



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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July is Clean out Your Files Month!



This July, the Working Group Recycling Committee, in partnership with the Department of Facilities, will again hold our annual paper recycling drive: Clean Out Your Files Month. As the MIT community slows down during the month of July, we're asking that you use this time to clean out and recycle your files from the past year, your DLC's old files, catalogs, directories, and more!

The best way to recycle the paper generated from cleaning out your files is to utilize the blue or grey desk side bins in your office each day. If you need a desk side bin, contact recycling@mit.edu, or purchase one from Office Depot for \$3.00, Item # 373860. If you fill up your local bins during your clean up you can, alternatively, bring paper recycling to your hallway's "slim jim" paper re-

cycling bin, or the large totes that the Department of Facilities will place in building lobbies and other convenient locations around campus. For the locations of these bins please see <http://web.mit.edu/wgrecycling>

As you clean out your files, remember: "If you can rip it, you can recycle it." Recycle: colored and white paper, glossy paper and magazines, newspaper, phonebooks, paperboard, cardboard, catalogs, envelopes, post it notes, file folders, and more. No need to remove staples, paper clips, plastic windows in envelopes, spiral binding in notebooks, tape or labels. Flatten cardboard boxes

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MIT Wins the 2006 Cambridge Go Green Recycling Award for Large Businesses!

By Steven Lanou, Sustainability Program Deputy Director
MIT Environmental Programs Office

MIT's recycling program has been recognized by the City of Cambridge with a "Go Green Business Award" because the Institute has achieved and sustained its 40% recycling rate goal for the entire 2005 calendar year (see graph, page 2), and is on track to surpass 40% in FY 2006. This 40% recycling goal was adopted by MIT to support the 40% recycling goal as called for in the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan. In addition, MIT has continued to annually reduce its discarded trash tonnage from a high in 2001. In fact, MIT reduced the amount of trash that was discarded in 2005 by

325 tons from the previous year! Since 2001, MIT has reduced its discarded trash tonnage by 2,184 tons, or 30%!

MIT has committed to a comprehensive institute wide effort to reduce waste and increase the percentage of materials recycled. This is a result of collaborative efforts from multiple departments, student and staff environmental groups, and faculty support. The successes and improvements of the program owe most of the credit to collaboration, a tremendous accomplishment in a diverse and spread-out campus like MIT's. Congratulations to all!



DOWNLOAD NOW!

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

JULY IS CLEAN OUT YOUR FILES MONTH
continued ▼

and place inside, next to, or behind the bin. Remove packing materials.

It is important to also know what NOT to place in paper recycling bins: NO paper towels, tissues, napkins, waxed cardboard, paper cups with waxy coating, carbon paper, hard bound books, pizza boxes, paper plates, or anything with food on it.

During Clean Out Your Files Month in July 2005 the mixed paper recycling total was 70.3 tons, the highest tonnage ever, and a 12 ton jump from June's total of 58.3 tons. This jump in numbers helped us reach our goal of 40% recycling rates in 2005. Help MIT raise our recycling rates even more, and save money on trash disposal, by recycling every day!

As July approaches, please go to our website to get more information and updates: <http://web.mit.edu/wgreycling/>

Watch your email for an announcement of the Clean Out Your Files Month. To sign up for our mailing list, please email staffrecycles@mit.edu.

Environmental Writing Contest: "Exploring Solutions, Preserving the Future" Winners Announced!

During the Earth Day festivities, The Working Group Recycling Committee was honored to have MIT Chancellor Phil Clay announce the winners of the environmental writing contest – "Exploring Solutions, Preserving the Future." This is the first environmental writing contest on campus that encouraged

STAFF, as well as students and faculty, to participate.

The first level winner, whose article will be submitted to WorldWatch magazine for possible publication, is Ms. Zehra Ali, for her essay "Preserving eco-systems, water and biodiversity of the earthquake affected areas of North-eastern Pakistan through sustainable reconstruction." Ms. Ali is a third year Mechanical Engineering student and a very active member of the MIT campus.

And the final award, second level winner, goes to Ms. Lynette Cheah for her essay "Care for a little car? - Renaissance of the small car in the U.S. market." Ms. Cheah is a first year PhD candidate in Mechanical Engineering, and she is a student member of the Sloan Automotive Laboratory and of the EBM – Environmentally Benign Manufacturing Group. Ms. Cheah's research tries to determine likely transition scenarios to lighter automobiles, and to measure the environmental impacts of each scenario.

