



706-291-5266

rfrecycl@roman.net

www.romefloydrecycles.org

Fall 2002



Recycling Center celebrates 10th year!

Since the Rome/Floyd Recycling Center opened its doors in September 1992, it has grown by leaps and bounds—from 3 million pounds during the first full year of operation to more than 13 million pounds in 2001.

The #1 reason for its success is *your participation* in the recycling programs now offered here in Rome and Floyd County and the continued support of City and County management.

Rome and Floyd County recycling programs now include: curbside



recycling in the City of Rome; drop-off recycling at six Floyd County Remote Collection Sites; drop-off recycling at the Landfill; a free office paper and corrugated box pick-up service for businesses and institutions; and, of course, the Buy-Back/Drop-Off Recycling Center. All of these programs are designed to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfill, reduce the cost of operat-



ing that facility, and extend its life.

In addition to the regular recycling programs, the Recycling Center, the City of Rome, and Floyd County have sponsored numerous collections addressing special wastes, including household hazardous wastes; tires; electronic wastes; and Christmas trees.

One of the most popular features of our program allows residents to bring recyclables



to the Recycling Center and direct the proceeds to their favorite charitable or non-profit organization.

Visit our website, www.romefloydrecycles.org, for more detailed information on these programs and for links to other great recycling sites. You can also e-mail us with questions, suggestions, or requests at rfrecycl@roman.net.

See the back page for materials accepted for recycling, locations, hours, and other program details.

Make every day America Recycles Day!



Recycling does a lot of good! Every time you recycle, you reduce pollution, save energy, conserve resources, and even help create jobs.

On November 15, people all over the country will be celebrating America Recycles Day and pledging to do more to recycle. You can, too. Here are some ideas:

- Tell us about your successful recycling and/or waste reduction programs. As part of our America Recycles Day in Rome celebration, we will be acknowledging and publicizing great programs through our 3rd Annual Recycling and Waste Reduction Awards. This program is designed to recognize those organizations in our



community that have made a commitment to environmental responsibility through recycling and other waste reduction activities. Awards will be presented at 1:30 p.m. on November 15. Please call the Recycling Center, 291-5266, before November 8, 2002 for more information on participating.

- Recycle your old mobile (cellular) phones during the month of November. Did you know that there are more than 2 million mobile phones per week taken out of service? These phones are generally either stuck on a shelf or thrown away in the trash? This number will continue to rise as new technologies make more phones obsolete. These phones contain toxic materials, such as mercury, cadmium, lead, and gallium arsenide, which degrades

into arsenic, that are harmful to the environment. Recycling these phones helps protect our environment and can re-channel them into productive use. If you have the batteries and chargers, bring them with your phone. As long as your phone has been deactivated from service, there are no security or privacy risks with recycling.

The software is changed out before refurbishing. Any phones that are not able to be put back into use are disposed of according to strict environmental regulations.

- Pledge your support for recycling and buying recycled. When you do, you'll be entered to win some great recycled-content prizes, including TREK bicycles and high-tech goodies. Complete and send in the pledge form on this page. Or, pledge online at one of these websites:

www.americarecyclesday.org
www.georgiarecycles.org
www.romefloydrecycles.org



Pledge to recycle! You might win! America will win!

Yes, I want to pledge to make every day America Recycles Day! Here's what I'll do:

- Recycle something I don't currently recycle.
- Recycle more _____.
- Buy recycled-content products.
- Visit a solid waste facility, such as a recycling or composting center or a landfill.
- Invite a speaker to my club or business who will tell us more about recycling and buying recycled.

Name: _____

Organization or business (optional): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

County: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Check here if you are under the age of 18.

Mail this entry form to: Rome/Floyd Recycling, 405 Watters St., Rome, GA 30161.

We must receive your entry form by November 20, 2002. All entries will be forwarded for the state and national America Recycles Day prize drawings.

Please enter me in the random drawing. One entry per person. No purchase necessary. Your name and address will be kept confidential.

Remember to bring your old mobile (cellular) phone to the Recycling Center during the month of November to help us celebrate America Recycles Day in Rome. For more information, please call the Recycling Center at 291-5266.



Fighting the paper tiger

Each year, the U.S. Postal Service's 293,000 letter carriers each deliver about 17.8 *tons* of unsolicited mail to you and your neighbors. By most estimates, nearly half of this mail is never even opened by the recipient. Lighten your letter carrier's load this year and save yourself time and waste. Reducing your volume of unsolicited mail may reduce your risk of identity theft, as well.

