



An informative and inspirational bi-monthly newsletter from the Working Group Recycling Committee to MIT Recycling Ambassadors, colleagues, and the MIT community.

the bale

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the bale is the newsletter of the Working Group Recycling Committee

Supported by the Environmental Programs Office and the Department of Facilities



Also supported by the Working Group on Support Staff Issues

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MIT Celebrates Earth Day!

Thursday, April 27, 2006
10 am – 4 pm
Stata Center, Building 32



This year the WGR has joined forces with the Environmental Programs Office, Students for Global Sustainability (SfGS), SAVE, and the Lab for Energy and Environment, to bring you the largest and most exciting Earth Day ever – all under one roof, in the Stata Center! Join us for free food, all day entertainment, raffle prizes, environmental information, plant cuttings and Free Coffee Mugs from SAVE, Bike Repair Workshop by SfGS, clothing swap, environmentally preferable products samples from Office Depot, representatives from a wide variety of environmental initiatives (MIT/greater Cambridge), and much, much more. If weather permits, this will be an outside, as well as inside event, with outside activities and a noontime concert at the Stata Center Amphitheater. At 12:30 we'll announce

the Environmental Writing Contest winners and the Recyclemania winners.

During Earth Week, join us for lectures by the Ocean Alliance, the Charles River Conservancy, the New England Aquarium, and a walking tour of several of MIT's green campus initiatives, including the Stata Center bioswale, an MIT solar power system, the Co-Gen plant, algae bioreactor, and more.

Watch our Earth Day page for more information: <http://web.mit.edu/earthday>

Volunteers are needed! To lend a hand, contact the WGR co-chairs at staffrecycles@mit.edu

For more information, contact: Earth Day Organizing Committee at: earthday2006@mit.edu

Top Ten Things YOU can do this Earth Day to "Work Green at MIT"

Below are the top ten things you can do to "Work Green at MIT" this Earth Day and all the year through. Even if you only adopt one of these earth friendly practices each month, you will be making a big difference in helping to reduce MIT's environmental footprint. These practices save money for the Institute and the City of Cambridge, and reduce waste, pollution, and environmental degradation.

1. ENCOURAGE RECYCLING Become familiar with what MIT recycles so that you can be a resource for the community. Print out the "What can you recycle at MIT?" poster at: http://web.mit.edu/facilities/environmental/What_can_you_recycle.pdf. Please print multiple copies on recycled or reused pa-

per and post in key locations such as; refrigerators, above recycling bins, mail rooms, near copy machines and printers, etc. No access to a printer? Email staffrecycles@mit.edu for free copies.

2. GET RECYCLING BINS To request a blue desk-side bins for paper recycling, email: recycling@mit.edu, or purchase them via Office Depot for only \$2.98 each: item # 494682. If you need a "slim jim" bins (blue and green-topped) for a specific location within your Department, Lab, or Center, purchase them directly from the Office Depot / ECAT Web Site: on the main page there is a left-hand side bar. Click on the last option listed: "My Shopping Lists," then click on

continued on page 2 ►



DOWNLOAD NOW!

The Working Group Recycling Committee's Monthly Desktop Wallpaper Calendar!
web.mit.edu/wgrecycling/calendars.shtml

WORK GREEN AT MIT continued ▼

“RECYCLED PRODUCTS,” and you will see the bins and tops, which are sold separately, listed there.

3. RECYCLE TONER AND INKJET CARTRIDGES TONER CARTRIDGES: Each mail room on campus should have a drop-off recycling bin for empty toner cartridges. Simply follow the directions provided.

INKJET CARTRIDGES: All MIT mail rooms contain dispensers for individual pre-paid mailing envelopes. Next time you pick up your mail, take an envelope, drop a used cartridge into the bag, and simply drop the bag into the mail. If you do not have one of these boxes in your mail room, or if it is out of envelopes, email recycling@mit.edu.

4. REDUCE! See this excellent webpage for ideas on reducing, including a link to instructions on how to reduce junk mail: <http://web.mit.edu/environment/reduce/reduce.html>

Eliminate “Disposable” products:

- Use coffee mugs, cutlery and crockery in place of paper and plastic items.
- Do not accept a bag when buying one or two items at a store.
- Buy the largest possible container to get the best “product to package ratio” (such as buying toothpaste in a 6.4 ounce size rather than 4 ounces.)
- Avoid buying disposable items when reusable products are available (e.g., disposable vs. reusable razors, single use vs. rechargeable batteries).
- When you have a choice, buy a product that has less packaging than its competitors.
- Use the Internet to receive news, catalogs, and other information that usually comes to your house in a paper format.
- Make an effort to purchase durable rather than cheap items that won’t last, buy less toxic items, and products with less packaging.

