosphere are not the only positive amenities at Leonardo's 706. From the management to the employees, Leonardo's 706 has proven their strong commitment to waste reduction and the environment. "By recycling and using waste reduction methods we are able to significantly reduce the amount of trash in our dumpster," says Mark Newman, a Managing Partner at the restaurant. "We believe recycling is a must for any environmentally-responsible business."

For restaurants and bars, glass bottles can make up a heavy portion of the

waste stream. At Leonardo's 706 wine and beer bottles are recycled. The recycling starts with the waiters, waitresses, and table clearers at the restaurant. The bottles are removed from the tables, emptied, quickly rinsed and then placed in small storage baskets in the rear of the kitchen area. Later on during less busy operating hours,



employees sort the bottles into separately labeled brown, clear, and green glass recycling carts. A private recycling collection company then collects the recycled bottles from the carts once a week.

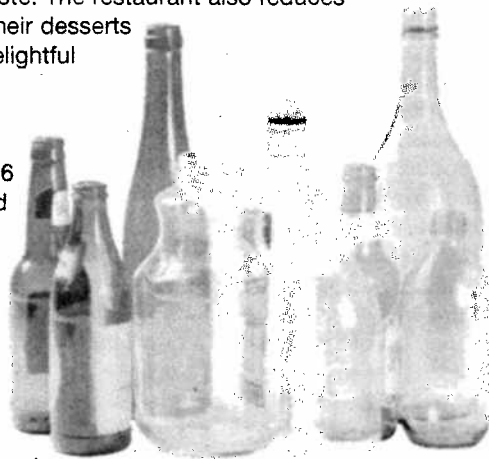
Recycling cardboard is another element of Leonardo's waste reduction program. Like many restaurants, Leonardo's receives many products shipped in corrugated cardboard boxes. Cardboard boxes can comprise as much as 60% of a restaurant's waste stream. Through an arrangement with an adjoining business, Leo's 706 saves space by jointly using their "corrugated cardboard only" recycling container. By sharing the container, the restaurant is able to recycle its cardboard and reduce their waste disposal cost.

Leonardo's 706 considers waste reduction in all areas of its operation, including food service and kitchen operations. Leonardo's 706 is able to reduce its food service waste through a variety of tactics. Linen napkins instead of paper napkins are used for table service. Meals are served with reusable china, glasses, and flatware instead of disposable tableware. In the kitchen, washable headwear and aprons are used by the kitchen staff instead of disposable paper ones. Many food supplies are purchased in bulk and from local growers; thus resulting in reduced packaging waste. The restaurant also reduces their packaging waste by baking their desserts in-house (and what fantastically delightful desserts they are!).

Another large component of any restaurant's waste stream is food. Whenever possible, Leonardo's 706 tries to donate edible, unused food to local charities. Many local programs accept food - packaged, prepared, fresh, frozen, or baked - that restaurants can no longer use. Donor programs often deliver food to soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior citizens'

programs, day-care centers, and food pantries. With food scraps restaurants can compost the material or contact a local animal farmer to use the scraps as feed.

So, from appetizers to aperitif, Leonardo's fare rates five stars for dining pleasure and waste reduction.



Gainesville's Workplace Recycling Program

The City of Gainesville provides technical assistance and offers several complimentary services to businesses with commercial solid waste collection. By actively recycling and reducing their waste, companies can experience significant economic savings in disposal cost. Please call the Solid Waste Division's Office of Recycling at 334-5041 if you are interested in starting a recycling program at your workplace.

A Waste Assessment is an excellent way to gain a better understanding of the types and amounts of waste a business is generating. The information collected from a Waste Assessment can be invaluable in the design and implementation of a waste reduction program. A Waste Assessment consists of an on-site examination of a company's waste stream by Solid Waste Division personnel. Solid Waste personnel then recommend options in which that business can save money by reducing waste disposal cost through waste prevention methods or establishing a recycling program. Waste Assessments are complimentary to any business in the City of Gainesville.



