

THE GREENSCENE

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Issue #13

CREATING THE FUTURE FOR THE KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY

Sponsored by Security Lumber Company, Aqua Illinois, and Belson Steel,

Why recycling is important

This issue of *Green Scene* will focus on the three "Rs" - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. But there's actually another "R" - RETHINK. We need to approach everything we do from a new perspective. As the Ecology Center at Berkley says, "If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, resold, recycled or composted then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production."

Both at home and at work, recycle your newspapers, beverage containers, paper and other goods. Purchase products in containers that can be recycled and items that can be repaired or reused. Use rechargeable batteries and be sure to recycle them when they are worn out. Use safer "green cleaning" products and buy them in refillable containers. Reduce, reuse, and recycle at work by using two-sided printing and copying; buying supplies made with recycled content; and recycling used printer and toner cartridges. See if you can "go paperless" by using electronic messaging and filing techniques.

In addition, support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled materials. Reducing, reusing, and recycling in your home and at work helps conserve energy and reduces pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing, and disposal.

Where can we take it?

All sorts of things can and should be recycled. It's the right thing to do. In some cases, cash or other incentives may result from your recycling effort. Please call these sites to get further information about materials accepted and other conditions. Here are some options available in our area - there may be others as well!

"Conventional Recyclables" - (plastic, paper, glass, aluminum, etc.)

- Use your community's program
- If you don't have one, consider taking them to River Valley Recycling

Scrap metals (steel, copper, etc.)

- River Valley Recycling (815/928-8400)
- Belson Steel Scrap (815/932-7416)

Batteries - here are some options:

- Interstate Batteries in Bradley takes all types (815/802-1083)
- Best Buy stores (815/939-0091) and Menards (815/936-4107) accept all types
- Radio Shack (815/939-0091) and Lowes (815/933-5555) stores accept rechargeable batteries and some others

Printer, toner and ink cartridges

- Staples has a rewards program (815/932-0705)
- Office Max also has an incentive plan (815/928-8804)
- Walgreens will refill or recycle your ink cartridges (815/932-9615) CDs and DVDs
- These can be recycled for free. Go to www.cdrecyclingforfree.com for information and recyclers

Wooden pallets

Enterprise Pallets (815/933-7114)

Electronic waste

- There are two public drop off sites: Kankakee Public Works and Bradley Public Works for details contact KRMA at 815/933-0444
- Office Max accepts laptops and printers
- Best Buy will take computer components and electronic entertainment systems
- River Valley Recycling accepts e-waste

Cell phones

- Locally, Harbor House accepts donations of cell phones. Call them at 815-432-3500 for details and locations.
- Best Buy will recycle your cell phone

Prescription drugs

- Don't flush or throw away your old, unwanted prescription drugs!
- Take them to one of 11 area police facility drop-off sites: Bradley, Bourbonnais, Kankakee, Grant Park, Aroma Park, Momence, St. Anne, Herscher, Manteno, or Kankakee County Sheriff's Department (2 sites)



New RVR Facility Second Kankakee site to open

Just over five months ago, River Valley Recycling underwent major changes as the company experienced the loss of one of its facilities in the Kankakee area. The company's Grinnell location was reduced to rubble just hours after a fire had started. Thankfully, everyone was evacuated from the building and no one was hurt.

Since then, River Valley Recycling has hit the ground running with plans to exceed the overall volume of recyclables processed in 2012 compared to previous years. With the support of its customers and the community, River Valley Recycling is proud to announce plans to open an additional facility located just down the street from where the Grinnell building stood.

The new location, known as the Hobbie facility, is expected to be open this spring. Just like the Grinnell location, the new Hobbie facility will feature an indoor drive-thru center where customers can conveniently pull in, unload, and get paid cash for their recyclables. Some of the many items that RVR will buy include: aluminum, copper, brass, steel, stainless steel, cardboard, paper, machinery, farm equipment, and other scrap metals. The facility will also accept but not pay for recyclable glass and plastic.

Remember, as of January 1, 2012, no electronics are permitted to enter landfills. River Valley Recycling is a great place to drop off those used and unwanted electronics. For a small fee, RVR provides data destruction services that guarantee the removal of all data from the hard drives. For a list of electronics that are accepted, visit the website at www.RiverValleyRecycling.net.

River Valley Recycling is dedicated to helping communities convert materials into a reusable form and to reduce the burden on landfills. By teaming up with organizations, River Valley Recycling has been able to help raise money for charities which assist those in need. Discover why River Valley Recycling is the premier recycling company in Kankakee, Iroquois County, and North Aurora. Let River Valley Recycling help you prepare for a greener tomorrow!

For more information please contact:

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For editorial content opportunities

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FEATURED Business

Interstate Batteries® Having built a reputation for top-quality products, business innovations and consistently reliable service, Interstate Batteries® is the No. 1 replacement brand battery in North America.

