



## **Clinton County Department of Waste Management**

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## **Help Grow Resource Recovery and Conservation in Clinton County!**

Get involved with volunteer and service learning opportunities!

The Clinton County Department of Waste Management (DWM) strives to support and grow resource recovery and conservation activities in the county. A wide range of education and outreach programs to promote and foster conservation values are offered to the public. Services are also available to help residents and businesses reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and properly dispose of problem waste materials. Assistance from the community is critical to the success of these efforts! Clinton County DWM hopes to partner with local high school teachers and students to help with special collection events, and also develop community service projects as discussed in this flyer. Please consider getting involved! To register to volunteer or discuss a service learning project idea, please call or email Clinton County Waste Management Coordinator Cara Clore at 989-224-5187 or clorec@clinton-county.org.

### **Benefits of Volunteering & Service Learning**

Volunteering provides the opportunity to enjoy new experiences, meet new people, learn new skills, and put ideas and talents to work. Service learning takes these benefits a step further; students not only provide an important service to the community, they are also presented with distinct opportunities to advance their own knowledge and understanding of a particular issue.

### **Special Collection Events**

Each year the county facilitates special single day events to provide services that are not otherwise available to the community. At this time, assistance is needed for the events listed below. Volunteers usually work a three hour shift, and primarily help to unload participant's vehicles. More information on volunteer duties, work shifts, etc. is provided when registering with the department to volunteer.

- March 24 Books & More! Reuse and Recycling Event, St. Johns
- March 25 Books & More! Reuse and Recycling Event, DeWitt Township
- April 10 Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Distribution Event
- April 24 Clean Community Event in St. Johns
- Date TBD Plant Plastics Recycling Event
- September 25, 2010 Clean Community Event in DeWitt Township

### **Education & Information Displays at Community Festivals**

Clinton County DWM seeks student volunteers to help with informational displays at the many community festivals that occur during the summer months around the county. These provide excellent opportunities to educate the public about the programs and services offered to boost reuse, recycling and safe disposal of problem waste materials, as well as raise residents' awareness of key resource recovery and conservation issues. Student volunteers can play a vital role by sponsoring a community festival to participate in! DWM will provide a "stand alone" educational display with informational flyers and brochures that will be set up and staffed by students. Students can supplement the display by selecting a key resource recovery or conservation issue for which to focus on. From there the sky's the limit in terms of efforts students may undertake to raise awareness around the issue they have selected. Teachers and students may also choose to initiate a service learning project in conjunction with the educational display and community festival sponsorship. Clinton County Waste Management

Coordinator Cara Clore and Environmental Educator Kathleen Donahue will work closely with students and/or teachers to provide training on how to host an educational display, and to provide assistance in selecting a focus topic and/or developing a service learning project. A list of potential festivals to get involved with is as follows on the other side of this flyer.

- Westphalia Festival, July 4
- Elsie Dairy Festival, July 10-11
- Fowler Festival, July 24-25
- MSU Extension 4-H Fair , July 27-30
- St. Johns Mint Festival, August 14-16
- DeWitt Ox Roast , August 21-23
- Lamplighter Festival Maple Rapids, August 27-29
- Ovid Carriage Days, September 25-27

### **Service Learning Projects**

Service learning is a process whereby participants learn and develop personal and professional skills through participation in organized service experiences that meet community needs. A critical aspect involves the integration of a service activity, with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities. Service learning offers participants an opportunity to address community needs and at the same time take an active role in educating youth. Examples of a few service learning projects focused resource recovery issues are provided below. The DWM is available to help teachers and students develop project ideas. For more information check out this great website: [www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org)

- Direct students to volunteer at a spring or fall Clean Community Event to see first hand how it's possible that residents have disposed of more than 5,000,000 pounds of material at the events in the last five years. Everything from hazardous and electronic waste to reusable household items and building equipment, scrap metal, tires, junk, and appliances are put to beneficial use or safely disposed of through this program. Instruction and reflection could focus on the technologies available to transform waste into resources, and clean up area communities.
- Set up a recycling program for one or more materials commonly generated at a community festival. Students will work with DWM staff and festival coordinators to establish a successful program. Instruction and reflection could focus on the types of recyclables that are generated and why, challenges that exist to recycling festival waste and how different festival practices can increase resource recovery and decrease waste.
- Get involved with the Friends of the Maple River or the Friends of the Looking Glass River for their annual river monitoring or clean-up and channel clearing projects. Volunteers sign-up for portions of the river, and leave their bagged collections at predetermined road crossings, where they are picked up and taken for landfill disposal. Instruction and reflection could focus on the types of waste materials found and possible sources so that results can be shared with residents in the section of the river where the clean up took place, along with suggestions for reducing pollution from occurring in the future.
- In 2011 the State of Michigan will ban the outdoor burning of residential trash in backyard burn barrels. Students can help develop an education and outreach campaign in their community to raise awareness about the health and environmental dangers from this activity. Instruction and reflection could focus on how the practice of burning trash evolved, why it is more dangerous now than it was in the past, why the practice is no longer necessary, etc.