A Newsletter Of

Office of the Clean City

Office of the Clean City
(202) 724-8967
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www.CleanCity.dc.gov
Spring 2006

It's a bus stop... not a trash stop!

Have you looked around your nearest bus stop lately? In spite of the nearby trash can, did you notice that the bench and ground were littered with candy wrappers, empty soft drink containers, cigarette butts, and newspapers? Some bus riders and pedestrians are leaving their litter from food, drinks, and snacks at bus stops, on the curbside, and in the street. Much of the trash comes from those who buy things at the nearest convenience store, carry-out, or gas station. As you may have noticed, it makes the city look bad.

The District would like to clean up its streets, parks, and communities by eliminating litter from streets, sidewalks, bus stops, and open areas. To do this we need to get to the source of the problem—the people who litter in the first place. That means changing attitudes and creating a "litter consciousness." To reduce litter, we all must take pride in keeping Washington, DC clean.

Why do people litter?
People litter because they feel no sense of personal ownership for the area they are messing up. For example, most people would never think of throwing a gum wrapper on their living room floor. But that same person may not think twice about dropping trash on the ground at the bus stop. Be a good citizen and do not litter while waiting for the bus or when on the bus.

A Little Litter Creates a Lot
It is a well-known fact that people are more likely to litter in an area where they see existing litter than in a litter-free area.

Litter Costs Us All a Lot
Litter is expensive to clean up and ruins the look of our bus stops, bus shelters, and the city in general. Whatever you bring to the bus stop, make sure you take it with you.

This Is What You Can Do
- Put litter in its proper spot—a trash can.
- Do not leave paper or garbage at the bus stop, on a bench, or on the ground.
- Pick up litter when you're out on a walk.
- Remind your friends and family to keep Washington, DC clean and not to litter.

¿Ha echado una miradita alrededor de la parada del autobús recientemente? ¿Notó usted que tanto en la banca como en el piso había basura de envolturas de dulces, latas de refrescos vacías, colillas de cigarros y periódicos, aún cuando existen botes de basura alrededor? Algunas personas que toman el autobús y otros peatones dejan su basura a su paso. El Distrito quiere que las calles, los parques y las comunidades estén libres de basura. Para reducir la basura todos debemos cooperar y así sentirnos orgullosos de un Washington, DC limpio. Haga su parte siguiendo estos consejos:

- Coloque la basura en su lugar—¡el bote de la basura!
- No deje papeles o basura en la parada del autobús, ni en la banca, ni en el piso.
- Recoja la basura que encuentre a su paso.
- Recuérdeles a sus amistades y familiares que mantengan Washington, DC limpio y que no tiren basura.

Adopt-A-Block

It's not too late to "Adopt-A-Block" near your school or in your neighborhood. This is a great way to help prevent litter and keep your neighborhood looking its best.

When your school or neighborhood association adopts an area, we will post nice signs including the group's name to thank you. This lets everyone know that the area is being watched and cared for by concerned citizens like you. That's a great example to set for others. Adopting a block reminds everyone just how important it is to prevent litter.

Call or write to the Office of the Clean City so you can adopt your block today!

Nunca es tarde para participar en el programa "Adopt-A-Block" (adopte una cuadra) cerca de su escuela o de su vecindario. Esta es una gran manera de ayudar a prevenir la basura y a mantener su vecindario en las mejores condiciones. ¡Escriba o llame a la oficina de Clean City para que se inscriba en el programa hoy mismo!

Mark your calendar for these GreenDC Week events!

Monday, April 17 — Kickoff at the National Zoo

Tuesday, April 18 — Holistic Energy Day

Wednesday, April 19 — Air and Atmosphere Day

Thursday, April 20 — Water, Use It Wisely Day

Friday, April 21 — Green Buildings Day

Saturday, April 22 — clean&greenDC Day with an Earth Day Celebration

Sunday, April 23 — Green Faith Day

For more information, visit www.GreenDCWeek.net, call (202) 724-8967, or e-mail CleanCity@dc.gov.

GreenDC Week

Marque su calendario para los eventos especiales de la semana "GreenDC" (DCVerde): Abril 17 – Apertura del programa en el Zoológico Nacional; Abril 18 — Día de la Energía Holística; Abril 19 – Día del Aire y la Atmósfera; Abril 20 – El Agua, úsela cuidadosamente; Abril 21 – Día de los Edificios Verdes; Abril 22 – Día de DC verde y limpio con una celebración del Día de la Tierra; y Abril 23 – Día de Fe en lo Verde. Para mayor información, visite la página de Internet www.GreenDCWeek.net, o llame al (202) 724-8967, o envíe un e-mail a CleanCity@dc.gov.