The City of Gainesville's Office of Recycling can supply your workplace with complimentary desk-side paper recycling

boxes as well as larger, centralized recycling bins for your office paper recycling program. These containers are available at no cost, but only in limited quantities.

The desk-side recycling bins are designed for the collection of office paper at individual workstations. The larger recycling containers, called "Iggy Bins," can store a higher volume of office paper and utilize a canvas bag for easy removal and storage of the collected office paper. You may also wish to consider purchasing your own internal container for the collection of aluminum cans. The Office of Recycling can provide you with stickers to indicate containers are exclusively for recycling aluminum cans.

If your office generates enough waste paper, you may be able to arrange for it to be picked up by a recycling collection service. If you are in a large office building or complex, you can coordinate with other businesses or with your property owner/manager for a joint collection. For smaller offices that don't generate enough waste paper to warrant a collection service, you can take it to one of the city's drop-off locations.

The Office of Recycling can provide your business with a variety of informational materials. A commercial recycling video, "Recycling is Your Business," explains the City of Gainesville's recycling ordinance and how businesses can implement a recycling program. A list of area recycling centers and a list of recycling service providers is available to everyone free of charge. Other materials on topics such as "Waste Reduction" and "Buying Products with Recycled Content" are also available to businesses.



To receive a free waste assessment, recycling containers, or information on waste reduction please call the Office of Recycling at 334-5041. By becoming an environmentally responsible business, you will not only be helping to preserve natural resources and reduce pollution, but also saving your company money by avoiding expensive disposal cost.

Exposing the Myths of Recycled-Content Paper

Have you heard that recycled paper is inferior in quality, difficult to find, or too high in cost? Don't let misconceptions about recycled-content products prevent you from learning the facts that counter these myths.

Myth #1: I was told recycled-content paper doesn't work in our machines.

The truth is paper containing 30 percent post-consumer fiber (30% PC) works just fine. In a recent study, Canon U.S.A, Hewlett-Packard, and Lexmark combined with the U.S. Government Printing Office and tested over 2 million sheets of paper on various models of copiers, laser printers, and ink jet printers. The study showed that the physical properties (image quality, smoothness, curls) and performance (paper feeding, reliability) of 30% recycled-content paper brands was equivalent to virgin paper brands.

Myth #2: Buying recycled-content paper cost much more than regular paper.

Most retail stores now sell recycled-content paper at prices that are the same or less than virgin paper. In some cases, the recycled-content products will cost more; however, recycled-content products are not inherently more expensive. Other factors such as the quality of the paper and quantity ordered may influence the price as well. Take the time to investigate and compare prices.

Myth #3: Recycled-content paper is hard to find.

This used to be true, but not anymore. Most retailers and printers offer a variety of brands of recycled-content paper and if you haven't seen them it's time to start asking for them. Ask your supplier to offer more recycled-content products or to clearly indicate which products contain recovered materials. Emphasize your commitment to purchasing recycled products, ask for their support, and explain your willingness to investigate other vendors if they are unable to supply what you want.

Myth #4: Buying recycled paper really doesn't make a difference.

This couldn't be farther from the truth. Increasing the use of post-consumer fibers in printing and writing paper is critical to expanding market demand for recycled paper while conserving resources and reducing waste. Every ton of recycled paper collected and used again to make paper saves 17 trees from being cut down. Also, the 30% post-consumer recycled content level will result in a 13% reduction in the amount of solid waste requiring disposal.

Myth #5: Recycled-content paper is inferior in quality.

Advances in paper recycling technologies and improved office paper collection efforts have made it possible to produce high quality post-consumer content paper products. Today, products made from recycled-content paper are found everywhere. Copier paper, computer paper, envelopes, file folders, tissue and towel products, corrugated and paperboard boxes, and cash register tape are just some examples of the many recycled-content products available.

