



Share the good news about Earth Day

In the early 1960s, Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed a nationwide conservation tour to President John F. Kennedy. The tour, which took place in September 1963, was overshadowed by other events. However, six years later, in the summer of 1969, Nelson got the idea for a national “teach-in” about the environment. Planning began for this teach-in, which was dubbed Earth Day and set for April 22, 1970. A call went out. And Americans responded.

Going into that first Earth Day, no one could have predicted what was about to occur. School children, college students, community leaders, public officials, and citizens mobilized a huge, grassroots effort. By April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans, or 10 percent of our nation’s population in that year, took part.

This demonstration for the environment brought about sweeping changes at the federal and state levels. Later that same year, President Richard Nixon established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by Executive Order. In the years that followed, dozens of environmental laws were passed, protecting our coastlines, clearing our air, and cleaning up our water supplies.

Today, nearly 40 years later, the successes of Earth Day are readily apparent. The worst of our day-to-day environmental problems have been addressed. In most places and by most standards, we have cleaner air and safer water than we did four decades ago.

However, this year and every year, Earth Day reminds us that there is still work to be done. We’ve cleaned up many of our old messes, but we aren’t finished. Plus, we need to continue to monitor our progress, making adjustments and improvements as testing and technology change. And, of course, along the way, we’ve created some new problems, such as the huge pile of electronics that we discard each year.

The good news is that Earth Day—then and now—is about individuals acting to make a difference. Today, you can make that difference. Get involved. Reduce the amount of waste in your life—conserve energy, save water, and create less trash. Recycle all that you can, providing useful materials to the manufacturing process. And, spread the word, especially to children and youth. Someday soon this will be their environment. Show them how and why to take care of it now. **O!**

2007 Omaha Solid Waste Results

2007	Garbage		Recycling		Yardwaste	
January	7,981	87%	1,220	13%	–	–
February	6,673	86%	1,053	14%	–	–
March	8,101	86%	1,340	14%	–	–
April	8,118	60%	1,301	10%	3,999	30%
May	9,451	58%	1,483	9%	5,359	33%
June	8,389	61%	1,390	10%	4,013	29%
July	8,806	71%	1,343	11%	2,260	18%
August	9,415	61%	1,519	10%	4,428	29%
September	7,682	64%	1,275	11%	3,028	25%
October	8,627	61%	1,469	10%	4,111	29%
November	8,308	49%	1,594	9%	6,978	41%
December	7,612	84%	1,472	16%	–	–
Total 2007	99,163.58	66%	16,459.16	11%	34,175.52	23%
Total 2006	98,985	66%	15,156	10%	35,928	24%
Total 2005	98,270	65%	16,710	11%	35,391	24%

Spring Clean Up April 12 to May 17

Spring Clean Up is your opportunity to dispose of bulky or difficult to dispose of items such as chairs, couches, appliances and tires. Spring Clean Up is not a disposal program for regular household garbage for which collection is provided weekly.

Spring Clean Up also offers the opportunity to dispose of large limbs and brush that would be difficult to dispose of using the City’s weekly yardwaste collection.

Not every Spring Clean Up site will collect all materials. Appliances, tires and automotive batteries will only be collected at one designated site each Clean Up Saturday. Collection sites will have vouchers available for disposal of tree limbs and brush on Clean Up Saturdays.

The Spring Clean Up program is a joint effort of Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc., and the City of Omaha. But Spring Clean Up wouldn’t happen without the many neighborhood organizations that provide the volunteers to staff the collection sites.

Spring Clean Up is open to all Omaha residents. People that utilize a Spring Clean Up site do not need to be a dues paying member of the sponsoring organization, nor do they have to pay any fees what so ever to use a Spring Clean Up site or for the limbs and brush disposal vouchers.

To find a Spring Clean Up site near you, call 444-4636 beginning on April 1, 2008. **O!**

Tissue Facts

Each year, Americans use about 50 pounds of tissue paper products, such as toilet paper, facial tissues, paper towels, paper napkins, and similar products. About two-thirds of tissue products are used at home, with commercial and industrial products constituting the remaining one-third.

According to Conservatree, more than

40 percent of tissue products do have some recycled content, and overall 60 percent of the fibers used to make new tissue products come from recycled paper. However, the most popular commercial brands of tissue products used by people at home, including toilet paper, facial tissues, and paper towels, are all made from 100 percent virgin forest fibers.

While you have no direct control over the type of paper used to print your favorite magazine, you have total control over what type of tissue paper products come into your home. When you shop, look for recycled-content tissue products. There are many brands that contain a high percentage of recycled fiber. Check the labels.