2006 Go Green Awards

Thursday, June 8th
5:30pm – 7pm
The City Hall Annex Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room
344 Broadway, Cambridge

The City of Cambridge will recognize MIT and other Cambridge businesses who have shown extraordinary efforts in waste reduction, energy and transportation. Bruce Gellerman from NPR's Living on Earth is the keynote speaker.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by June 1st to Stephanie Anderberg at sanderberg@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4671.

The second level winner is Ms. Jialan Wang, for her essay "Coffee and newspapers: An economic perspective on conservation at MIT." Ms. Wang is a PhD candidate in Financial Economics at the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management. Her article is going to be recommended for possible publication in Orion magazine. Ms. Wang has published articles in Nature and the Caltech Undergraduate Research Journal.

The WGR would like to thank Dr. Clay for announcing the contest winners at Earth Day, the staff of The Writing Center and the Libraries for assisting essay writers, the distinguished panel of judges, the IAP workshop speakers, and a round of applause for WGR member Nancy Boyce who took the lead in brainstorming, managing, and running this exciting new contest.

Save Money, Save the Environment

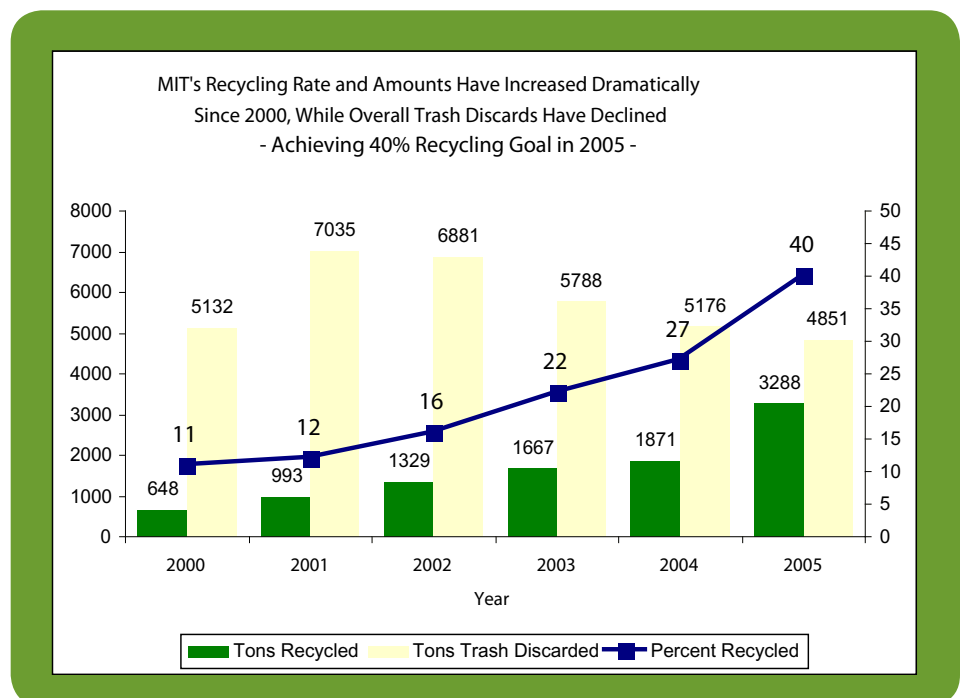
Stata Center, 32-124
Monday, June 19
5pm - 6pm
Free and open to the public and the MIT community



With high energy prices affecting our daily lives and our environment, it is important we find ways to reduce our utility bills and also reduce our environmental impact.

The Sierra Club, a national environmental organization, has put together a thirty minute presentation on how to reduce your home energy bill by half- helping you save money and save the environment!

Check the WGR website for updates: <http://web.mit.edu/wgreycling/>



Recyclemania Winners Announced!

By Debra Sorocco, EHS Program Manager,
Division of Student Life

Thank you to all of you who played a part in making our second year in Recyclemania even more successful than the first. With your help, MIT dorms recycled more than 200,000 pounds of trash over 10 weeks. MIT placed 3rd in the country in the paper recycling competition category! Overall, MIT placed very well in all of the categories of the competition, and we even managed to outshine our neighboring schools in a few categories:

In the Grand Champion Contest, based on recycling rate, MIT placed 13th with a 30.14% dormitory recycling rate. Down river, Harvard fell slightly behind us at 20th place. In the Per Capita Classic, total pounds of recyclables are divided by student population. MIT placed 14th with 39.85 lbs/student recycled. In the Waste Minimization contest, the total amount of trash and recyclables is counted (with lower numbers being rewarded for waste reduction). MIT fared well at 30th, with 132.23 lbs waste/student. Harvard (41st) and Tufts (36th) have a little more trash trimming to do!