UPCOMING RECYCLING EVENTS

- **Recycling Fair** -
October 23, 1999
at The Oaks Mall (9 AM - 5 PM)
- **America Recycles Day** -
November 15, 1999

Brookwood Terrace Apartments is Committed to Recycling



Since 1990, Brookwood Terrace Apartments has been participating in the City of Gainesville's commercial recycling programs. A strong dedication from the management office has resulted in a very successful recycling program. "At Brookwood Terrace we are firm believers in recycling," says Property Manager Dorothy Smith.

Recycling containers are conveniently located on the Brookwood Terrace property where about 400 families, young professionals, students and retirees reside. Brookwood Terrace recycles newspapers, corrugated cardboard, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass bottles (clear, brown,

& green), and plastic containers (#1 & #2). A private recycling hauling company collects the material once a week from the recycling containers. The benefits to Brookwood Terrace for their recycling efforts are two-fold. First, tenants are pleased to have the means to recycle and be environmentally responsible. The apartment complex also benefits from the reduced amount of trash going into the dumpsters. A reduction in the amount of waste disposed leads to economic savings by avoiding expensive waste disposal cost.

Informing tenants about recycling begins at the Brookwood Terrace front office. Tenants are continually encouraged to recycle, beginning on the day they sign their lease. All new tenants are given an orientation handout that provides detailed information on where the recycling containers are located on the property and explains which materials are accepted. Brookwood Terrace also promotes their program by placing recycling articles in their monthly newsletter. Additionally, a list of local recycling centers is posted on laundry room bulletin boards for tenants to read and find out where other recyclable materials can be taken.

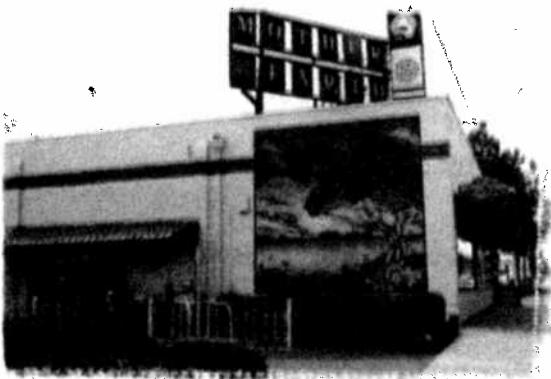
Brookwood Terrace's commitment to the environment extends beyond just recycling. The apartment complex tries to find ways to reduce waste and at the same time save on operational costs. Apartment units have reusable air filters instead of disposable filters. The maintenance staff is able to wash and reuse the filters, which saves the complex money. Additionally, whenever possible, cleaning products are bought in bulk or in concentrated form which saves money and avoids disposal costs. The apartment office does their part in reducing waste. The office has a fax machine that uses plain paper that can be recycled or reused instead of tossed away. Office personnel make memo sheets from scrap office paper, too.

Purchasing recycled products made from recycled materials is another way Brookwood Terrace shows that they are truly an environmentally responsible property. "Whenever possible we try to purchase products made from recycled materials," states property manager Dorothy Smith. Brookwood Terrace purchases tissue, paper towels and envelopes made from recycled paper. Brookwood Terrace was even able to reduce waste by acquiring a chain-linked fence from a local farm for use on their property. The reused fence was less than half the cost of a new fence and resulted in significant savings for the property.

Brookwood Terrace Apartments is an example of a successful recycling program that provides bottom-line savings for the property and ultimately the tenants. The City of Gainesville Office of Recycling can assist owners and managers of other multi-family properties in implementing their own successful recycling program.

Waste Reduction is Full Tilt at Mother Earth Markets

Mother Earth Markets doesn't take their name lightly. Protecting the planet's residents and the environment is an integral part of the store's operation. Both Mother Earth Market locations on NW 13th Street and in the Newberry Crossing Shopping Center fully embrace waste reduction and recycling as a means to save money and to be an environmentally responsible business.