Remember to reduce your use of disposable tissue paper products, as well. Instead of paper towels, choose washable cloths and rags. Instead of paper napkins, opt for cloth napkins. **O!**





FREE eCycling Event

Who? All residential consumers wishing to recycle electronics

What? Free eCycling Event!

When? Saturday, May 3, 2008, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where? Pheasant Point Landfill
13505 N 216th St., Bennington
402-238-3440 | soneill@wm.com

Why?! Responsible Recycling

Computers and Peripherals • Monitors • Printers
Cell Phones • Stereos • VCRs • TVs

www.recycleamerica.com




WASTELINE



March 2008
City of Omaha
Mike Fahey, Mayor



Recycling, Garbage and Yardwaste Information for the Citizens of Omaha, Nebraska
Public Works Department Robert G. Stubbe, P.E., Director Environmental Quality Division

Running the Numbers

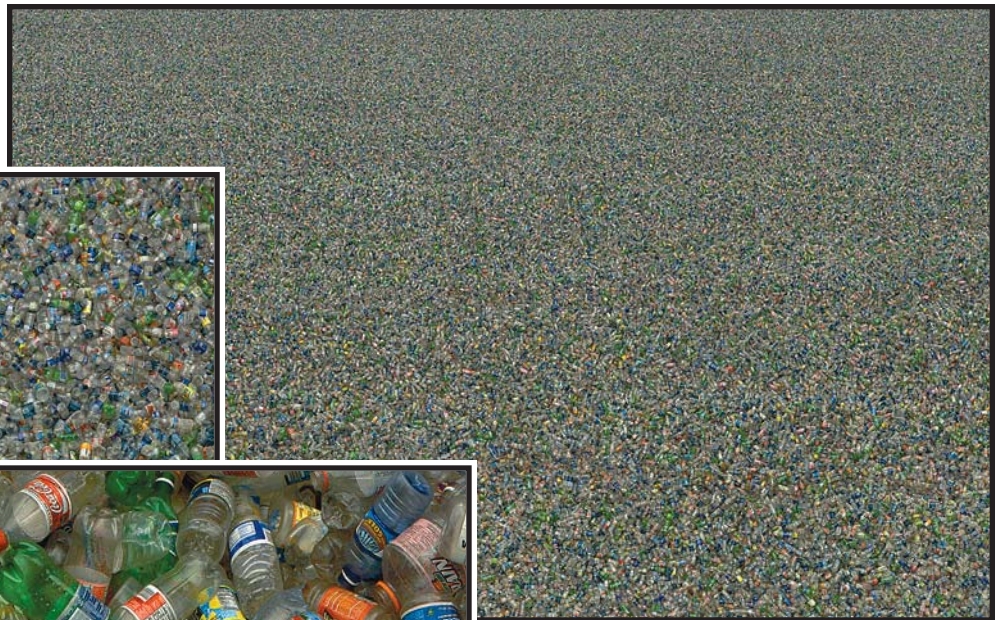
Artist Chris Jordan believes that statistics can tell stories, helping to create an American self-portrait. His new series of large-scale photographs depicts a specific quantity of selected items, such as five minutes of office paper use (15 million sheets), 30 seconds of aluminum can consumption (106,000 cans), five minutes of plastic beverage bottle use (2 million bottles), a day's worth of retired cell phones (426,000 phones just in the U.S.), and an hour of paper grocery bag consumption (1.14 million brown bags).

Jordan writes, "This project visually examines these vast and bizarre measures of our society, in large intricately detailed prints assembled from thousands of smaller photographs." He continues, "My underlying desire is to emphasize the role of the individual in a society that is increasingly enormous, incomprehensible, and overwhelming."

For more information about Chris Jordan's series, "Running the Numbers: An American Self-Portrait," including a list of galleries that will be exhibiting his work, visit www.chrisjordan.com. **O!**



These photos represent 5 minutes of plastic beverage bottle use—2 million bottles.



Photos Courtesy of Chris Jordan

Favor de llamar al 444-5238 si tiene alguna duda sobre el sistema de colección de basura en Omaha.

Cigarette Butts are Litter Too!

Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. is proud to announce that it has begun a campaign to combat the problem of cigarette litter in Omaha. This program was developed after identifying cigarette litter as the most commonly littered item found in cleanups around the metro. "Cigarette litter is a real challenge. Lack of awareness, and ordinances that move smokers outdoors all increase cigarette littering. Individuals who would never litter beverage cans or paper packaging typically do not consider tossing cigarette butts on the ground as littering" says Cindy Smilley, Executive Director of Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc.