5. BECOME A PAPER-LESS OFFICE:

- Use email or voice mail rather than memos or postings to communicate with colleagues.
- Use SAP and other electronic programs to reduce “paper pushing”
- Save large and small documents electronically to CD or disc instead of printing out and keeping a paper copy.

- Print on two sides of paper. When making copies, copy documents from a one sided original to a two sided copy.
- Receive your Summary Statements and DTR’s in an email format: email: CAO-cost-objects@mit.edu
- Use the back side of one-sided paper as scrap. Place a small bin for scrap paper on your desk or next to the printer and encourage others to do the same.

6. REUSE@MIT AND BEYOND There is so much STUFF in the world! If we all try to pass on unwanted goods before tossing them, and look for a reused option before purchasing a product, we could save so much waste! MIT has an excellent reuse list available to the entire community. Anyone can post unwanted items to reuse@mit.edu. You need not be a subscriber. Please follow the general guidelines: do not attach files or photos, include directions and logistical info, such as how many people will be needed to move the item and general directions to your office or lab, be responsible for cleaning up whatever is not taken, and email the list again when the item is claimed or taken. Do not post items for sale on reuse. If you are looking for an item, email reuse-ask@mit.edu with a complete description. More info: <http://web.mit.edu/reuse/> To subscribe to the reuse list, email reuse-request@mit.edu Another local resource for free items is Freecycle: <http://www.freecycle.org/>

7. BUY RECYCLED There are many high quality products available today which are made from recycled materials. “Buying green” is a very important step in the recycling process because it creates a demand for the products we recycle, therefore closing the loop. Go to Office Depot website and look under “My Shopping Lists” for “Recycled Products.” **Many items made from recycled content are listed here, as well as across the entire site. If you have a particular item in mind which is not shown on the recycled products list, try performing a search for the item with the word “recycled” after the name of the item.** To receive a copy of The Green Book, Office Depot’s Environmentally Preferable Products catalog, call Office Depot at 617-253-4760.

8. CARPOOL OR T TO MIT The MIT Parking and Transportation Office offers a wide variety of opportunities for the MIT community to “green” their commute. MIT encourages the community to carpool, use public transportation, bike, and walk when traveling to work or class at MIT. For info on **Green Commuting**, go to the WGS-SI Commuting Task Group’s website at:

Stuff Fest: Give Stuff, Get Stuff!

May 20th-27th at MIT Dorms

Donate Stuff and Get Stuff During MIT Housing Move-Out and Stuff Fest! MIT’s annual dormitory move-out **Stuff Fest** is from May 20th-27th. This is your chance to donate clothes, house wares, bicycles, and other good stuff you no longer need. It is also an opportunity to look through other peoples’ donated stuff to get good stuff for yourself. The remaining good stuff will go to area charities. Students can donate stuff by simply leaving it in the area designated by each dorm. Volunteers needed! To get involved, email save-core@mit.edu, or lsheehan@mit.edu.

New to Stuff Fest this year: Bikes! •

<http://web.mit.edu/commuting/green.html>
Vanpool Benefit now available to MIT employees! MIT now provides commuters with significant assistance in two ways: A \$59 monthly subsidy, and pre-tax deductions for a portion of the total monthly costs. These cash benefits greatly reduce the cost to vanpool. Vanpooling is environmentally friendly! For every mile traveled, mass transportation uses about one half of the fuel consumed by automobiles, and about a third of that used by SUV’s and light trucks. www.vanride.com

9. BECOME A RECYCLING AMBASSADOR! MIT Staff Recycling Ambassadors Plus Program: *It takes little time to make a big impact on our community’s environment!* The WGR (Working Group Recycling Committee) and the EPO (Environmental Programs Office) have created roles for staff who want to have greater influence addressing recycling issues at MIT. The Staff Ambassador’s primary role is to be a liaison between the WGR and the ambassador’s office/dept/lab. This program is open to support and administrative staff (departments, labs, centers, programs) who can volunteer about 1 hour each month to distribute information on recycling and act as a local resource person on recycling and working green. For more information: http://web.mit.edu/wgrecycling/ambassadors_plus.shtml

10. Go to MIT’s Earth Day Celebration 2006; April 27 at the Stata Center! There you will receive inspiration, tools, and resources to green your workplace. •

Reuse your Bike and MIT and beyond!