To fight the paper tiger in your mailbox, be proactive. Ask not to have your name and address sold, traded, or rented. When you apply for a credit card, order a product, fill out a warranty card, or donate money, check the box that says "Please do not provide my name or address to other organizations." If there is no box, write this message in large letters.

If you receive catalogs that do not interest you, call the toll-free numbers provided and ask to be removed from the mailing lists. If you don't want to call, you might e-mail your request through the company's website or mail a letter or postcard to the address provided in the catalog. The information on the catalog label will help the company identify you; include a copy of the label, along with your signature and the date, with mailed requests. Use this same method to eliminate duplicate catalog mailings.

Call your existing credit card companies and ask them not to rent, trade, or sell your name and address. The same is true for online vendors and services that you use regularly. Most websites give you the option of setting your privacy preferences. However, these are often "opt-out" not "opt-in," meaning that information about you is made available to other vendors or list managers unless you specifically ask that it not be. If you cannot easily find and reset your privacy options, e-mail the customer service or general e-mail address provided to request instructions. While you're at it, ask them to make it easier to opt out!

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) keeps a "delete" file that it makes available to

its members four times a year. This is a list of people who have asked to be removed from unsolicited mailing lists. Your name will remain on the list for five years. To register your name with the mail preference service, send your name and all of its variations, along with your complete address, the date, and your signature, to the DMA at the following address:

DMA Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

Each member of your family or household who receives "junk mail" will need to complete and send in a request. Or, you can register by completing an online form at the DMA website, www.dmaconsumers.org/offmailinglist.html (click on the "registration form" link). You can print a mail-in form for no charge. Or, you can use their online service, which is \$5 per name. (If you want to limit the number of unsolicited telephone sales calls and/or e-mails that you receive, the DMA also provides these services. Look for details at the website www.dmaconsumers.org.)

Credit bureaus provide names and addresses to credit card and insurance companies, banks, and financial institutions, among others. You may request that credit bureaus remove your name from their direct marketing files. Four of the largest agencies—Equifax, Experian, Innovis, and Trans Union—share an automated "opt-out" line that you can call to request removal. Dial 1-888-5-OPTOUT (567-8688) or 1-800-353-0809 and follow the prompts. You will be asked to provide name and address information, as well as your Social Security Number, which they already have anyway. Your name will be removed from marketing files for two years. If you want to be removed permanently, they will mail you a form that you must complete and return.

You won't be able to eliminate the paper tiger, but you may be able to tame it. Start now.



Meet nature's decomposers

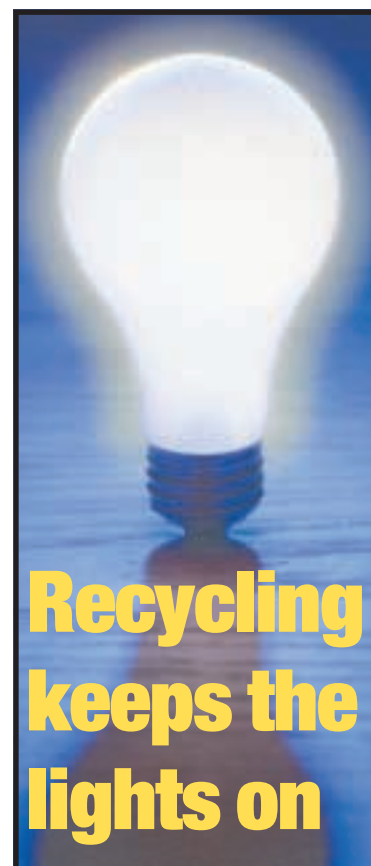
The organic materials in your compost pile don't biodegrade on their own. They need oxygen and water, but that's not all. The work in the compost pile is done by nature's decomposers.

Macroorganisms in the compost pile include lots of things that you can see—such as insects and earthworms. Worms eat through decaying organic matter in a compost pile, digest the molds and other organisms, and excrete nutrient-rich castings. In addition, they create passageways that allow air and water to get inside the pile, creating more surface area for microorganisms. Several other insects help worms. Millipedes feed on dead plant matter. Sowbugs or pillbugs eat woody materials that are not attractive to other residents of the pile.

The microorganisms in the pile usually can't be seen without a microscope. These include bacteria and fungi. Microorganisms work on smaller pieces in the pile, multiplying rapidly on the surface area of organic materials when adequate air and moisture are present. The bacteria secrete enzymes that help break down the organic materials. Fungi get nutrients from dead plant matter and generally complete the work begun by bacteria in the pile.