However, dropping partially-smoked cigarettes, cigarette butts, matches, lighters, and packaging to the ground is littering. And it's adding up. While a cigarette butt may seem insignificant, about 95% of cigarette filters are composed of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic which does not quickly degrade and can persist in the

environment. Cigarette litter is unsightly. It accumulates in many places, gathering in corners, gutters, and outside doorways and bus shelters. Increasing amounts of litter create a sense that no one cares about the community. In addition, cigarette litter can travel,

primarily through storm water systems, ending up in local streams, rivers, and waterways. Cigarette litter can also pose a hazard to animals and marine life. Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. is asking smokers to dispose of their cigarettes properly using ash receptacles and even pocket ashtrays, which the organization will be distributing free throughout the campaign.



Motorists who spot a littering violation along any street, road or highway in Douglas and Lancaster County are encouraged to call 877-NO LITTR (877-665-4887) with the license plate number of the offending vehicle. All types of litter and all types of vehicles are subject to being reported. Reporters will

remain anonymous.

Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to litter reduction, beautification and education on solid waste issues. Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. is one of the oldest environmental organizations in Omaha, working for almost fifty years solely for the betterment of our community. For more information, or to become involved call Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc. at 444-7774 or visit www.keepomahabeautiful.org. **O!**

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OMAHA, NE



Wasteline is using and developing a new mailing list and we need your help. Please e-mail wasteline@ci.omaha.ne.us if you received Wasteline by mail but don't receive Omaha solid waste services. If you know of an address that we missed, please e-mail us that information too.





Yardwaste Set out by 6AM

There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that can be collected. Place yardwaste within 5-feet of your curb and leave 2-feet of space between Yardwaste and Garbage containers. **Yardwaste collection season will begin the week of April 7, 2008 and continue through the week following Thanksgiving.**

Yes!

-  Grass clippings and leaves.
-  Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit.
-  Trash cans up to 32 gallons and weighing up to 45 pounds, marked with a YW on both sides.
-  Special yardwaste paper bags weighing up to 40 pounds.
-  Unlimited number of properly prepared marked cans, paper bags or brush bundles.
-  Bundles of branches and brush, tied with string or twine. Bundles may weigh up to 30 pounds.
-  Branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length.



No!

-  Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection.
-  Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
-  No saw dust, lumber or treated lumber/wood.
-  Litter, trash or garbage.
-  Whole cans of dirt or sod.
-  Street sweeping sand, litter or rocks.
-  Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
-  Pet waste or kitty litter.
-  Branches over 2 inches in diameter.
-  Branches over 4 feet long.
-  Plastic twine, nylon twine or wire used to bundle brush or branches.
-  Rope of any kind.
-  Unbundled brush.

Yardwaste collection season will begin the week of April 7, 2008 and continue through the week following Thanksgiving.



Omaha's Premium Quality Compost

OmaGro is a natural compost product made exclusively of grass clippings, leaves and ground wood.

www.omagro.com

Ask for **OmaGro** at your favorite garden supply store or buy it direct from the production facility!

City of Omaha Composting Facility
(402) 444-6665
15705 Harlan Lewis Road
Bellevue, NE 68123-5728



FREE NOON-8PM ENTERTAINMENT & FAMILY ACTIVITIES ROCK WALL CLIMBING
Oxide Design Co. • The Big O 101.9 KOOO • The Reader • Papio Missouri River NRD • Whole Foods Market • HOST: Earth Day Omaha Coalition
WWW.EARTHDAYOMAHA.COM

Worth Noting

Olympian Efforts—One of the missions of the Olympic Games is the "Promotion of Sustainable Development." For the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, this resulted in eco-friendly buildings in the Olympic Village, recycling at events and facilities, and tree-planting to offset carbon

dioxide emissions, as well as other efforts.

Beijing, China, has their own green efforts for the 2008 Olympics that include new emission standards for cars, banning plastic shopping bags, and creating 200 acres of new parks. **!**

Garbage Can Garbage Time

You may not do it often, but every once in a while a garbage can will need to be thrown away. But how? Because garbage cans come in all shapes, sizes, and conditions and to avoid misunderstandings, Deffenbaugh follows strict procedures for garbage can disposal.

Call Deffenbaugh at 731-3333 and ask for the Claims Office who will work out the details of collecting and disposing of your unwanted garbage can. The regular collection

crews do not collect garbage cans for disposal. The garbage can must be empty when the Claims Office picks it up. **!**







Garbage











Collection Missed? Call 444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.

Because of state and federal laws, there are limits to the types of waste you may include in your garbage. Each household is limited to 5 properly prepared trash cans or clear bags of garbage per week.

Yes!

