



Mansfield Recycling Program

OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER, 2008

429-3333

www.mansfieldct.org/publicworks.html

TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE

The weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's - Thursday service will be on Friday and Friday service will be on Saturday.

EXTRA HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE

You may put out extra household garbage on your collection day the week of December 22. Extra garbage does not include bulky items, which should be taken to the transfer station.

CLEAN OUT YOUR MAILBOX

CatalogChoice.org stops the growing stacks of holiday catalogs in your mailbox. Catalog-Choice is a free service that allows you to remove yourself from more than 1,000 catalog mailing lists.

MANSFIELD TODAY

A new publication covering news and events in Mansfield was launched in August 2008. "Mansfield Today" is a privately-sponsored online-only publication; there is no paper version. Check out Mansfield Today at <http://mansfield.htnp.com>. Mansfield Today includes a weekly column on recycling and related news.

P2 VIEW

If you would like to keep abreast of relevant environmental issues, the CT Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Pollution Prevention produces an excellent quarterly newsletter. For a free subscription, contact the editor, Judy Prill at 860-424-3694 or judith.prill@ct.gov.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN

Mansfield celebrated its fifth Festival on the Green, Sunday, September 14, 2008. Once again a concerted effort was made to keep the amount of waste minimal. By recycling cans & bottles and composting, 87% of the day's waste was either composted or recycled.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

The remaining Saturdays that the Willington Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility will be open in 2008 are October 4, 18 & November 1 from 9 am until 2 pm. All residents and small businesses are encouraged to use it. Small businesses should make arrangements with the facility by calling (860) 289-2296.

REUSABLE CANVAS BAGS FOR \$2

Sturdy, large reusable "Mansfield Supports Clean Energy" canvas bags are available in the Public Works office of the Town Hall. The Mansfield Clean Energy Team purchased them for \$6.50 and is selling them for \$2.00.

MAKING YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT PROGRAM

Learn what the most practical steps are to reduce energy consumption in your home by attending a program, hosted by the Town of Mansfield, on Wednesday, October 29, 2008, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Mansfield Town Hall Council Chambers. Presenter Fred Loxsom, Endowed Chair in the Sustainable Energy Studies program at Eastern Connecticut State University, will discuss steps to take to reduce drafts, insulate walls and ceilings, repair or replace windows, lessen electrical loads and maximize the effectiveness of your heating and cooling systems. Pre-register no later than October 27, 2008 by calling the Mansfield recycling coordinator at 429-3333.

**CLEAN ENERGY
GRANTS AVAILABLE**

The Mansfield Clean Energy Team, in partnership with the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, is now soliciting proposals for projects that promote the use of clean energy in Mansfield. Grants ranging from \$250 to \$1,600 are available for projects that help enrollments for clean energy through the CTCleanEnergyOptions program and gain local press coverage. To learn more about the CTCleanEnergyOptions program visit their website at ctcleanenergyoptions.com or contact them at 800-874-9897.

Examples of projects:

- Scout troop sign-up campaign for clean energy
- Community corn maze designed to teach visitors about clean energy
- High school teach-in to raise awareness about the importance of clean energy

If you are interested in receiving an application or would like more information, please contact Virginia Walton at 429-3333 or send an e-mail to waltonvd@mansfieldct.org. Proposals must be submitted by **December 1, 2008**. They will be judged by their creativity and effective outreach to the community.

**IS YOUR ELECTRIC
BILL TOO HIGH**

Inefficient appliances can be a significant contributor to your electric bill. Kill-A-Watt meters are a useful tool for showing how much electricity an appliance uses. Simply plug it into the outlet and the appliance into the meter. The Clean Energy Team has Kill-A-Watt meters available for loan. If you are interested in borrowing one, call 429-3333.

**BEWARE OF
PHANTOM LOADS**

Phantom or vampire loads come from appliances that are sucking up the juice even when turned off or not in use. Appliances have "standby power" to support features such as instant-on, remote control, channel memory and LED clock displays. TVs, for example, are still consuming about 75% of their wattage when turned "off." To find these sources of phantom power in your home, walk around and count how many battery and cell phone chargers you have. Then count up the number of appliances with remote controls, digital displays, rechargeable batteries, and soft-touch keypads. The average American home has between 5 and 10 appliances with these standby power features. That accounts for about 5% of residential electricity use—meaning that U.S. consumers spend over 4 billion dollars on standby power every year. Nearly 2.5 billion electrical products just in the U.S. contain external power supplies, a block-like appendage attached to the power cord (also known as a "wart"). The wart converts AC, or alternating current (the kind sent over high-voltage lines) into low-voltage DC or direct current (the kind we use for electronic circuits). Touch the wart and you can feel the heat that is wasted in this conversion. The problem with these power supplies is that by design they are very inefficient and power conversion is always taking place, even when the appliance is not being used. What you can do to stop phantom power is unplug your battery and cell phone chargers when not in use. Connect your computer, TV and DVD player to power strips. The power strip can be turned off, effectively stopping the flow of electrons through the system, curtailing the phantom power loss. Note: Be sure to check with your service provider to see if they recommend turning off the power to equipment such as cable multimedia terminals. Some of these devices have a battery back up that could be drained, triggering a trouble report to your service provider.

"Phantom Loads" reprinted from P2 View, a newsletter published by the CT Dept. of Environmental Protection.