In general, macroorganisms work on the pile when temperatures inside are cooler. As an active pile heats up, the insects and worms tend to leave it to the microorganisms, especially those bacteria adapted to work best at high temperatures. In a passive pile, which stays cooler during the process, both types of organisms work together throughout.

Want to know more about how composting works? Visit the library, search the Internet, or contact us.



- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- Recycling a 1-gallon plastic milk jug will save enough energy to keep a 100-watt light bulb burning for 11 hours.
- Recycling 1 pound of steel conserves enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for 26 hours.
- Recycling a 1-foot high stack of newspapers saves enough electricity to heat a home for 17 hours.
- One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television or computer for 3 hours or a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours.

Source: Washington State Recycling Association. For details, visit the website www.wsra.net/b4_hottopics.asp.

Americans made it a great cleanup

The 2002 Great American Cleanup, sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, was the largest ever, mobilizing more than 2.3 million volunteers from almost 14,000 communities nationwide. The 30,000-plus projects undertaken by these volunteers targeted areas of greatest need in communities large and small, urban and rural, improving the quality of life and the environment in which citizens live, work, and play.

During the Great American Cleanup, more than 110 million pounds of litter and

debris were collected. Nearly 66,000 miles of roads, streets, and highways were cleared. More than 80,000 acres of parks were cleaned. In excess of 377,000 tires were collected.

And that's not all! The efforts didn't stop with cleaning up, but included beautification as well, with more than two million trees, flowers, and bulbs planted.



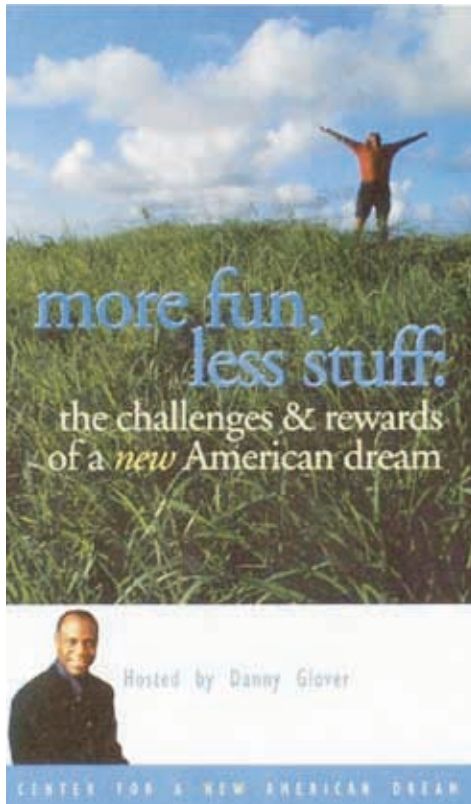
More Fun, Less Stuff

Do you ever wonder if more is really better? Have you ever cleaned out a cabinet—and regretted the purchase of several never-used items? Do you spend your time off stressed about all of your “necessary” shopping errands? Have you ever passed on activities with friends or family members because you were too busy buying or caring for material goods?

More Fun, Less Stuff: The Challenges and Rewards of a New American Dream is an entertaining, informative look at the hidden costs of the “more is better” definition of the American dream. Hosted by actor Danny Glover, this 30-minute video features inspiring profiles of individuals, companies, and organizations that are changing the way they consume to improve their quality of life, protect the environment, and promote social justice. Families, students, civic leaders, businesses, and organizations will learn how to make a difference by watching this video.

Copies of the tape are \$12 each from the Center for a New American Dream. You may order online at www.newdream.org/publications/video.html, by calling 301-891-ENUF (3683), by faxing 301-891-3684, or by writing to the Center for a New American Dream, 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 900, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Remember—if you buy the video, be sure to share it with friends, relatives, neighbors, and classmates or co-workers. Put the “less stuff” motto to work—one copy of the video will go a long way!



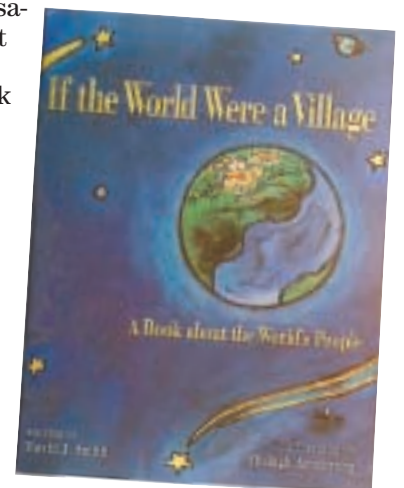
If the world were a village

Looking for some good conversation? Want to know more about what the world and its people are like? Look for the new book *If the World Were a Village: A Book About the World's People*, written by David J. Smith and illustrated by Shelagh Armstrong (Kids Can Press, 2002).

