

Monthly Utility Tips

From your hometown utilities

ENVIR-O-NEWS

April, 2013

Earth Day Clean Up April 20

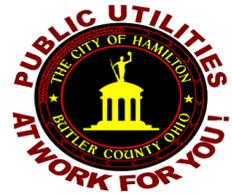
Don't Pass it up—Pick it Up! The City of Hamilton is participating in Earth Day this year in a special way. The City of Hamilton is planning a citywide clean up April 20, 2013 from 8:00 a.m till noon rain or shine. Volunteers are encouraged to wear a yellow or green shirt in celebration of the spring season.



Large groups may choose to check in at 345 High Street to receive supplies and assignments. Area volunteer sites including Bailey Square, North End Ball Field, Presbyterian Church, Partners in Prime, German Village Carriage House, Crawford Elementary School on Hancock, Linden-

wald at Heaven Sent, and the Old Roosevelt School on South 12th are also available for check in.

This is a litter and debris "CLEEN Hamilton" event (see page 2). No curbside pick up, No Freon appliances, hazardous waste, construction debris, or large household items will be accepted. Dumpsters will be located at several locations for Hamilton residents to drop off items; please bring identification showing current address (driver's license or current utility bill). To volunteer to help with this event contact the City Volunteer Coordinator at 844-8050. All other questions call 785-



City of Hamilton
Utilities



At Work for You!

2013 Volunteer and Recycling Programs

Storm Drain Labeling— Hamilton has over 6000 storm drains. As part of the storm water management program Hamilton needs to label each one of these drains—your help is needed—called 785-7280 to volunteer.

Butler County Solid Waste District (513) 887-3653 is hosting several events this year including:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection— beginning May 1 - Oct. 31, Butler County offers a weekly residential drop off program every Thursday from 2 pm - 7 pm at Environmental Enterprises, 10163 Cincinnati-Dayton Rd, West Chester. Materials accepted in-

clude paint, batteries, automotive fluids, pool chemicals. For a complete list visit www.butlercountyrecycles.org or call 887-3653



Freon Appliance Collection— beginning April 1 - Oct. 31, Butler County offers a curbside Freon appliance collection service for working/non-working Freon Appliances (refrigerators, freezers, a/c units, dehumidifiers). Contact Unwanted Appliances at 1-800-886-9268 to schedule a pick up of your Freon units. Freon will be re-

moved by certified technicians, there is no fee for this service. Please note appliances must be placed at the curb or in the driveway. There is a limit of (2) like appliances per household.

Cohen Recycling, 105 Black Street also accepts CPU's, Circuit Boards, Power Supplies, Floppy Drives and other Computer Components (No TV's or Monitors); Laptops, Towers, Cell Phones **without Batteries**, Lithium Ion Batteries, Ni-Cad Batteries and Ni-MH Batteries. Call 863-3474 or visit www.cohenusa.com for details. Hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 8:00—4:30 and Saturday 8:00—11:30.

345 High Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

City Garage/Emergency
Phone: 785-7550

Customer Service
Phone: 785-7100

Protecting Water Quality from Urban Runoff

In urban and suburban areas, much of the land surface is covered by buildings and pavement, which do not allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground. Instead, most developed areas rely on storm drains to carry large amounts of runoff from roofs and paved areas to nearby waterways. The stormwater runoff carries pollutants such as oil, dirt, chemicals, and lawn fertilizers directly to streams and rivers, where they seriously harm water quality. To protect surface water quality and groundwater resources, development should be designed and built to minimize increases in runoff.

What Homeowners Can Do

To decrease polluted runoff from paved surfaces, households can develop alternatives to areas traditionally covered by impervious surfaces. Porous pavement materials are available for driveways and sidewalks, and native vegetation and mulch can replace high maintenance grass lawns. Homeowners can use fertilizers sparingly and sweep driveways, sidewalks, and roads instead of using a hose. Instead of disposing of yard waste, they can use the materials to start a compost pile. And homeowners can learn to use Integrated

Pest Management (IPM) to reduce dependence on harmful pesticides. In addition, households can prevent polluted runoff by picking up after pets and using, storing, and disposing of chemicals properly. Drivers should check their cars for leaks and recycle their motor oil and antifreeze when these fluids are changed. Drivers can also avoid impacts from car wash runoff (e.g., detergents, grime, etc.) by using car wash facilities that do not generate runoff.

MAKE A SPLASH



CLEAN UP YOUR TRASH

What Can I place in my Recycling Cart?

In general, the following types of materials are acceptable in Rumpke Recycling's residential programs:

Paper—white, construction, envelopes, mail, etc. NO paper towels, text books or candy wrappers.

Plastic Bottles—labeled with numbers 1-7. NO plastic bags, butter tubs, plastic plates, toys, wrappers, or film containers.

Glass—clear, brown, blue or green—wash and no lids. No glass panes, drinking glasses or fish tanks

Cans—steel or aluminum (including aerosol cans). No scrap metal, pots and pans or coat hangers. For more information visit

www.rumpkerecycling.com.

Natural Gas

Natural Gas is odorless. A chemical, mercaptan, which smells like rotten eggs, is added to the natural gas so it is apparent when natural gas is present.

If there is a natural gas leak, no matter how small or large, it will be detected.

If you smell a strong gas odor in or around your home, leave. Go to a neighbors house and call our customer service line to report the leak. We will respond as quickly as possible to determine the cause, and advise you when it is safe to return to the premises.

•If possible, eliminate any source of ignition. Do not smoke. Do not use lighters or matches.

•Do not turn on/off any switches or appliances.

•Do not use a phone or cell phone.

•Leave the area! If in your home or business, leave and go to a safe location and call The City of Hamilton 24-Hour Emergency Service at (513)785-7550.

Fat Free Sewers

Fat Free Sewers Means NO FOG. FOG is what EPA calls Fats, Oils and Grease. When Fats, Oils and Grease are poured down your household drain, they can clog your drains as well as the sewer main in the street.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place. **There are several ways to do this.**

* Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.

* Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).

* Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps

and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.

Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.



CLEEN Hamilton

The City of Hamilton is committed to enhancing the quality of life of citizens and bringing about economic growth. The City's strategic plan strives for a clean city while understanding that a clean city results in higher citizen moral and much lower crime rates. The Hamilton Community Foundation in partnership with the Police, Health, PWC, City Officials, City Schools, Miami University, Vision 2020, the Hamilton Visitors Bureau and many more, believe that more can be done to improve the quality of life in Hamilton. An action plan called "CLEEN" (Comprehensive Litter Education and Enforcement Now) has been formulated. This plan addresses educating the public and re-sets the standards for enforcing existing litter and dumping laws. This plan will start in April 2013 and continue throughout the summer.