Mother Earth Market goes beyond the average retail store in its recycling program. "We encourage our store patrons to participate in our recycling program," states store manager Mickey Jeffers. Jeffers goes on to say "Customers are welcome to bring in their recyclable materials when they come here to shop." The stores provide recycling containers in the parking lot area for customers to deposit their metal cans, clear glass, brown glass, and newspapers. These same containers are used by the store to recycle materials they collect from the regular operation of the market.

Like almost any retail store, Mother Earth Market has some supplies shipped in corrugated cardboard boxes. These boxes are either reused for outgoing shipments or recycled in a "corrugated cardboard only" container. The boxes are broken down and flattened to maximize the available space in the container. Each Mother Earth Market diverts about 1,000 pounds a week from their waste stream by recycling cardboard, which results in economic savings for the company.

To further reduce waste, many retail stores across the nation are investing in plastic reusable/returnable shipping containers. Plastic totes reduce the amount of packaging used, thereby both reducing waste and saving money. The plastic totes are returned to the distributor to be used again. One of the biggest incentives for switching to plastic reusable containers is cost savings. A typical one-way corrugated cardboard box has a cheaper initial cost, but only has an estimated lifetime use of one trip. Plastic reusable shipping containers have a higher initial price, but end up costing significantly less per trip over the lifetime (250 trips) the container is expected to make. Additionally, by using plastic totes the volume and time required to crush and remove cardboard is greatly diminished.

A newly installed credit card system at the cash registers will also result in waste reduction for Mother Earth Markets. The new machines don't use ink, but instead a pressure mechanism to record sales on the cash register tape. Therefore, the disposal of ink cartridges is no longer required. The company further reduces its waste by corresponding with their corporate office by electronic mail.

Shipments leaving Mother Earth Market are no exception for minimizing waste. Items are shipped in reused, corrugated boxes and packed with shredded office paper. "Shredded office paper works great for packing material and is a better environmental choice than foam peanuts," says Mary Ann DeMartino, a manager at Mother Earth Market.

Educating employees is an essential part of Mother Earth Market's waste reduction program. The two Gainesville stores combined have over 30 employees. New employees are trained to reduce waste and recycle on the job. "We find that a lot of new employees come in with little environmental awareness of how to recycle in the workplace," says DeMartino.

Mother Earth Market's commitment sets a standard and leads the way to creating more environmentally-friendly business processes and compliance standards for today and the future.

Do-It Yourself Waste Check-Up

Check off the listed RECYCLING or WASTE REDUCTION methods performed at your workplace. Then total all your check marks and see if you are an "Environmental Angel."

WE RECYCLE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Office paper (copy paper, computer printouts, letterhead, mixed office paper)
- Corrugated cardboard
- Newspaper and/or magazines
- Aluminum cans
- Glass containers (clear, brown, or green)
- Plastic bottles (#1 & #2)
- Steel cans, aluminum foil, other metal items
- Laser and/or toner cartridges
- Batteries (household or rechargeable)
- Fluorescent lamps
- Yard trimmings
- Scrap wood
- Rubber (tires)
- Oil (motor oil)
- Food grease and/or food scraps



WE REDUCE WASTE BY:

- Making double-sided copies.
- Reusing envelopes, file folders, binders and other office supplies.
- Using unwanted or used paper to make scratch/note pads.
- Circulating memos, documents, and reports rather than making new copies.
- Saving documents on hard drives or disks instead of making paper copies.
- Ordering merchandise in bulk to reduce packaging waste.
- Working with suppliers to minimize the packaging used to ship their products.
- Minimizing the packaging used in our products.
- Repairing and reusing shipping pallets or returning them to the supplier.
- Encouraging employees to use reusable mugs or glasses.
- Purchasing concentrated cleaning supplies.
- Using refillable pens, pencils, and/or tape dispensers.