The book asks readers to imagine the world with only 100 inhabitants and then describes nationalities, native languages, ages, religious practices, schooling, food, and more. For instance, did you know that 76 of the people in this village go to bed hungry at least some of the time? Of the 100 inhabitants, 25 do not have access to safe water and 40 do not have adequate sanitation services. Only seven have computers.

This book is designed to help children understand our world, but adults will find it interesting—and educational—as well. The book also contains suggestions for discussion and a reference and resource list.

One word of caution—this book will make you think!



If you are ready to ease into reuse, here's a great place to begin—shopping bags. For most consumers, a trip to the store means wondering what to do with a new pile of bags when you return home. These bags are a great place to start the reuse habit. Here are some things you can do:

- Turn down the bag—especially when you are getting only one or two items. You can say, “No thanks, I’ll just carry that.” Or, go a step further and spread the word about reducing waste by saying, “I’ll take it without a bag—no need to create extra waste.”
- BYOB—bring your own bags! Whether you reuse old paper grocery bags, plastic shopping bags, canvas bags, string carriers, or a backpack, you

can provide your own containers to transport items home. While this might sound like more work, think of all the time you’ll save by not dealing with the stores’ bags after you put everything away!

- Mark every paper grocery bag with three boxes. Each time you reuse the bag, check a box. Don’t even think of getting rid of it until you’ve checked all three boxes. You can reduce your use of paper bags by at least two-thirds by doing this!
- Reuse plastic shopping bags as lunch or shopping bags. These bags make good holders for wet swim suits and clothes. Use them to hold muddy shoes or boots to keep your car or backpack clean. On trips, pack shoes, shampoo, and, on the return trip, dirty clothes into used plastic shopping bags. Turn those that you can’t use into trash can liners or recycle them at retail stores that offer plastic bag recycling.
- Keep a canvas bag or two in your family car. Hang another over a door knob in your room. Keep a few on hooks near the back door. When you have these bags handy, you’ll be more likely to grab one for the library books you want to return or the milk and bread you need to pick up from the convenience store.

Now and then

Did you ever wonder what recyclables become? There are thousands of products made using recycled and reclaimed materials. Here are just a few examples:

Now	Then
Milk jug.....	Plastic lumber
Soft drink bottle.....	Fleece fabric
Cardboard box	Cardboard box
Tire.....	Playground mulch
Steel food can.....	Appliance
Major appliance.....	Steel food can
Aluminum can	Aluminum can
Laundry detergent bottle	Speed bump
Auto part.....	Cast aluminum furniture
Glass bottle.....	Glass jar
Newspaper.....	Cereal box
Mattress foam.....	Carpet cushioning
Copy paper.....	Stationery
Wood pallet.....	Furniture
Glass bottle.....	Decorative glass tile
Denim.....	Pencil
Water bottle	Window cleaner bottle
Motor oil.....	Motor oil



Photo courtesy of BARCO Products Company, www.barcoproducts.com.



Photo courtesy of AZCAST Products, www.azcast.com.

Learn more about what your favorite products have been. Read labels, looking for recycled-content symbols and statements such as “post-consumer content.” Seek information from manufacturers and trade associations, most of which have websites. Search for printed data at the library. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website also provides lots of helpful links about recycled-content products. Go to www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/buyrec.htm#list.

Keep in mind that many products are both recycled-content and recyclable, such as cardboard boxes and steel cans. For instance, the newsprint in this newsletter contains about 70-percent post-consumer recycled paper—plus it’s recyclable after you’ve read it.

Whenever possible, shop for recycling—buy recycled, and then recycle!



Photo of Fortrel EcoSpun courtesy of Wellman, Inc., www.wellmaninc.com.

Taxing TOTES

Recently, the Irish Republic put a “green” tax on plastic shopping bags to attempt to reduce plastic bag litter and encourage reuse of sturdy bags. In the first three months, the tax raised \$3.48 million—and reduced the use of plastic bags by more than 90 percent!

Prior to instituting the tax, the Irish government estimated that Ireland’s 3.7 million citizens were using 1.2 billion plastic shopping bags each year.



**“ReRe” says...
Recycling Is Smart!
Please Do
Your Part!**

“ReRe” is available to attend your events. “ReRe” is also seeking volunteers to help spread the word about Rome/Floyd Recycling efforts. Call the Recycling Center at 291-5266 to schedule a visit or to volunteer to be “ReRe.”

