

IN THE LOOP!

Free newsletter of MassRecycle, the Massachusetts Recycling Coalition

Issue #12, December 2011

Turn Your Trash to Cash

By Kristina Greene, MassRecycle Volunteer



You reduce, reuse, recycle, and possibly compost as much as you can. Have you looked at what is left in your trash can? Most likely there are potato chip bags, used up pens, or granola bar wrappers. Wouldn't it be great if you could recycle those too?

Well you can! These items can be sent to TerraCycle, an upcycling and recycling company with a unique point of view. They want to "Outsmart Waste."

TerraCycle works with large companies such as Frito-Lay, Nabisco, and Capri Sun to "Eliminate the idea of waste." They collect over 40 different waste items generated by these companies including chip bags, energy bar wrappers, candy wrappers, old writing instruments, drink pouches, and yogurt containers. They upcycle them into eco-friendly products. As you know, these items are either not accepted in any curbside recycling programs (i.e. the chips bags) or only accepted in certain ones (yogurt containers are typically made from #5 plastic which is not accepted in all curbside programs).

Any group, individual, or business can sign up to collect and send items to TerraCycle. The group chooses which items they will collect. It can be a single item or all of the items. The shipping is free and, for most items, 2 cents per item is donated to the school or charity of your choice. These items are turned into backpacks, tote bags, and pencil cases displaying the well-known packaging. Other items are used to make picture frames, floor tiles, plastic lumber, and flower pots to name just a few of their products. You can choose one of the existing charities

See next page for more >>

Join Us and WIN!

Join MassRecycle or renew your membership in December and win two tickets to a Bruins game on March 27!

www.massrecycle.org/join.html



Local TerraCycle Groups:

Westford, MA – The Upcycle It! program, run by Sustainable Westford, accepts chip bags, cookie wrappers, candy wrappers, writing instruments, energy bar wrappers, oral care, Elmer's glue containers, and foil drink pouches. The proceeds benefit Westford Public Schools to support "green" programs via grants for teachers or school organizations. Check their website for details:

www.SustainableWestford.org.

Groton, MA – This program, run by Groton Grange #7, accepts energy bar wrappers, cookie wrappers, candy wrappers, and foil drink pouches. The proceeds benefit Groton Public Schools to support agricultural and "green" programs for the classroom. See their website for more details:

www.grotongrange.com.

Medford, MA – This program is run out of the Grace Church and accepts candy wrappers, foil drink pouches, cookie wrappers, and chip bags. The proceeds benefit the church. Currently, the program only accepts items from church members, but for more information contact Jon at

www.greenlifestyleconsulting.com.

Save the Date!

**MassRecycle's Recycling & Organics Conference & Trade Show,
Tuesday, March 26-28, 2012
Boxborough, MA**

Turn Your Trash to Cash (continued)

TerraCycle works with or enter your own. The recipient can be any 501(c)3 organization or school.

As of now, TerraCycle does not publicize the collection locations on their website. To find a group near you, try the following:

- Call your local elementary school to see if they are participating.
- Post a message on TerraCycle's Facebook page. Many people post messages here looking for local teams.
- Sign up as an individual at www.terracycle.net. When choosing your charity/school, search for groups in your area.

This is a great opportunity for businesses to reduce their trash and do some good as well. Restaurants serving wine can upcycle the corks. Sandwich shops can upcycle the chip bags. Offices can upcycle their writing instruments and ink and toner cartridges.

Several groups in Massachusetts join over 20 million people collecting for TerraCycle worldwide. To date, Terracycle teams have raised over \$3 million for charities and saved over 2 billion items from the waste stream.

Electronics Recycling Update

December 10 - Free Electronic Recycling Events in Hanover, Plymouth and Abington. On December 10, Samsung with the help of Electronics Recyclers International will be holding free electronics collection events. [Details on the ERI website.](#)

Sony Launches E-Waste Take-Back Website. Sony Electronics has launched a new website, [EcoTrade](#), to help consumers trade in or recycle their unwanted electronics.

Best Buy Eliminates E-Waste Collection Fee. Best Buy Co. Inc. announced that it has eliminated the \$10 recycling fee for electronic items collected through its nationwide [in-store recycling program](#).

New Issue of MassRecycler Released

The Winter issue of our member-only newsletter, the *MassRecycler*, has come out with the following stories:

- **Designing Waste Away:** How Extended Producer Responsibility Changes Product Design
- **Hanging Up on Phone Books:** Recent efforts in MA to reduce phone book waste
- **No Glass Ceiling to Recycling:** How JN Phillips Auto Glass recycled 2,000 tons of windshield glass

To get this issue, join MassRecycle at www.massrecycle.org/join.html

New Recycling Resources: K-12 to College

Fun video guide for K-12 recycling.

“[Boxes, Bottles and Banana Peels](#),” a

video guide to school recycling, has won a 2011

Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Award. The ten-minute video offers a step-by-step guide for schools seeking to establish or improve their recycling programs. Material handling may be different in your school but it could be a great way to reach the students. More recycling videos at www.youtube.com/massrecycle



College and University Recycling Competition.

Registration is open for

RecycleMania 2012, a friendly 8-week

competition between colleges and universities in how much they can recycle. Registration deadline: January 20, 2012. The official competition will kick-off on February 5 and extend 8 weeks to March 31. More info at www.recyclemaniacs.org.



About MassRecycle

MassRecycle is a non-profit statewide coalition that works to:

- **Strengthen local recycling programs,**
- **Educate businesses and the public** about sustainable practices,
- **Advocate for recycling** in the Legislature,
- **Reward recycling champions** by presenting annual awards.



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