10 Tips for a better Earth Day and a better year for the Earth

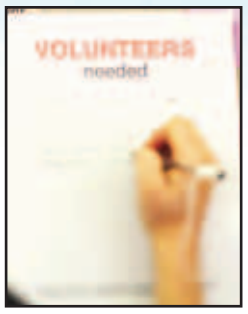
On April 22, 1970, school children, college students, parents, business people, elected officials, and more came together in the largest demonstration ever held in America—Earth Day. The brainchild of Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, Earth Day was planned as a "teach-in" about the environment for members of the U.S. Congress.

However, word spread. By Earth Day, 20 million Americans joined together in our nation's capitol, at city halls and county courthouses, and in their own neighborhoods to say, "Let's do something to clean up pollution!"

Earth Day didn't stop on April 22, 1970. In the years that followed, government, business, and private citizens worked together to clean up our air, land, and water. What we learned on Earth Day is that one day isn't enough—it takes a long-term commitment to make our world a more livable place.

Here are some of the ways you can make it a better year:

1. Know more about what is happening in our community. Read the paper. Listen to local news. Use the Internet to find local events. Attend public meetings. Whenever you get the chance to vote, do it.
2. Take walks and get to know our community. While you're out, pick up litter that you see. If your dog joins you, be sure to pick up after your canine companion.
3. Volunteer outdoors. You might mow the lawn for an elderly neighbor. You might pick up litter at a park or playground.



4. Reduce, reuse, and recycle! Eliminate waste by buying less stuff that you don't really need. Avoid excessively packaged items. Say "no thanks" to store bags whenever possible. Carry your own refillable coffee mug. Use your stuff until it wears out. Buy used items. Sell or donate usable stuff that you no longer need. Know what, where, and how to recycle.
5. Waste less food. Plan meals so that less moldy or spoiled food has to be thrown away. Finish the leftovers.
6. Make wise choices when you buy electronics and take good care of the equipment you have. Update software and services, upgrade memory, or add accessories, as needed. Look for the "Energy Star" certification.
7. Become a greener gardener. Replace lawn areas by planting more trees, native or low-water-using plant materials, and ground covers. Reduce your use of chemicals, and thus of potentially hazardous waste, by learning to use "Integrated Pest Management" to control weeds and bugs. Mulch and compost.
8. Learn more about the world in which we live. Take a close look at the non-fiction videos at the library. Read a book or magazine about science or nature, plants or animals, politics or policy.
9. Touch the future—teach a child. Author Amanda Lumry is writing a series of books for children in kindergarten through third grade. This series, *The Adventures of Riley*, combines stories about Riley and his family with facts and photos about the real places featured in each story.

10. Don't keep your Earth Day commitments a secret. Tell your friends and family about your new habits.

10 consejos para celebrar un mejor Día de la Tierra y un mejor año para la Tierra

El 22 de abril de 1970, 20 millones de americanos se reunieron en la capital de la nación, en las alcaldías y en las cortes de los condados, y hasta en sus propios vecindarios para afirmar, "¡Hagamos algo para limpiar la contaminación!" En los años posteriores a ese evento, los gobiernos, los negocios y organizaciones privadas de ciudadanos trabajaron unidos para limpiar el aire que respiramos, la tierra donde vivimos y el agua que usamos. Lo que aprendimos el Día de la Tierra es que un solo día no es suficiente –toma mucho tiempo hacer de nuestro mundo un lugar más habitable.

Aquí le ofrecemos algunos consejos para hacer que nuestro planeta sea más habitable este año: Involúcrese con su comunidad. Aprenda acerca de los eventos locales. Asista a las juntas públicas. Salga a caminar y conozca a sus vecinos. ¡Reduzca, re-use y recicle su basura! Evite comprar cosas que en realidad no necesita. Cuando le sea posible, no ocupe las bolsas de la tienda. Compre cosas usadas. Venda o done las cosas usadas que usted ya no ocupa o necesita. Aprenda qué, dónde y cómo reciclar. Desperdicie menos comida. Tome decisiones inteligentes cuando compre aparatos electrónicos y cuide del equipo que ya posee. Reduzca el uso de químicos para el jardín aprendiendo acerca del "Manejo Integrado de Plagas" que le ayudara a controlar malas hierbas e insectos. Deje la poda de su pasto en su mismo jardín — mulch — y aprenda sobre la descomposición de las materias orgánicas — compost.

