



Athens-Clarke County
Solid Waste Department
Recycling Division

(706) 613-3512

Winter 2009



Digital Television in ACC — What You Need to Know

As many of us already know, on February 17, 2009, viewers who have one or more analog televisions that receive free over-the-air programming (with a rooftop antenna or “rabbit ears” on the TV) will no longer be able to obtain a signal, as most stations will begin all-digital broadcasting.

Why is the country converting to digital?
Digital television (DTV) broadcasting allows stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and is more efficient than analog.

How can I continue to watch television?

It's important to note that you will not be affected by the transition if you own a television with a digital tuner or subscribe to a TV service (such as cable or satellite). Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division encourages residents who own an analog TV set and receive free broadcasts (via rabbit ears or a roof antenna) to extend the life of their TV by purchasing a digital

converter box, which will cost approximately \$50 to \$70.

Is there help to pay for a converter box?

Yes, the federal government is offering U.S. households up to two \$40 coupons. Coupons are free, but they expire after 90 days and the supply is limited. Upon request, coupons will be mailed to you by the federal government. For more information or to apply for your converter box coupons, visit www.DTV2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009. The site also enables you to locate retailers offering converter boxes.

How do I know if my TV will be affected?

TVs manufactured before 1998 and projection TVs manufactured between 1998 and 2004 will most likely be analog. Starting in 2004, most of the TV sets sold featured digital tuners.

If I replace my TV, what do I do with the old one?

Televisions are not accepted at the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Facility or Landfill for recycling. If you decide to purchase a new television instead of converting an existing set, there are a few options for your older television. First, ask the retailer whether a take-back program is available to recycle the unwanted set; some retailers will pick up the old set when delivering a new one. Offer the old set for reuse to a local shelter or thrift store. Or, hold onto it until the next Athens-Clarke County Electronics Recycling event. Collection events will be held in late January and the spring. For details, go online to www.acc-recycle.org or call 706-613-3512.



Athens proves it can step up to the challenge!

Athens residents were asked through newspaper articles, direct mail, radio commercials, and events to step up to the challenge of recycling this past year during America Recycles Day on November 15, 2008. Did you ever!

During the week of events that included “Bin it and Win it,” an open house at the ACC Materials Recycling Facility, a “lunch and learn” about commercial recycling programs, and the household hazardous waste collection day, the ACC Recycling staff saw a record-breaking number of people interested in recycling or finding out what new items are being accepted in Athens.

On November 15, 2008, the ACC Recycling Division held a one-day HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) collection event for ACC residents. During the four-hour event, 410 ACC residents headed out to the Materials Recycling Facility to unload their toxins and harmful chemicals, along with electronics, rigid plastics, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and thermostats. The amounts received amazed even the ACC Recycling Division. We

collected 6,628 pounds of televisions and 11,234 pounds of computers and household electronics.



Clean Harbors, Inc. of Tucker, Georgia, collected from residents the potentially harmful household chemicals, such as deodorizers, cleaners, bleaches, spot removers, drain cleaners, thermostats and thermometers, latex and oil-based paints, paint thinner, varnishes, pool chlorine, pesticides, weed killers, fertilizers, used motor oil, antifreeze, and auto batteries. Clean Harbors recycles and offers for reuse some of the items collected, incinerates harmful toxins, and safely disposes of the remaining chemicals.

For more information on 2009 collection event dates or general recycling information, please call the Recycling Division at 706-613-3512 or visit us online at www.acc-recycle.org.

Grease Recycling — Yuck!

Ordinary kitchen cooking grease can be a real terror in the pipes beneath your home and in our sanitary sewage system. Over time, grease buildup clogs pipes, reduces sewage flow, and acts as a magnet for other debris. Eventually, this buildup can clog pipes enough to result in a sanitary sewer overflow. A sewer overflow is the backup of raw sewage into the street, the environment, or even into your home through your sinks, showers, or toilets.

To help reduce the amount of grease improperly disposed of in household drains, the Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Solid Waste Department accepts residen-



tial quantities of cooking grease for recycling at no charge at the ACC Solid Waste Department at 1005 College Avenue. Cooking grease is used in the production of animal food, make-up, and bio-diesel.

NOTE: In the downtown district, the ACC Solid Waste Department accepts 5-gallon containers of old cooking grease from commercial customers for recycling. The cost to commercial customers is \$3.00 per pickup of a 5-gallon container.

For additional information, please contact the ACC Recycling Division at 706-613-3512 or visit us online at www.acc-recycle.org.

Wanted: Recycling Award Applicants

The Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division is pleased to announce the annual Waste Reduction Awards program. This year, the award applications have changed slightly to include all aspects of waste reduction rather than just recycling. Businesses, industries, organizations, schools, and individuals are invited to apply. For an application packet and further details, please contact the ACC Recycling Division at 706-613-3512.

Applicants will be asked to address each of these award criteria in their application packets:

- **Innovative Ideas:** Describe the innovative aspects or originality of your waste reduction program.
- **Employee Participation:** Describe how your company encourages employees to participate in your waste reduction program.
- **Educational Component:** Describe the methods of outreach and educa-

tion that are available for employees. Describe how other businesses or industries can learn from your company's efforts.

- **Documented Results:** Give your best estimate of the quantity (in pounds) of materials recycled and waste reduced or prevented during the past year. Describe the efforts your company makes to purchase recycled-content products. If this information is not applicable, how does your business or industry measure or monitor the program?