At the Earth Day award ceremony, representatives from Edgerton (83.43 lbs/student) and Westgate (48.79 lbs/student) came to claim their cash prizes as the winners of this year's on-campus competition. Kudos to Recycling Coordinators: Barbara Botros, Jason and Jeanette Williams, and House Managers: Trudy Morris, and Michael Collins for leading their dorms to victory!

Please see the results section of the web site for final tallies: <http://web.mit.edu/recyclemania/results.html> 🌱

Did you know?



Catering platters and their lids, plastic plates and utensils are all recyclable at MIT. Simply lift the lid of your local green topped "cans and bottles" bin and drop them in! You do not need to wash

plastic items with food residue on them. Plastic bags are not recyclable at MIT – try your grocery store or the Cambridge DPW Drop Off Center, for Cambridge residents only: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/>

Green Your Summer Vacation!

The Ocean Conservancy has compiled a list of beach tips to help make your next trip relaxing, safe and smart. Please check them out and have fun!



10 Tips for a Great Trip to the Beach

- 1. Use cloth bags instead of disposable plastic bags.** The wind can easily carry disposable bags. Bags floating in water can pose serious risks to wildlife. Sea turtles, for instance, often mistake floating bags for jellyfish and eat them - causing digestion problems and sometimes death.
- 2. Protect yourself from the sun.** Since skin cancer is cumulative to sun exposure, be sure to wear a brimmed hat and sun block with SPF 15 or higher. Special lip balm and UV-protection sunglasses also help. Learn more: check your UV Index.
- 3. Never litter the beach, including fishing line and cigarette butts. Clean up litter when possible.** Litter of any kind can be harmful to humans and wildlife! To counteract litterbugs, bring a bucket and remove litter during your walk on the beach. Bring gloves to protect your hands. Get older children to pitch in, after warning them to stay away from anything dangerous.
- 4. Check the beach water quality, if available, in your location.** Nothing will spoil your trip more than finding out pollution has caused a closure once you've arrived. To learn more, visit www.earth911.org/, or check out local beaches at: <http://www.boston.com/travel/newengland/beaches/summer/livereport/>
- 5. Leave live snails, crabs and starfish where they belong.** While fascinating to see, it's best to observe these creatures carefully -- and then make sure they stay in their natural setting where they belong.
- 6. Discuss water safety with children.** Be sure to review water safety rules with children and remain in plain view of them at all times.
- 7. Bring your snorkel.** There's nothing like checking out what's beneath the surface — it helps us understand the ecosystem better.
- 8. Report suspicious pollution.** If you see or smell any strange pollutants or unusual beach conditions, contact the agencies in charge of the beach right away.

9. Speak up. Help to educate children and other beachgoers. If you see someone litter, tell them how it can affect wildlife - most people don't know.

10. PASS THESE TIPS ON TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS! It's easy to share these useful tips with your friends and family — just forward this newsletter or visit: <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/>

The above reprinted with permission from The Ocean Conservancy's website: <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/>

Green Hotels

Schedule your accommodations to include staying at a green hotel by visiting [The Green Hotels Association](#) which encourages, promotes and supports the greening of the lodging industry. On the web site you will find a listing of many types of local and national lodging facilities, including B&Bs, inns, motels, state parks and large resorts, committed to instituting programs that save water and energy, as well as reduce solid waste. If you have made your reservations already, but don't see your hotel listed, speak with or write to the property's General Manager or Sales Manager regarding the Green Hotels Association. Let them know that you care about the environment and are concerned about the impact of the lodging industry: in creating wastewater from laundering sheets and towels used for only one day. Hoteliers listen to their guests and you will make a difference!

From: http://www.organicweddings.com/wedding_ideas/honeymoon.html

Better World Club: An Environmentally Friendly Alternative to AAA

Better World Club, Inc. is dedicated to balancing economic goals with social and environmental responsibility. Better World Club supports a cleaner environment and alternative modes of transportation. We will provide our customers with high quality, good value and environmentally sensitive products and services:

- Emergency Roadside Assistance (for bicycles as well as vehicles!)
- Travel Products and Services
- Insurance Products and Services

Importantly, we act as an advocate on behalf of the consumer and demonstrate our social and environmental commitment by donating an amount equal to 1% of our annual revenues toward environmental clean-up and advocacy and by providing

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unique eco-friendly travel alternatives. We do not use membership fees to lobby against the Clean Air Act, bike paths or mass transit. Comparison with AAA: http://www.betterworldclub.com/competition/aaa_chart.htm. Better World site: <http://www.betterworldclub.com/>

Green Your Summer Energy Use

The Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance (Mass Energy) is a 22 year-old non-profit organization that advocates and acts in the marketplace on behalf of consumers and the environment. Mass Energy offers discount heating oil and biodiesel heating oil programs serving more than 8,500 households. Mass Energy also offers green electricity options and solar energy services. Mass Energy's advocacy work serves all consumers and their charitable programs benefit low-income households and other nonprofit organizations.