What is Integrated Pest Management?

Integrated pest management (IPM) starts with knowing your plants and their pests. This means regular monitoring and good record-keeping to determine if and when action is needed. When pests are present in numbers that could result in damage to plants, a variety of methods are used, beginning with those that are most benign and least expensive. With IPM, chemical pesticides are a last resort.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/ or www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/ipm.htm.

¿Qué quiere decir "Manejo Integrado de Plagas"?

El manejo integrado de plagas quiere decir controlar las plagas a través de una variedad de métodos, empezando por los que son más benignos y menos costosos, dejando la opción de utilizar pesticidas químicos como última alternativa. Para más información visite la página de Internet www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/ o la página www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/ipm.htm.

Quotes Requoted

"Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself."

Gaylord Nelson, 1916-2005
Founder of "Earth Day"

Citas Citables

El éxito del Día de la Tierra fue debido a la respuesta espontánea de "haber pasado la voz" entre sus amistades. No teníamos ni el tiempo ni los recursos para organizar a 20 millones de personas que se unieron en las demostraciones, ni a las miles de escuelas y comunidades que participaron. Eso fue lo maravilloso del Día de la Tierra. ¡Funciono solito!

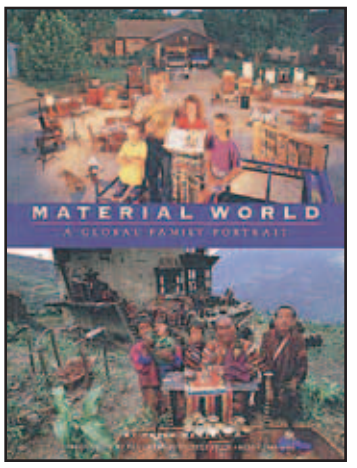
Think about it!

A disposable, carry-out coffee cup weighs about one ounce. If you drink two carry-out coffees every day, each week, all year long, you throw away 728 ounces of coffee cups—that's 45.5 pounds of trash!

¡Piénselo!

Una taza desechable para su café pesa aproximadamente una onza. Usted puede reducir montones de basura con tan solo utilizar una taza que pueda volver a usar una y otra vez.

We're living in a material world



What if you took all of your possessions and put them into your front yard? That's the question photographer Peter Menzel asked himself. It's also the question which sent him to 30 different countries to meet and photograph one "average family." The result of this search was the book, *Material World: A Global Family Portrait* by Peter Menzel and Charles C. Mann, which was originally published in 1994.

Each family portrait pictures the family outside their home with all (or almost all) of their possessions. The possessions are not stacked to the side but are displayed in such a way as to be integrally part of the portrait, as though these things are precious members of the family. The text describes the family and their lifestyle. Sidebars offer background on the countries in which they live. The differences between countries are, of course, striking and at times surprising.

If you enjoy *Material World*, take a look at the new book, *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio (2005). This book also profiles 30 families around the world. However, instead of their possessions, *Hungry Planet* features their diets and pictures them in the marketplaces and with their foodstuffs.

Both books make you think about what we have, what we need, what we want, what we save, what we waste, and what all of this might mean to the global family.

Vivimos en un mundo material

En *Material World: A Global Family Portrait* por Peter Menzel y Charles C. Mann (1994), 30 familias alrededor del mundo fueron fotografiadas fuera de sus hogares con todas sus pertenencias. En *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* por Peter Menzel y Faith D'Aluisio (2005), 30 familias alrededor del mundo fueron fotografiadas en sus hogares y en los supermercados con la comida que comen. Ambos libros nos hacen pensar sobre lo que tenemos, lo que necesitamos, lo que queremos, y lo que guardamos.

Garden Gadgets

Would you like to create better garage storage? How about some festive outdoor lighting for your garden? Want to welcome your fine, feathered friends? Get on the Internet and go to www.care2.com/channels/solutions/home/456 to find the instructions for "Five Cool Make-It-Yourself Garden Gadgets."

The web page actually offers these six project ideas with complete instructions:

- Lanterns made from glass baby food jars
- Bird feeder and sanctuary using an old birdbath
- Birdseed catcher made from an old doormat
- Tool storage chest made from an old filing cabinet
- Dahlia tuber holder made from plastic strawberry flats
- String caddy made from a plastic detergent bottle

Do you notice what these projects have in common? That's it. They are all made from reused and found materials. Your own recycling bin or a neighborhood garage sale could become the source of the raw materials that you need for these and other projects.