Hundreds of bikes are abandoned at MIT every year. After the labor-intensive procedure to flag and finally break the locks on leftover bikes on campus, Campus Police pays to store these bikes and eventually holds an auction. After being left out in the elements for months, the bikes are not in the best shape, and if they are not sold at auction, they get dumped in the metal recycling bin. We can do better! We are attempting to make the MIT community more aware of the reuse options for that unwanted bike. **Please consider donating your unwanted bike to one of the organizations below.**

Bicycle-Specific Reuse Resources

Repair Your Bike! There will be a bike repair workshop at MIT's Earth Day Celebration: April 27 at the Stata Center. For more information: earthday2006@mit.edu

Stuff Fest: MIT Dorms, May 20th-27th
Email save-core@mit.edu

Techbikes: a new MIT based "zipcar" for bicycles. Bikes can be loaned for short rides of under 2 hours during the day free of charge. They can also be borrowed during the day for a period greater than 2 hours for a charge of \$1. They are looking for 5 or 10 donated bicycles to get their group up and running. Contact: techbikes@mit.edu

<http://web.mit.edu/dzshen/www/availability.shtml>

SCUL: Subversive Choppers Urban Legion

A local bicycle club that modifies trash-picked bicycles to create alternative "chopper" bicycles. They collect bicycle parts and frames to modify year round; most of the chopper bikes are trash picked, and re-used!

<http://www.scul.org/>
Contact: threespeed@mit.edu

Quad Bikes: Quad Bikes is the non-profit bicycle shop for the Harvard Community and they depend on bike donations to survive. If you have any unwanted bicycle, parts, or accessories that you would like used again, please consider donating to Quad Bikes.

<http://www.quadbikes.org/>
Contact: info@quadbikes.org
Phone: 617-496-5955

Bikes Not Bombs: They receive approximately 3,000 used bicycles and tons of used parts each year, brought in as donations by people like you, who cannot stand to see good resources getting thrown out. They ship about 2,400 of these bikes to economic development projects (micro-

Recyclemania Update: Competitive spirit boosts recycling rate in MIT dorms

By Debra Sorocco, EHS Program Manager, DSL

Rounding the halfway point in the 10-week national Recyclemania contest, MIT has proven its green gusto despite fledgling status (this is only our second year competing) and an unprecedented rise in the number of participating colleges. This year's contest pits us against over 90 other universities across the United States (that's nearly 1 million students!), in a friendly battle to collect the largest amount of recyclables, the least amount of trash, and push for the highest recycling rate possible.

Despite the stiff competition, MIT is holding strong at 13th place in the "Grand Champion" category based on our dorm recycling rate of just over 30%. This puts us ahead of Harvard (at 18th), at least as of week 6! In the "Per Capita Classic," a category based on highest pounds of recyclables per resident student, we're 16th, and for "Waste Minimization," ranked on lowest total waste figure (trash and recycling combined), we're 26th-- this may not seem high, but at least we're ahead of both our neighbors Harvard (36th) and Tufts (33rd)! For targeted materials, MIT is ranked very high for paper recycling at 3rd place, and still in the upper third of the class with 12th for bottles/cans, and 34th for cardboard. As a result of each dorm's

efforts, MIT has managed to boost our overall dorm recycling by nearly 60,000 pounds compared to last year at this time! This is a tremendous accomplishment, especially considering this is only our second year involved.

In the MIT dorm competition, a \$200 cash prize goes to the single and family dorms with the highest amount of per capita recyclables. So far, the shining stars of recycling are the graduate students of the Warehouse with 47.77 lbs. per student (aggregated over 6 weeks), followed closely by Random Hall with 46.72 lbs. and Edgerton with 45.10 lbs. For family-style dorms, Westgate (39.09 lbs per student) is ahead of Eastgate (25.82 lbs per student) by over 10 pounds per student. Will the 'W's win it? Tune in to find out: <http://web.mit.edu/recyclemania/>

A brief award ceremony will take place at this year's Earth Day festivities to give out the cash prizes and honor those who contribute to this program's success. Beyond the prizes, Recyclemania gives us an opportunity to educate students about recycling, reduce MIT's environmental impact, and reward those carrying out the EHS mission to "protect people and planet."



