

EDUCATION COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

Nancy Earick –District Education Coordinator

The holiday season is quickly approaching and a great time to teach about Recycling. It seems that we all have extra mail, cardboard and wrapping paper during this season. The students at school have been learning about recycling paper and cardboard to help save trees, a renewable natural resource; the importance of recycling number 1 through number 7 plastics, omitting Styrofoam, and what these plastics can be made into and recycling metal and aluminum and how each of these products helps to save our natural resources, by preventing less landfill waste, and helping to save energy.

One hundred seventy four presentations have been made since September at ten different area schools. Many different topics including paper making, landfills, composting and litter prevention have been discussed. Children are learning the importance of non-renewable and renewable resources, landfill waste and pollution in the air and water from unnecessary litter and using nature's waste to restore lost vitamins and minerals to the soils by composting.

Displays have been set up at the Buehler's grocery store and the Ashland County Fairgrounds to help educate the community on changes that have taken place at the Ashland County Recycling Center in the last year. Items that we accept at the Center and drop off locations were heavily stressed in these exhibits.

Posters showing good examples of composting were displayed through art work created by students from the Black River School District at the fair booth. Working together throughout the community on topics of environmentally good habits was revealed through these posters.

Information has been handed out to the Hillsdale FCCLA, several Boy Scout and Cub Scout groups, Trinity Preschool, and the Ashland County Vocational School to help with the importance of taking care of the environment. These groups are showing initiative to help our environment. The Hillsdale FCCLA continues to have members aid me in teaching at the Hillsdale Elementary School. This enables these high school students to work toward their environmental projects and upcoming contests for their club. Along with the information handed out, recycling collection containers have been distributed to two area schools to help in processing recycling material.

One tour of the Ashland County Recycling Center was given to 52 students and their teachers this fall. Visually seeing how the center works helps these students to better understand the recycling process.

Information still is being circulated on the Adopt-A-Road program. Groups or individuals that have an interest in this program should contact the Recycling Center. This is a great way to help keep our county and township roads litter free throughout Ashland County.

Even with the economic set backs that we have had to face at the Ashland County Recycling Center this past year, the community is still stepping forward with Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. As Kermit the frog would say, "It's cool to be green, doing what's best for our environment."