

## Apple Festival Memories and Recycling

Submitted by Alexis Baker, Environmental Programs Coordinator

During Apple Festival, while festival goers were enjoying great food, crafts, and, of course, local apples, a few things were going on behind the scenes. First of all, it should be mentioned that the Apple Festival Committee is responsible for organizing the festival along with several important corporate sponsors. The City of Hendersonville Public Works Department made sure that the trash bins were placed and trash was collected during the festival. Afterwards, they cleaned and swept the streets when the festival ended.

Recycling bins were placed and retrieved by the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department. The Henderson County Solid Waste Division organized the recycling events with the support of a great group of volunteers. These volunteers monitored and pulled bags of recycling from bins. This support came from Project Challenge, ECO, and the Green Team from Polk County High School, who collected 1.95 tons (3,900 pounds) of recycling. Project Challenge also helped to collect remaining recycling after the festival as well as assisting our Parks & Recreation Department in retrieving bins.

While 1.95 tons of recycling is quite a bit to collect, 17.17 tons (34,340 pounds) of trash were collected as well. This is approximately a 10% diversion of recycling from the waste stream. While there may be ways to improve on recycling for Apple Festival, every little bit counts!

During Apple Festival, bottles, cans, cardboard, and ice bags were collected. But, what about the other days? At our Stoney Mountain Recycling Convenience Center located at 802 Stoney Mountain Road, we take even more items.

If residents enter through the right-hand lane, they may bring in bagged household garbage free of charge with equal or more amounts of recycling. However, trash brought in without recycling will incur a minimum \$10 fee. Large amounts of trash are charged at \$52 per ton. As the Solid Waste Division is an enterprise fund, meaning that we operate exclusively on trash and recycling revenues instead of tax money, residents are required to pay the proper fees for disposal. Those residents who must pay fees should enter through the left-hand lane and pay at the scales. Recycling may always be brought in free of charge.

At the convenience center, there are three bins: containers (bottles, cans, jars, and jugs), mixed paper, and cardboard. Containers include plastic bottles and jars, glass drink and food containers, and steel and aluminum cans. Mixed paper includes most paper with the exception of paper with food contamination or waxed coated paper such as milk and drink containers or frozen food containers. Cardboard includes packing and shipping boxes.

Additionally, we have areas at the convenience center to recycle used motor oil and filters, antifreeze, electronics, and batteries. Batteries should be separated into the proper

rechargeable and non-rechargeable barrels. Further up the hill at the Stoney Mountain Transfer Center and Recycling Convenience Center, there is a white goods area where metal appliances are accepted free of charge.

During specially designated days, household hazardous waste is collected. In these collection events, household chemicals, insecticides, pesticides, and thermostats are accepted free of charge. Latex and oil paint is also accepted for a fee of \$5 per gallon.

As a final reminder, please consider reuse before recycling or disposal. Many items that you have in your house may be reused. These unwanted items may be given to a thrift store. Many thrift stores in our area support local charities. Not only could your items be sold to people who could use them, the money from selling your items could go to helping those in need.

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