Recycling Pickup Holiday Schedule

As you know, the fall semester is coming to a close with classes wrapping up and exams right around the corner. With the change in student and faculty activity on campus, we want to make our customers aware of changes in your recycling collection schedules. If your building is on schedule to be serviced during a day that the University is officially closed, it will not be serviced that day. However, an alternative date has been chosen to ensure that recycling bins don’t begin to overflow! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call our office at 962-1442 to find out when your specific building’s alternative pick up date will be.

Don’t Trash Your Home Away from Home!

If you are cleaning out your residence hall room or apartment before you leave for the semester, here’s some information about where to take your stuff!

Bottles and cans, mixed paper (including newspapers, phonebooks, envelopes, junk mail, class notes, cereal boxes, frozen food boxes, and magazines), and corrugated cardboard may be recycled both at the recycling sites at the residence halls and at your apartment complex.

Reusable furniture and other household items in good condition can be offered for reuse at “Salvage Sheds” located at four of the Solid Waste Convenience Centers in the county. Recycle all batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, and televisions, computers, and other electronic devices there too: Eubanks Rd. (1 mile west of Hwy 86/ Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill), Ferguson Rd. (near intersection of Old Greensboro Highway, three miles west of Carrboro), High Rock Rd. (1/4 mile west of Mill Creek Rd. in Efland), and Walnut Grove Church Rd (1/4 mile east of Hwy 86, north of Hillsborough). Visit www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/centers.asp for a map to all site locations and convenience center hours.

Plastic bags are not recyclable at the carts. Take clean, dry empty plastic bags to grocery stores to be recycled. Tubs, cups, bowls, crates, toys and related plastic with the number #2, #4 and #5 may be recycled at convenience centers listed above.

Clothing and household items in good condition can be donated to the PTA Thrift Shop at S. Elliott Road in Village Plaza next to Whole Foods, Chapel Hill (919) 942-6101, at Club Nova Thrift Shop located at 103-C West Main Street in Carrboro (919) 967-6865 and QCM at 300 Millstone Court in Hillsborough (919) 732-8194.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore will pick up furniture and appliances that are in good condition. Appliances must work and be less than 10 years old. Call (919) 403-8668 for collection.

Donate unopened cans and boxes of non-perishable food items and unused personal care items to the Inter-Faith Council Food Pantry at 110 West Main Street in Carrboro, between 9-5 weekdays. If you need to make special arrangements for weekend dropoff, call them at 929-6380 ext. * 16. Unserved perishable food like fruits and vegetables can be brought directly to the IFC Community House Facility at 100 W. Rosemary St.

Take Styrofoam packing peanuts and bubble wrap to local packaging companies like the various UPS packaging stores throughout the County or Pack it Ship it 1202 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, (919) 968-1181. Never leave packing materials at recycling sites.

Hazardous waste such as paints, hair spray, nail polish, bug spray, drain cleaner and any flammable, toxic or corrosive liquids should be taken to the Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) Collection at the Orange County Landfill on Eubanks Road. HHW is open Monday through Friday 10am to 6pm and Saturday 7:30 am to noon.

Questions? Contact The Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling at (919) 962-1442 or email recycling@fac.unc.edu or if you live off campus contact Orange County Solid Waste Management at (919) 858-7785 or email recycling@co.orange.nc.us.
can affect your water footprint.

The Water Footprint Network (WFN) defines the water footprint of a consumer as "the total volume of freshwater consumed and polluted for the production of the goods and services consumed by the consumer. It is calculated by adding the direct water use by people and their indirect water use. The latter can be found by multiplying all goods and services consumed by their respective water footprint."

You may already reduce your direct water consumption by turning off faucets, fixing leaks, installing water efficient appliances, and other conservation actions. Another step is to consider indirect water consumption, which totals the water used and polluted behind goods that you buy. Indirect water consumption is much larger than direct consumption—it accounts for about 95% of an individual’s water footprint! You can reduce it by purchasing and using products mindfully.

Some tips to reduce indirect water consumption are:

- **Replace disposable items with reusable alternatives.** Remember that recurring production of replacement disposable items often uses much more water than the amount needed to clean and maintain reusable items.

