

Recycling at the Apple Festival

Submitted by Alexis Baker, Environmental Program Coordinator for Henderson County

From September 4-7, during Labor Day Weekend, the Apple Festival will be held in downtown Hendersonville. Henderson County, the City of Hendersonville, and volunteers from Project Challenge and ECO are working together to create a successful recycling program for the event.

Last year, 4,360 pounds of recycling were collected, which amounted to a 13% reduction in trash. While the amount of recyclables collected last year was indeed a huge success, we would like to divert at least 15% of the waste stream into recycling. We believe this is an obtainable goal. With the help of Katie Breckenheimer, President of ECO's board of directors, who researched ways to recycle ice bags, we can now divert clear plastic ice bags as well as plastic grocery bags away from the trash. This makes our goal even easier to accomplish!

Now, here's what you can do to help Henderson County. Think before you throw items away. During our festival, blue bins will be located near the regular trash cans for bottles, cans, jars, and jugs. If you are a vendor at the Apple Festival, we will collect corrugated cardboard, clear plastic ice bags, plastic grocery bags, and mixed paper twice a day.

While recycling may seem a bit inconvenient at times, it only takes a little more effort to make a huge difference. Recyclables are materials that can be turned into new products. When these materials are thrown away, they end up in the landfill where they remain for centuries. As discussed in a previous article, plastics, a chemically altered petroleum product, can be recycled into such things as polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, floor tiles, pens, pipes, benches, picnic tables, and fencing. The petroleum saved from recycling plastic bottles can then be used in other places such as running our cars and heating our homes. Recycled aluminum, on the other hand, can be used to create such products as airplane parts, aluminum bicycle frames, counter tops, and a myriad of other things. And don't forget, these items can also make new bottles and cans. So, while you are on vacation during the Labor Day Holiday, please remember not to take a vacation from recycling. And, of course, have a great time at the Apple Festival!

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