Curbside recycling for Rome city residents

If you live in the city of Rome, you can recycle all of these materials at the curb:

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jars
- Newspapers and magazines
- Paperboard packaging, such as cereal boxes (put in PAPER bag)
- Junk mail, catalogs, mixed paper (put in plastic bag and tie shut)
- Corrugated boxes (once a month only; wet boxes are OK)

Please call 236-4580 for information and collection days.



For sake of leaf and limb



City of Rome

The City of Rome collects two types of yard waste on a regular basis from the curb:

- Limbs and branches up to 8 feet long and weighing no more than 200 pounds total
- Leaves, pine straw, grass clippings, and similar items

Except during leaf season (usually November through January), these items

are picked up from the curb once a week. During leaf season, collections are every two to three weeks because of higher material volumes.

Limbs are chipped and turned into mulch, which is made available to residents. If you load your own mulch, it is free. You may pay a fee to have mulch loaded for you. Mulch can be picked up at the City Public Works area on Vaughn Road, Thursdays and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To learn more about backyard composting, visit the Compost Demonstration Site at the Rome/Floyd Library.

Floyd County

From November through January, Floyd County collects leaves in certain areas. Call Dennis Rush at Floyd County Public Works, 236-2477, for more detailed information.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

We are also available to speak to clubs and organizations about solid waste, waste reduction, recycling, and composting.

Rome/Floyd Recycling

405 Watters Street

Rome, GA 30161

706-291-5266

rfrecycl@roman.net

www.romefloydrecycles.org

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70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS CONTENT, USING SOY INKS

Please recycle this publication after you have read it!

Recycling Center

405 Watters Street, Rome

Open: Tuesday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

We **pay** for these materials, if they are **clean and sorted**:



- Aluminum cans, foil, baking dishes
- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs
- Newspapers, including inserts
- Office paper, including letters, folders, copy paper, and envelopes (shredding for confidential paper available by appointment at no charge)
- Corrugated boxes



We **accept** the following materials:

- Steel cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Paperboard packaging, such as cereal and snack cracker boxes
- Junk mail, mixed paper, catalogs, phone books, magazines
- Hard- and soft-backed books
- Appliances
- Household and automotive batteries
- Motor oil and antifreeze
- Paper and plastic bags



Additional items accepted:

- Scrap steel and aluminum
- Fluorescent bulbs and ballasts
- Cellular/mobile phones
- #6 plastic foam, such as egg cartons and foam cups
- Plate glass, such as window panes
- Paint (from residents only, 10-gallon limit)

Please drain and rinse containers. All paper items (except corrugated boxes) must be dry.



Recycling reminder!

At the Recycling Center, we also have a 24-hour drop-off area to provide convenient recycling for all of the recyclables listed above **except** motor oil, antifreeze, paint, and fluorescent bulbs. These items need to be brought during open hours. This area is intended for the listed recyclables **ONLY**.

Many times, in an effort not to throw away “stuff,” residents leave inappropriate and non-recyclable items in this drop-off area. Particularly troublesome are items leftover from yard sales, from basement and garage clean-outs, as well as other miscellaneous junk. These are not items that the Recycling Center can ship for recycling.

Inappropriate materials must be thrown away, and the Recycling Center ends up footing the bill for the landfill charges. These costs are considerable and affect our ability to run an efficient and cost-effective program. Please confine your use of this drop-off area to the recyclable items listed.

Remote Recycling Sites

All Remote Recycling Sites accept household garbage and these **recyclables**:

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Newspapers and magazines (keep dry)
- Corrugated boxes
- Paperboard packaging, such as cereal and snack cracker boxes
- Automotive batteries

The Remote Recycling Sites are located as follows:

- Cave Spring, 101 Kings Bridge Road
- Hatfield, 488 Jones Mill Road
- Silver Creek, 774 Old Rockmart Highway
- Shannon, Todd Street, next to Fire Station
- Potts, 182 Potts Road, off Wayside Road
- Berryhill, 434 Berryhill Road

“Bring One for the Chipper”



Christmas Tree Recycling

Saturday, January 4, 2003
Home Depot parking lot

Sponsored by
Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful
Executive Director Mickie Dobbs
236-4456

Please note: The Berryhill site accepts all of the materials listed above, plus junk mail, catalogs, mixed paper, phone books, paperback books, and #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jars.

For information and hours of operation, please call 236-2495.

All City and County Residents may drop off materials at the Walker Mountain Landfill Recycling site, 433 Walker Mountain Road. This site is open Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 291-4512 for materials accepted and other details.