All of these ideas and many more are published in the book *Great Garden Gadgets: Make-It-Yourself Gizmos and Projects*, edited by Fern Marshall Bradley and Christine Bucks (Rodale Press, 2001).

Decoraciones para el jardín

Aprenda a hacer atractivos accesorios para el jardín usando materiales reciclados o que pueda volver a utilizar consultando la página del Internet www.care2.com/channels/solutions/home/456. Todas las instrucciones publicadas en esa página las puede encontrar también en el libro, *Great Garden Gadgets: Make-It-Yourself Gizmos and Projects*, editado por Fern Marshall Bradley y Christine Bucks (Rodale Press, 2001).

No Waste Like Home

clean up clear out save money

Reality TV viewers in Britain are watching host Penney Poyzer expose the habits of some very wasteful families in "No Waste Like Home." With a combination of shock, shame, and wit, Poyzer teaches the families to clean up, clear out, and save money in the process. Her tips focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling waste; saving energy; cleaning with non-toxic cleaners; and selecting eco-friendly products. Read Poyzer's tips at www.bbc.co.uk/homes/tv_and_radio/nwlh_index.shtml.

Nada Como los Desperdicios del Hogar

En Inglaterra hay un programa de televisión, "No Waste Like Home," donde el anfitrión Penney Poyzer presenta los hábitos de varias familias que producen mucho desperdicio. Poyzer les enseña a las familias a limpiar, arreglar y ahorrar dinero en el proceso. Para aprender más sobre las técnicas de Poyzer, consulte la página de Internet www.bbc.co.uk/homes/tv_ and_radio/nwlh_index.shtml.

A flurry of flip-flops

Bitters Company is taking the sandal scrap from the cutting room floor of flip-flop manufacturers and turning it into floating key chains, colorful crates, barrels, and doormats.

The Bitters Company's use of flip-flop scrap is what we call "pre-consumer recycled content." Pre-consumer waste is industrial scrap that could not be turned into the intended product. Cut ends of plastic, fabric, or paper are good examples of this waste. We refer to it as "pre-consumer" because no one like you ever purchased and used this portion of the raw material. In other words, it was discarded before it got to the consumer.

In addition to these pre-consumer flip-flop products, Bitters Company also makes several items from post-consumer waste, including bowls made from the steel sides of used 55-gallon drums and from old magazines. For more information, call toll-free 1-866-664-2488, e-mail info@bittersco.com, or visit the website, www.bittersco.com.

Una ráfaga de sandalias

La compañía Bitters ha tomado los desperdicios de los fabricantes de sandalias de dedo para convertirlos en llamativos llaveros, coloridos botes, embalajes, barriles y tapetes para las entradas de casas. Esta práctica de la compañía Bitters es lo que llamamos "contenido reciclados de pre-consumidor." Los desperdicios "pre-consumidor" son sobrantes industriales que se desechan antes de que se utilicen para fabricar un producto para el consumidor.

Además de estos productos, la compañía Bitters también fabrica otros artículos que utilizan sobrantes "post-consumidor", entre los cuales encontramos tazones fabricados con los lados de tambores de 55 galones y con periódicos. Para mayor información favor de llamar al 1-866-664-2488, o envíe un e-mail a info@bittersco.com, o visite la página de Internet www.bittersco.com.

WHAT'S UP?

Adopt-A-Block Neighborhood Cleanups

Year-round

Call the Office of the Clean City at (202) 724-8967 to sign up or to request details.

Llame a las oficinas de Clean City al (202) 724-8967 para solicitar información e inscribirse en los programas de limpieza Adopt-A-Block.

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Alice Ferguson Foundation's 18th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

Saturday, April 8

Join thousands of watershed neighbors to remove unwanted trash from our communities and to show your support for a Trash-Free Potomac Watershed. Please mark your calendars and start spreading the word about this great event—new site leaders and volunteers are needed. Call the Alice Ferguson Foundation at (301) 292-5665 for details or to volunteer.

Llame a la Fundación Alice Ferguson al (301) 292-5665 para solicitar detalles y/o inscribirse como voluntario para el 18vo. evento anual de limpieza del Río Potomac, que se llevará a cabo el sábado 8 de abril. Únase a miles de vecinos para sacar basura indeseable de las aguas del río.

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clean&greenDC Day

Saturday, April 22, 8 a.m. to noon

Cleanups, beautification projects, and workshops will take place in neighborhoods throughout the city. Please contact our office at (202) 724-8967 for exact locations or to organize a cleanup.