-  Trash cans up to 32 gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds when full.
-  Clear plastic bags that weigh up to 30 pounds when full.
-  Up to 5 containers of garbage per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).
-  Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.

No!

-  A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
-  Christmas trees.
-  Rocks, dirt and concrete.
-  Dead animals.
-  Any liquids.
-  Loose pet waste or cat litter.
-  Tires, engines or other large auto parts.
-  Bulky items (couches, chairs, stoves, etc.).
-  Dark plastic bags that you can't see through.
-  Motor oil and automotive batteries.
- Cardboard boxes (empty or full) when not in a can or bag.
- Items outside a can or clear bag.

Note: Garbage cans must be removed from the curb by 10AM the day after collection. **!**

Quotes Requested

*In the end, we will conserve only what we love.
We love only what we understand.
We will understand only what we are taught.*

Baba Dioum, 1937-
Senegalese environmentalist





Recycling

Place Materials Out in Green Bin, Before 6AM.

All Clean Paper—In a Paper Sack or Small Cardboard Box
(Do not use plastic bags)

Includes: Most all clean paper.
Things like:

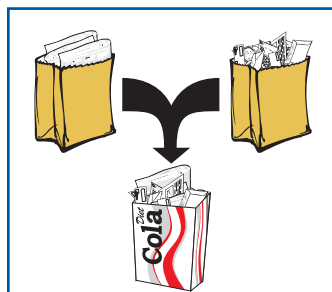
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Magazines | Greeting Cards |
| Newspaper | School Paper |
| Detergent Boxes | Phonebooks |
| Paperback Books | Junkmail |
| Catalogues | Wrapping Paper |
| Cereal Boxes | Paper Egg Cartons |

Lay sack or box either inside bin, on top of bin, or next to your bin with the opening facing away from wind.

Corrugated cardboard. Break down flat and place under bin. For lots of boxes, fold and stuff multiple boxes into one box. Set out next to recycling bin.

NO! Do not include: Any soiled paper or these non-recyclable items:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Pizza Boxes | Hardbound Books |
| Milk Cartons | Rubber Bands |
| Styrofoam | Paper Plates |
| Juice Boxes | Plastic Bags |
| Tissue Paper | |



All recyclable paper may go into the same paper sack or a small cardboard box.

Newspapers don't need to be kept separate.

Containers—Loose in the bin
(Not in plastic bags)

Aluminum cans & Steel (tin) cans, including—empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans. Please don't flatten aluminum cans.
Tip: Place the top of food cans inside can and crimp closed.

Plastic bottles marked PETE, including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouthwash, shampoo or cleaners.

Plastic bottles, tubs or snap top containers marked HDPE, including those that held milk, juice, cleaners, or other food items.

NO! Don't recycle these plastic items, no matter what: Frozen food trays, plastic cups, toys, cookie trays, motor oil bottles, lawn chemical bottles, or hazardous chemical bottles

NO! Glass bottles or jars. (Glass may be taken to drop-off sites or placed in garbage)

NO! Lids or plastic bottle caps of any kind. Remove and throw in garbage.



www.OmahaRecycles.com

Need a Bin?

If your recycling bin becomes damaged or lost, call 444-4500 to have a replacement bin delivered at no cost.



Properly dispose of unwanted household, garden and automotive chemicals at UnderTheSink.

Operating hours are:

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Wednesday | 9:00AM-4:30PM |
| Thursday | 9:00AM-6:00PM |
| Friday | 9:00AM-4:30PM |
| Saturday | By Appointment Only |
- 444-sink [444-7465].

Collection Pointers

- Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM.
- If your collection was missed, call 444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables and garbage containers.
- Keep your garbage dry—use plastic bags or trash cans with lids.
- One cap full of household ammonia per garbage container will deter animals from investigating and searching for food in your garbage.
- Use clear trash bags.
- If your recycling bin becomes damaged or lost, call 444-4500.
- Yardwaste collection runs from April 7 to December 5, 2008.

Within 5 feet of curb or alley Collection problems: 444-5238

Garbage:
Up to 5 containers

Metal or plastic can with handles.
32-gallon, 45-pound max.



Clear plastic.
30-pounds max.
Tie shut.

Recycling:
Must use bin

No plastic bags.
No glass.
Paper in paper bag or box.
Flatten cardboard boxes.



Leave space between

Yardwaste:
No container limit
Growing Season Only

Metal or plastic can with handles.
32-gallon, 45-pound max.
Marked YW.

Paper bags only.
40-pounds max.



Leave space between

Set out by 6AM



Bundle with string.
4-feet long max.
2-inch diameter branches max.
30-pounds max.