Total number of checks

15 or more

10-14

5-9

0-4

Classification

"Environmental Angel"

"Earth Citizen"

"On Your Way"

"Garbage Geek"

The U.S. Postal Service Does a First Class Job of Closing the Recycling Loop

The United States Postal Service not only goes that extra mile to deliver the mail, they go that extra mile to recycle, reduce waste and buy recycled content products. So far in 1999, the Gainesville area branches of the Postal Service recycled:

- 80,000 pounds of mixed office paper and corrugated cardboard
- 460 gallons of used oil
- 45 gallons of antifreeze
- 582 oil filters
- 2,400 pounds of scrap metal
- 72 auto batteries
- 210 tires
- 3,000 fluorescent bulbs



Office paper and cardboard alone can make up more than half of the waste generated in an office. By recycling office paper and corrugated cardboard, the Postal Service is able to significantly lessen the amount of material requiring disposal. At the General Mail Facility office paper is collected from individual offices and then stored in outdoor recycling carts. A certified recycling hauler then collects the recycled paper twice a week. Aluminum cans are also collected for recycling at the General Mail Facility.

The most effective way to reduce waste is to generate less in the first place. The Postal Service has adopted a wide range of waste prevention strategies.

The Postal Service uses refillable pens and tape dispensers whenever possible. Toner cartridges from printers are sent back to the manufacturer for recycling. Other activities such as making double-sided copies, sharing reports, and using electronic mail all help to lower the amount of paper being used at the Postal Service. By investing in quality, long-lasting supplies and equipment the Postal Service creates less waste and achieves cost savings in the long run.

Nationally the U.S. Postal Service helps to "close the recycling loop" by spending \$100 million on products with recycled content on an annual basis. Many postal products such as envelopes used for Priority and Express Mail are made with recycled-content paper. The post office also offers standard letter and legal envelopes made from recycled paper. The pasteboard used in pre-packaged stamps is made from recycled paper. "Even some of our stamps are made from recycled material," says Greta Blanton, U.S.P.S. Customer Relations Coordinator. So, look for the recycle symbol on mailing products the next time you're at the post office.

Additionally, the Postal Service purchases 30% recycled-content paper for use in their copiers and printers. Purchasing products made from recycled material is an essential part of a successful recycling program. If a business recycles paper, but doesn't purchase recycled products, this will have the effect of flooding the paper market and discouraging office paper recycling by others. Every business should take an active role in buying products that are made from recycled paper, including stationery, letterhead, envelopes, newsletters, copy paper, fax paper, cardboard boxes, and tissue products. By purchasing recycled products, a market is provided which is necessary to "close the recycling loop."

"Clean Your Files Day" a Success!



Thank you to all the businesses and citizens that supported and participated in Gainesville's first annual "Clean Your Files Day" on May 12, 1999.

We were able to collect over 19,000 pounds of paper for recycling.

This past spring, more than 275 cities, counties, and companies across America

participated in "Clean Your Files Day." Nationally, "Clean Your Files Day" resulted in the collection of more than 900 tons of paper for recycling.



recycling at work

Business Recycling News Staff

Tom Strickland, Writer
Recycling Specialist

Gina Hawkins, Editor
Public Education Specialist

City of Gainesville Solid Waste Division

Recycling Program Checklist

- If your business is located in a multi-unit building, ask the property manager if each business is responsible for their own recycling program or if an overall recycling program is offered.
- Obtain management's commitment and support, both from the corporate office and from the local manager.
- Appoint a recycling coordinator for your operation.
- Determine what to recycle. Choose items that make up a significant portion of your waste stream and can be cleanly separated.
- Involve employees in planning. Make it their program.
- Select a certified hauler or arrange to transport recyclables to a certified recycling center.
- Negotiate adjustments in your waste disposal contract if possible.
- Place clearly marked collection containers in work areas and customer areas.
- Kick off your program with an official ceremony or memo from management. Continue to promote your recycling program to employees.
- Monitor and evaluate the program on a regular basis.