- **Love food, hate waste.** The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that 40% of food is wasted in the United States and much of household food waste is due to overpurchasing, food spoilage, and plate waste. Plan your grocery needs and shop wisely, finish leftovers, and freeze or can food to extend shelf life.

- **Recycle and purchase recycled-content products.** For example, recycling one pound of paper saves about 3.5 gallons of water. Buying recycled-content paper also saves water, as it takes about six gallons of water to produce a dollar’s worth of paper.

Want to measure your water footprint? National Geographic: Environment features an online water footprint calculator.

Interested in the water footprint of products you buy? The Water Footprint Network has a guide of common foods.

With the holiday season upon us, the spirit of giving is in the air! Whether you’re getting gifts for your family, friends, co-workers and colleagues, we have some great tips for reducing waste, supporting local businesses and practicing sustainable gifting. Believe it or not, our waste stream grows by 25% between Thanksgiving and the New Year. For instance, over 200 million feet of ribbon winds up being tossed out in the trash, as demonstrated in the infographic at left designed by @jayjaypowpow (click to enlarge).

**By taking conscientious action in our gift giving, we could make great strides in reducing holiday waste.**

- **To begin with, consider giving the gift of an “experience” as opposed to “things.”** This great alternative lets you reduce waste while even supporting local businesses. You can give tickets to a show or museum or even a gift certificate to a spa. The experience alone can translate into the gift of time, which many people lose track of during the busy holidays.

- **For the savvy shopper, a gift certificate to your local thrift store ensures the recipient gets to shop and find something unique they love.** You could also consider searching the thrift shops yourself for some unique and charming vintage gifts. You may just find the perfect record, jewelry box, or iconic item to give.

- **If you’re crafty, handmade gifts can be a fun to make and are easy to personalize for a thoughtful gift.**

Another great option is giving your loved ones reusable items. There’s something for everyone.
Residential Green Games

With the end of the fall semester nearing, the first half of a very successful 2013-2014 Green Games competition is coming to a close. Connor community continues to lead the charge, topping 2000 points in November, and is followed by no less than four more communities over 1000 points. From BYO Thanksgiving meals to community cleanup programs to weekly BYO pancake dinners, everyone has put their best [green] foot forward this fall. The spring will be jam-packed with even more great sustainable opportunities such as new EcoReps trainings, RecycleMania and Earth Week in April! Go UNC and Go Green!

Learn more on the Green Games website.

Contact Us
Submit a Service Request
Phone: (919) 962-1442
Fax: (919) 962-8794
Email: recycling@facilities.unc.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNC.OWRR
Twitter: @UNCRecycles

Something for everyone from lunch totes and kits to reusable bottles and even straws. Helping others cut down on waste year round is a gift that will continue to give. Oh, and be sure to take along a reusable shopping bag before you head out the door!

- When it’s time to give your gift, don’t forget about gift wrap and bags that you’ve gotten presents in before. Reusing them is a good alternative to purchasing more.
- For a unique wrapping design, consider the comics section of the newspaper or other household papers. You could have kids in your family color, stamp, decorate and embellish them for more pizazz.
- Cloth gift wrap can also lead to some beautifully wrapped gifts, not to mention avoiding paper cuts.
- Finally, giving gifts in reusable containers like baskets, totes and jars would also be appreciated by the recipient. You could even put smaller gifts in a stocking that can be used next year.

You may also reduce holiday waste by greening your on-campus holiday events! Certified Carolina Green Events create zero waste—all excess materials are recovered for recycling or composting. The compost process returns nutrients from organic material, such as food waste, to the soil.

Carolina Green Events also meet standards for energy and water efficiency, efficient transportation, and sustainable food and beverage. Planning events for 2014? Make a resolution to green all your events and minimize your organization’s environmental impact in the New Year.

We strive to make planning sustainable events as easy and economical as possible. The Green Event Certification form, compostable product guides, and training resources are available online. Visit go.unc.edu/GreenEvents. Feel free to contact us at greenevents@unc.edu or (919) 962-1442 for any inquiries.

As this busy time of year brings increased shopping, giving and celebration, it’s equally important to remember to reduce waste, reuse what you can and recycle what’s left.