New England GreenStartSM is part of a pro-

gram called GreenUp that is offered by National Grid (formerly known as Massachusetts Electric). New England GreenStartSM allows you to choose renewable, cleaner, healthier electricity right on your National Grid utility bill. New England GreenStart costs an additional 2.4 cents per kWh (about \$10-12 extra per month). Every dollar you spend goes to support renewable energy in New England. In addition, your GreenStart payments are tax deductible and are matched by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to support renewable energy projects in your community and low-income communities in Massachusetts. See: www.massenergy.com and www.cleanenergy-choice.org for more information.

The standard mix of electricity here in New England is 15% coal, 26% nuclear, 38% natural gas, 9% oil, 2% diesel, 2% trash-to-energy, and the remaining 8% a mix of hydro, jet, biomass, and wood. GreenStart gives you the option of choosing 100% lo-

cal, renewable energy in place of this fossil fuel dominated mix.

New England GreenStartSM uses a mix of 1% solar from installations in MA, RI and CT, 75% low-impact-hydro-institute-certified hydro electric power from Maine and Vermont, 1% wind, and 23% landfill gas from Massachusetts.

Unfortunately NSTAR (the supplier in greater-Boston/Cambridge) does not offer a program like National Grid does. (Editor's note: Write to NStar and encourage them to offer New England GreenStartSM.) The good news is, even if NSTAR is your supplier you still have an option to support renewable energy. Mass Energy is launching a program this summer called the New England Wind Fund. Anyone can contribute to the fund. Your tax-deductible contribution will go to support future generation of wind power from wind projects here in Massachusetts and New England. For more information call Mass Energy at 1-800-287-3950. 🌱

Cambridge Recycling Division Looking for Festival 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.

- June 17: Riverfest along the Charles River, noon-6pm
- August 27th (projected date): Caribbean Festival, noon-6pm, Kendall Square

For more information:

Randi Mail,
Director of Recycling
Cambridge Dept of Public Works
617.349.4866
rmail@cambridgema.gov,
[www.cambridgema.gov/
theworks/departments/recycle](http://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. I'm a new employee on campus and I am setting up my office. As a result, I have various paper files and electronic disks to discard. At my last job, I always recycled my paper files and disks. Is there a recycling program on campus?

A. Welcome to MIT! I'm glad that you're interested in recycling because we do have an extensive program on campus with many methods to recycle and reuse items as well as ways to order recycled products.

All kinds of paper and folders can be recycled in the blue bin beside your desk. Old phone books, colored paper, and even files with staples in them can be placed in those desk-side bins. If you need a new bin, contact recycling@mit.edu.

As for CDs, there are several locations on campus where you can recycle them in TechnoTrash bins. These bins are located in the Dreyfus lobby in the Stata Center, the first floor of the Stratton Student Center and the fourth floor of Building 9. In addition, if your office has a lot of technotrash, you can create a local container for your office and when the container is full, contact recycling@mit.edu and someone from Grounds Services will pick it up at no cost to your office. Materials that can be placed in TechnoTrash containers include cell phones and PDAs; diskettes, CDs, DVDs, and tapes; and rechargers and rechargeable batteries. It's fine to include the jewel cases and packaging, too.

Additional information about recycling and TechnoTrash bins can be found on the Department of Facilities website: <http://web.mit.edu/facilities/environmental/reuse.html>

If you have time, check out Reuse at MIT: <http://web.mit.edu/reuse/>. It's a great way to have material reused rather than just throwing it away.

Finally, Office Depot offers a comprehensive selection of products made with recycled materials. Take a look before you order any items and try to order recycled products whenever you can. On Office Depot's MIT page, look for the left-hand side bar; click on the last option listed: "My Shopping Lists" and then "RECYCLED PRODUCTS." Many items made from recycled content are listed here, as well as across the site. If you have a particular item in mind which is not listed on the recycled products list, try performing a search for the item with the word "recycled" after the name of the item. 🌱