The company also takes pride in being one of the top battery collectors and recyclers in the United States. In 2011, Interstate recycled more than 900 million pounds of lead-acid batteries. With a distribution network of about 200,000 battery dealers, Interstate created a kind of reverse distribution system allowing customers to return spent batteries to the same places they would buy them. It's an easy way for customers to recycle the valuable materials and plastic to battery manufacturers.

Interstate's dealers sell batteries for cars, RVs, lawn mowers, boats and motorcycles directly to customers, and a growing number of them also can also serve power needs for laptops, cellphones, hearing aids, mobility scooters and wheel chairs, forklifts and backup power for telecommunications and industrial needs. In total, the company sells more than 16,000 types of batteries to suit almost any power need and stays committed to protecting and preserving the environment by recycling them for customers.



Whether in a residential, commercial or industrial setting, all batteries must be properly handled and processed after their useful life in accordance with regulatory standards. Interstate's experienced distributors closely follow federal and state regulations to safely transport and package batteries bound for the recycling smelters.

The company got its start in 1950 as a one-man operation, selling and delivering car batteries to wholesalers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area from the back of a Studebaker truck. By the 1980s, Interstate had distributors in all 50 states and Canada. In the 1990s, the company became associated with NASCAR racing. As founding sponsor of Joe Gibbs Racing®, Interstate Batteries won the prestigious Sprint Cup Championship in 2000 with Bobby Labonte driving the No. 18® car.

Today, Interstate Battery System International has 1,600 employees nationwide in various business departments that include local franchising, recycling, battery distribution and industrial power solutions.

The local Interstate All Battery Center® and distributorship is 250 S. Kinzie Ave. in Bradley, Ill., available at 815.802.1083.

To learn more about Interstate Batteries, visit interstatebatteries.com.

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KCC to host 4th Annual Sustainability EXPO

Wednesday, April 25th is the date for this year's EXPO at Kankakee Community College. The event will run from Noon – 6:00 p.m. and will showcase 40 or more exhibitors of various equipment, assistance programs as well as goods and services focused on energy efficiency and sustainability issues. There will be electric vehicles from local auto dealers, a solar powered trimaran vessel, small scale wind turbines, an electric boat, and a return of the Energy Wall which demonstrates various energy efficient building techniques. There will also be an exhibit of "Recycled Art" by area grade school students. As always, the event is free and open to the public.



What do we do with E-Waste?

"E-Waste" is a shorter version of the term, electronic waste, which is used to refer to the numerous electronic gadgets that we have all come to depend on for entertainment, communication, data manipulation and information storage. Besides the sheer volume of this component of the waste stream, there are hazardous materials contained in them: there's Lead, Arsenic, Selenium, Polybrominated flame retardants, Cadmium, Chromium, Cobalt, and Mercury. It is now illegal in Illinois to dispose of such items in your trash, so you ask what should we do?

Fortunately, there are some options for proper e-waste disposal available to those of us living in the Kankakee area. You may be able to "turn in" your old equipment for recycling where you purchase your new gadget, so be sure to ask about this option when you buy! Then there are two public drop-off sites in the Kankakee Area which have been available for use for about five years. And they are popular- the current e-waste recycling contractor provided the following information regarding the materials collected at the two sites: In about 13 months, 179,872 lbs. (89.94 tons) of material were collected at the drop-off sites. About 29,314 lbs. (14.66 tons) of it was computers and another 59,095 lbs. (29.55 tons) was unwanted TV sets. The remaining 91,463 lbs. (45.73 tons) was made up of monitors, copiers, printers, and other miscellaneous electronics. For more about these two sites and other disposal options, see the recycling list elsewhere in this issue.

Career Corner

Kyle Bruno,
Owner / Partner
River Valley Recycling



There's truth to the old adage "one man's trash is another man's treasure." Kyle Bruno is one of three partners in two successful local businesses which validate the old saying. Both take used, discarded materials and convert them into valuable resources. The businesses are K.B. Cores and River Valley Recycling, located at the former Riverwoods facility on SouthTec Drive on the south side of Kankakee. K.B. Cores is a fully licensed auto salvage yard which deals in used automotive parts such as engine blocks and transmissions while River Valley Recycling collects, processes and recycles all types of metals, paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, and electronic wastes from industrial, commercial and residential sources.

Kyle grew up in the "Beverly neighborhood" on Chicago's south side and moved to rural St. Anne where he currently resides, when his business moved to Kankakee in 1999. Kyle began his "trash to treasure" odyssey in sustainable materials back in 1981 after completing automotive technician training at Greer Tech in Chicago. He took a position with a private auto remanufacturing business in the suburbs as a disassembler and then became responsible for locating and purchasing used engines and transmissions for the company. In 1993, with encouragement from his previous employer, he decided to establish his own business K.B. Cores, and set up shop in Melrose Park. He, along with his previous employer now a partner, became a supplier of used engine and transmission cores to automotive rebuilders nationwide. In 1998, the Melrose Park site was taken by "eminent domain" when the I-290 and 25th Avenue interchange was expanded. After looking at sites in Kenosha, Racine, Gary and Rockford, K.B. Cores was relocated in November 1999 to the SouthTec Drive site in Kankakee. All was going well at the new Kankakee location until April 20, 2004 when a tornado struck and heavily damaged the building. Bruno was unable to find a local way to recycle any of the scrap material and debris resulting from the storm damage and aftermath. So, he loaded a couple of trailers and using his contacts in the business, was able to sell most of the material to scrap dealers in the Chicago area. It was this experience which was the genesis of River Valley Recycling, which now provides a broad spectrum of recycling services locally at the original SouthTec Drive site as well as one in Iroquois county on Route 24 near Watseka. A new site was recently opened in North Aurora and a second Kankakee facility will be opened this spring on Hobbie Avenue to replace the Grinnell Road operation which was lost a few months ago in a fire.

