



# The Waste Paper

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION ON RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## Eco-Friendly Back-to-School Ideas!

Whether you are purchasing school supplies for your child or preparing to go back to school yourself, check out the eco-friendly tips below:

### Reduce Waste

- Choose refillable pencils and pens
- Use paper with high post-consumer recycled content
- Purchase binders made out of recycled materials – see *Feature of the Month*

### Reuse

- Discard used pages from old notebooks and reuse
- Reuse and repair backpacks instead of purchasing new

### Recycle

- Follow local recycling guidelines at your school
- Participate in the additional recycling fundraising programs offered at many schools by collecting printer cartridges, aluminum cans, or plastic bottles. (See next article for one example of plastic bottle collections!)

### Reduce Pollution

- Purchase non-chlorine bleached paper
- Choose PVC-free backpacks
- Walk, bike or carpool to school when possible

#### For More Information:

[www.newdream.org/buy/bts/index.php](http://www.newdream.org/buy/bts/index.php) - Back-to-school tips from the Center for a New American Dream

[www.idealbite.com](http://www.idealbite.com) – See their August 22<sup>nd</sup> newsletter for back-to-school tips and green product ideas

## Doing Some Late Summer Gardening?

TerraCycle Plant Food is the first consumer product made and packaged entirely from trash. The company takes premium organic waste that was destined for a landfill, feeds it to millions of worms, and liquefies the resulting compost to make a natural plant food. TerraCycle's product is then packaged in reused soda bottles.

Branding themselves as an 'eco-capitalist' company, CEO and co-founder Tom Szaky says "We believe a company can do well by doing good. We use worm poop to make naturally powerful plant foods, and we package them in discarded soda bottles. Our spray heads are overruns, and we reuse our shipping boxes whenever possible."



According to the company, TerraCycle's plant food

"outgrows the leading synthetic fertilizer." Made from all natural ingredients, there is no harm to your plants with overuse and it can be used on both indoor and outdoor plants.

To learn more about TerraCycle, including the company's program to buy back 20 oz. soda bottles from schools and companies across the country, visit [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net).

### Feature of the Month

#### Recycled Binders & More!



Options for recycled-content binders include Sustainable Group's Rebinder, and Vulcanabags' rubber binder.

[www.sustainablegroup.net](http://www.sustainablegroup.net) - The "Rebinder" is made from 100% recycled corrugated cardboard

[www.vulcanabags.com](http://www.vulcanabags.com) – Vulcanabags makes binders and other products from recycled tires

[www.dolphinblue.com](http://www.dolphinblue.com) and [www.greenearthofficesupply.com](http://www.greenearthofficesupply.com) -  
– Eco-friendly office supplies: binders, pencils, folders, and more

#### Did you know...?

The average American uses the equivalent of a 100-foot high, 16-inch wide tree's worth of paper each year.

## Upcoming Eco-Events

All events below take place at Solar1, except where noted. Solar1, NYC's solar-powered environmental education center, is located at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and the East River. RSVP to (212) 505-6050 or [sarah@solar1.org](mailto:sarah@solar1.org). More info at [www.solar1.org](http://www.solar1.org).

**Solar One Family Day – Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am-1pm, Free** – Interactive workshops for kids, featuring solar toys and exploration of the park and waterfront.

**Electronics Recycling Event – Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am-3pm, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave at 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Park Slope, Brooklyn** – Bring your used and broken electronics to this event for proper dismantling and recycling.

**Monthly Green Building Forum: Case Studies in Green Building – Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-8pm, Free** – GreenHomeNYC sponsors monthly forums featuring presentations by green building practitioners followed by discussion. For more info and the location of September's forum, visit [www.greenhomenyc.org](http://www.greenhomenyc.org).

**NYC Vegetarians Dinner – Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 6pm** – The next dinner in this series will be at Blossom Vegan Restaurant in Chelsea. To RSVP, contact Les at 718-601-8918 or [lesjudd@aol.com](mailto:lesjudd@aol.com). To join the NYC Vegetarians listserv, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NYCVegetarians>.

**Ballroom Dancing – Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Free** – The Stuyvesant Cove Park Association presents open air dancing with a free salsa lesson taught by Rodney Lopez of Dance Manhattan Studio.

**Two of a Kind – Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1pm, Free** – Award-winning, interactive music for kids and families.

“We subsidize the disposal of waste in all its myriad forms — from landfills to Superfund cleanups, from deep-well injection to storage of nuclear waste. In the process, we encourage an economy where 80 percent of what we consume gets thrown away after one use.”

- Paul Hawken - environmentalist, entrepreneur, journalist, and author

## News From Around the Planet



### Westchester County Requires Cell Phone Recycling

A law passed earlier this summer makes it illegal for residents of Westchester County to dispose of cellular phones in the trash. Phones can be taken to one of the 57 locations in the county that are certified by the Department of Environmental Facilities to recycle the phones properly.

The county is also working to expand the number of places that will take the old phones to make it easier for residents to recycle them. See the website below to search for cell phone drop-off locations.

For More Info:

[www.westchestergov.com/cellphone](http://www.westchestergov.com/cellphone) - Read the text of the cell phone law and search for drop-off locations.

### “Greener” Computers Now on Market

More than 60 desktop computers, laptops, and monitors from three leading manufacturers are now recognized by the EPA as high-performance, environmentally friendly equipment. The EPA-funded Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT), created over a three year period, offers consumers a way to rate computer equipment in terms of environmental performance.

EPEAT-registered computers have reduced levels of cadmium, lead, and mercury, and are also more energy efficient than standard models. The standard also requires that the manufacturers offer a recycling program for equipment when it is no longer usable.

For More Information:

[www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net) – Search the database for greener computer equipment  
[www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/epeat.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/epeat.htm) - EPA website about EPEAT

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