enterprise bike businesses, sustainable technology projects, and youth training programs) in South Africa, Ghana, and Guatemala every year. For more information: (617) 442-0004 or email Steve, our Dona-

tions Coordinator: buddyster@rcn.com

59 Amory Street #103,
Roxbury, MA, 02119

<http://www.bikesnotbombs.org/> •

Recycled Paper Update

Office Depot and WGR would like to inform purchasers that the 100 % and 50% Envirographics recycled paper (item #s 371031 and 371671,) which we recommended to our readers in past issues, is no longer being manufactured. However, Office Depot is now carrying 100% recycled Wausau paper item # 345296. MIT price \$37.50 per case. Also, the Xerox 30% recycled paper (item # 371691) is being discontinued and is being replaced by the Office Depot green top 35% recycled paper, item # 940650. All Office Depot Brand paper sold in a 10 ream case is now shipped in an improved carton: it has handles for easy carrying and is the correct size to use for hanging files. Have extra boxes? Reuse! Offer these up on the reuse@mit.edu list, to friends who are moving, or flatten boxes and leave next to paper recycling bins for recycling.

If you have any questions please call the MIT Office Depot on site team @ 3-4760.

- 35% recycled paper
Item # 940650
MIT price \$26.99 Per case

May is GoGreen Month in Cambridge!

GoGreen Month, occurring annually in May, is a month-long celebration of transportation options, recycling, and energy conservation. Events include Bike Week celebrations, commuter appreciation days, transportation fairs and presentation of the GoGreen Business awards for outstanding environmental efforts.

Highlighted Events:

GoGreen in Central Square: May 1
Bike Week: May 13-21.
Bicycle Commuter Appreciation Day: May 19
Bike Tour: May 20
Bike Bash: May 24
Commute a Better Way Day: May 31

For more information about GoGreen month and the GoGreen awards and events, contact Stephanie Anderberg, sanderberg@cambridgema.gov, at 617/349-4671. To learn about public transit, carpools/vanpools, walking and bicycling in Cambridge, go to the Transportation Options page at: http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/et/et_trans_opt.html

A Message to Cambridge Residents from the Cambridge Department of Public Works

In response to concerns about street cleanliness and rodents, the Cambridge City Council amended the Refuse & Litter Ordinance in December 2005. Please be aware that new trash collection rules start April 3rd:

- Trash placed at the curb the night before collection must be in rodent-resistant barrels with tight-fitting lids, no earlier than 6pm.
- Trash in plastic bags can only be placed at the curb on the day of collection, no later than 7am.

As always, trash barrels cannot weigh more than 50 pounds each and only heavy duty plastic bags are accepted.

Cambridge Recycling Division looking for Volunteers!

Volunteering for a 2-3 hour shift for Recycling at festivals is a lot of fun because you get to enjoy the festival, make sure that recycling is happening and talk to people about doing the right thing.

- May 7: MayFair in Harvard Square, noon-6pm (raindate 5/14)
- June 17: Riverfest along the Charles River, noon-6pm

For more information, contact Randi Mail, Director of Recycling, Cambridge Dept of Public Works
617.349.4866
rmail@cambridgema.gov
www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/departments/recycle

ASK THE EXPERTS

Ruth Davis, Manager of Communications, Facilities, will answer your questions about recycling at MIT. Please send your questions to the editor: staffrecycles@mit.edu. Your question may be publicized in the next Bale!

Q. Are tissues and paper towels recyclable? Someone in my office thought they were and would dry her hands on a paper towel and put it into a recycling bin. The discussion got us wondering whether they are or aren't. Besides the fact that they may be wet, even if they were dry, would they be recyclable?

A. Tissues and paper towels are not recyclable for one primary reason: they may have "organic matter" on them. Organic matter can be food, germs, or mold; it's basically things that will contaminate other items destined to be recycled. Nothing with food waste or oils (and this includes pizza boxes) should ever go into a paper bin. We want to keep paper bins as clean as possible in order to obtain the best recycled content product possible.

Another reason you don't want to recycle paper towels and tissues is that you can only recycle paper so many times before its life cycle is over. Paper "fiber" gets smaller each time it is recycled and by the time it is towel or tissue, the fiber is pretty small - it is the last stop in the recycle "cycle". This is why it is so important to buy paper towels, tissues, table napkins, and toilet paper made from post-consumer recycled content: when you do so, you are creating a market for the paper we recycle.

Editors note: Some of our favorites from Office Depot's ECAT site: Marcal® Select-A-Size Paper Towels, 60% recycled content, Item #: 407711; Marcal® Fluff Out® 2-Ply Facial Tissues, Box Of 100, Case Of 30 Boxes, contains 100% recycled fibers, Item #: 436339; Marcal® Recycled Luncheon Napkins, Contains 60% postconsumer recycled fibers, Item #: 541482.