The Kankakee area is very fortunate to have the recycling services provided by Mr. Bruno and his partners available locally through these two companies. Having a local, convenient recycling facility makes it easier to divert materials from unnecessary landfill disposal.

Events

SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Greening Your Curriculum

An Online Course to assist educators in their efforts to identify and incorporate Sustainability principles into their courses. Taught by KCC's Jessica Fehland, the course is a two-week 15 hr., online class and 1.0 CEU or 15 CPDUs will be awarded upon completion. For more information contact Bert Jacobson at 815/802-8242. To register contact Grace Conway at 815/802-8207.

Kankakee County Extension Office programs

All classes are held at the U of I Extension Office located at 1650 Commerce Drive, Bourbonnais. Call 815/933-8532 for more information and registration.

Companion Planting

Thursday, March 22, Webinar at 1:00 p.m.

Tasty Tuesdays

Popular cooking demonstrations and tasting classes (10:30 – Noon)
Presented by Drusilla Banks, MS, Nutrition and Wellness educator

Exploring Preparation of the First Produce of Spring – March 27, 2012

Cooking With Herbs and Spices – May 8, 2012

What's in Season? – June 26, 2012

Green Drinks

Kankakee events are scheduled for Kankakee River North restaurant at 555 S. West Ave. Kankakee, Illinois starting at 6:00 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.



March 27 – "Birds, Bees, and Butterflies"

Provide the Habitat and They Will Come" A panel of local experts will discuss the benefits of attracting these creatures to your homes and gardens. Panel: Jed Hertz – Audubon Society, John Bailey – bee keeper, Joanne Hilliker – Home Extension Master Gardener.

April 24 – Film showing at KCC during Sustainability Week

"Green Fire- Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time" - 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. KCC Conference Hall, Rm. D140

May 22 – Can We Ever Reach Zero Net Energy Use in Our Buildings?"

Darren Meyers, president of International Energy Conservation Consultants, LLC will discuss the newly adopted IECC codes and how compliance with them will improve the heating and cooling efficiency of buildings.

For Summer – A Special Series About the Kankakee Bioregion

June 26 – "Indiana's Kankakee Sands and Illinois' Black Oak Savannah

July 24 – "Toxic to Treasures", converting Brownfield sites to nature parks

August 28 – "Discovering Our Bioregion", the significance of the Kankakee Bioregion

Other Sustainability programs

Full, 72-Hr. Permaculture Design Certification Course

March 25 – 31, 2012 At the National Arbor Day Farm & Lied Lodge Nebraska City, NE. For more information see www.midwestpermaculture.com Center for Sustainable Community (CSC) and Midwest Permaculture (MWP)

Two 13-Week Work-Study Internship Trainings

(With Possible Extensions)

Work/Study Period #1 – April 4 – July 3, 2012; Work/Study Period #2 – July 7 – Oct. 6, 2012. Available to 3-4 students for each training period.

For more information see www.centerforsustainablecommunity.org.



Green Byte:

We need to quit the bottled water habit!

It's expensive and it's not environmentally sound. Bottled water is a \$14.4 billion market, achieved over decades of marketing which justified the expense by claiming it is cleaner, healthier, and better tasting than tap water. But experts say most bottled water comes from municipal supplies – not some pristine spring in the mountains!

But it's "safer" right? More than 90 percent of U.S. water systems meet all EPA regulatory limits and standards. Municipal suppliers are required to issue water quality reports every year to document their compliance. But only 30 to 40 percent of bottled water sold across state lines is monitored by the Food & Drug Administration.

Tap water costs an average of about a penny per gallon. At \$1 for 16 ounces, a gallon of bottled water costs \$8! And we complain about gas prices! If you don't like the way your tap water tastes, filter systems are available to remove certain chemicals and minerals which impart a flavor to tap water. Filtering your own tap water is still much cheaper than buying it bottled.

And then there's the issue of producing and disposing plastic bottles! It takes 3 liters of water to produce every one liter bottle sold – the water in the bottle and about 2 liters to produce the bottle! The Container Recycling Institute indicates that in the U.S. alone, we consume 34.6 billion plastic bottles per year, and 8 of 10 of them are not recycled. This is a significant environmental issue!

So let's get off the bottle! Use a refillable container and drink tap water – filtered if you must!

Eight out of 10 plastic water bottles end up in landfills.



Drink tap water for a better environment.

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