El sábado 22 de abril de 8 a.m. a mediodía se llevará a cabo el evento Vecindarios Limpios y Verdes de DC. Para participar en la limpieza, la belleza y en talleres informativos en su vecindario y a través de la ciudad, por favor llame a nuestra oficina al (202) 724-8967 para proporcionarle datos exactos, o si desea pedir ayuda sobre cómo organizar un ejercicio de limpieza.

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Anacostia River Cleanup

Saturday, April 22, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contact the Anacostia Watershed Society at (301) 699-6204 for details.

La limpieza del Río Anacostia se llevará a cabo el sábado 22 de abril de 8:30 a.m. a 1 p.m. — Comuníquese con Anacostia Watershed Society al (301) 699-6204 para obtener más detalles.

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e-Cycling and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Carter Barron Amphitheater Parking Lot, 16th & Kennedy Streets, NW

They'll be accepting end-of-use electronics for recycling and household hazardous waste for proper disposal. Contact DPW at (202) 645-7191 for more details.

El sábado 22 de abril de 9 a.m. a 3 p.m. se estarán recibiendo aparatos electrónicos y basura contaminante del hogar en el estacionamiento de Carter Barron Amphitheater, localizado en 16th & Kennedy Streets, NW — Para más información llame a DPW al (202) 645-7191.

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Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The clean&greenDC Day events wrap up with this educational Earth Day Celebration. Please contact our office at (202) 724-8967 for details.

La Celebración del Día de la Tierra será el sábado 22 de abril de 11 a.m. a 4 p.m. Llame a nuestras oficinas al (202) 724-8967 para obtener más detalles.

Keys to a successful volunteer cleanup

- Make the time, place, and duration of your cleanup event very clear to everyone you invite to join you.
- Be willing to do the activity alone and have fun doing it.
- Invite people. Don't bully, try to sell it to them, or overly control their participation. When invited, most people will bring some thought or feeling to the cleanup that really makes them want to give their best effort.
- Keep it simple. Cleaning up trash is easy. All you need are garbage bags, a place to put the trash or arrange pick-up, and gloves (rakes and shovels can't hurt either!). Tell potential participants that these are the basic tools, but bring enough yourself to cover half-a-dozen people who will probably come without any tools.
- Again… have fun doing it. After all, you and everyone else will be actively making the world a better place— really!
- Tell lots of people, including the press. Just call them up and tell them what, when, and where you are doing what you are doing. Even if you wind up alone out there, you will still get people thinking, and they may want to join you next time.
- Remind volunteers and yourself that what you are doing matters by describing how it matters to you. Just the simple truth will inspire others.
- Be sure to thank all participants.

(Source: www.litterproject.com)

Para planear un evento de limpieza con voluntarios que tenga éxito, lo primero que tiene que hacer es separar la hora y el lugar. Entonces invite a las personas a que lo ayuden. Mantenga el ejercicio lo más sencillo posible. Levantar la basura es muy fácil. Todo lo que necesita son bolsas de basura, guantes (palas y rastrillos del jardín pueden ser útiles también) y un lugar para disponer de las bolsas cuando estén llenas, o coordinar con un servicio que las recoja. Asegúrese de dar las gracias a los voluntarios cuando terminen.

How does your school rate?

If we graded your school right now on how clean it is, how would it rate? Is there litter on the floor or around the school yard?

As a class or community project, you can conduct a School Cleanliness Survey. Select several areas in and around your school that you want to survey. Rate how clean the area is by giving each area a 1 for "clean," a 2 for "somewhat clean," a 3 for "dirty," and a 4 for "very dirty." Figure out the average rating for all areas surveyed to determine how your school rates overall.

If any areas received a rating of 2 or greater, make a list of ways that these areas can be kept cleaner and put your plan into action. The Office of the Clean City can assist you in creating your School Litter Reduction Plan.

Rate your school on cleanliness at least four times a year to determine whether the cleanliness of your school is improving. Please be sure to send your results to our office along with your school's plan for staying litter-free.

Usted puede conducir una encuesta sobre la limpieza de una escuela como un proyecto comunitario. Seleccione las áreas que formarán parte de la encuesta, tanto dentro como fuera de la escuela. Repita este ejercicio por lo menos cuatro veces al año. Asegúrese de enviar los resultados a nuestras oficinas acompañados del plan que tienen para mantener la escuela libre de basura.

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We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

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