- **Leadership:** Describe how the program shows leadership and takes steps beyond “traditional” recycling or basic waste reduction programs.

The award winners will be recognized at the 2009 GreenFest Awards ceremony in April. Don't miss this chance to brag about your waste reduction programs!



Green your brain!

Are you looking for some indoor fun? Test your “green score” by playing the interactive trivia game at www.greenmybrain.com. Each question addresses an environmental problem, a solution, or an action that you can take. Answers are multiple choice. There are two levels, with level two questions being more challenging.

Even at level one, you’ll find some tricky questions, such as: “Between 1980 and 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency’s regulations on lead usage reduced lead emissions by what percent?” (The answer is 95%!) Other questions may cover more familiar territory, like this one: “Instead of buying containers for leftovers at the store, you can....” (We’ll let you figure that one out yourself!)

Whether you are a novice or an expert, you’ll have fun playing this game and will learn a lot along the way.

Players can even submit questions. Of course, the game masters do thorough fact-checking before posting submitted questions and answers.



Paper, paper everywhere

Each year, we preserve only 10% of the paper that we receive and handle. This preserved paper includes books, magazines, photographs, and filed documents. The rest of the paper is recycled or disposed. As much as 81% of this paper could be recycled, while the remainder is destroyed during use or contaminated, such as tissues. However, at present, 56% of paper is being recycled, which means we can do better.

Our paper recycling in the U.S. affects the supply of recyclable paper around the globe. America has been referred to as “the Saudi Arabia of recovered paper.” On average, Americans recycle 360 pounds of paper and paper products (such as corrugated cardboard) each year. In 2007, 54.3 million tons of paper were recovered for recycling in the U.S. This paper becomes the feedstock for paper recycling mills around the world. Just as the Middle East provides much of the

world with oil, the U.S. supplies much of the world with recyclable paper.

In a time when U.S. paper consumption has leveled off, paper consumption around the world is increasing rapidly. At present, worldwide consumption is about 440 million tons per year. However, by 2015, that number may be as high as 550 million tons, with the largest growth in China and India, the

world’s most populous nations. If the U.S. were to recycle all of the paper that is currently recyclable, we could meet nearly one-quarter of that additional demand, supplying about 25 million tons more paper to the recovery system.

But what about the non-recyclable paper—those papers that are destroyed or contaminated during use? The best option is to purchase 100% recycled-content alternatives. For instance, if every household in the U.S. purchased a single roll of 100% recycled-content toilet paper, we could save 330,000 trees.

To learn more about paper manufacturing, use, and recycling, go to INFORM’s Secret Life Series at www.secret-life.org/paper/. You’ll find a helpful video, as well as a great deal of useful information.

For more information about paper recycling, visit www.paperrcycles.org or contact our office.



(c) iStockphoto.com/Marcus Clackson

What is the Forest Stewardship Council?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, international organization which certifies forests and forest-based products. The FSC standards focus on environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable forestry management practices. The goal of the FSC is forests that conserve biological diversity, minimize logging-related pollution, improve the lives of forest workers and surrounding communities, and encourage long-term health and usefulness of the forest stock.

However, FSC certification doesn’t stop at the edge of the forest. Through a rigorous, chain of custody certification program, FSC follows the tree to sawmill, manufacturing plant, and distribution center. When a paper or building product bears the FSC logo, you’ll know that the trees used to make the product were harvested in the most sustainable way possible.

In 2008, 254 million acres of forest worldwide, representing about 7% of all forests, had received FSC certification. More than 10,000 products are FSC certified. When you shop for building products, paper, and paper products, look for the FSC logo.

For more information, visit www.fscus.org.

Forty Years Later...

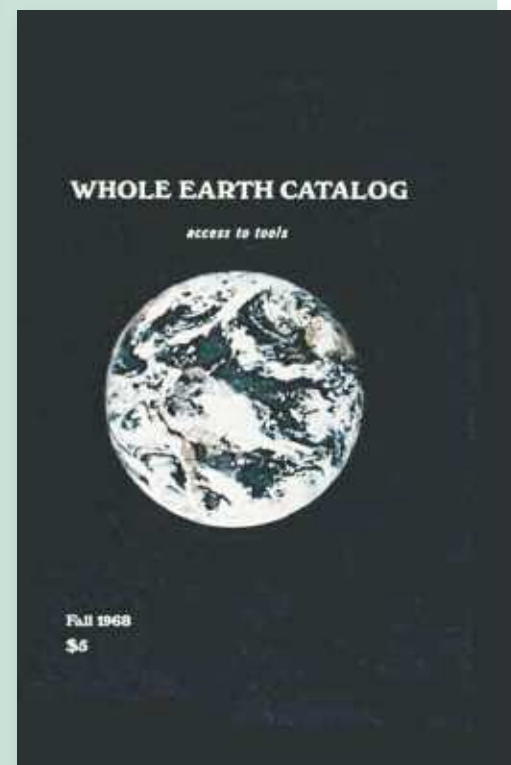
In the fall of 1968, Stewart Brand and friends published a catalog that became a sensation. The *Whole Earth Catalog*, which was only published regularly through 1972 and then periodically thereafter, is where the weekend do-it-yourselfer crossed paths with the back-to-land enthusiast.

The goal of the catalog was to provide “access to tools.” Some of these tools were products, but others were ideas, including books, journals, magazines, maps, and classes. This wasn’t a mail-order catalog, but rather, a resource on systems and technologies, companies, and products. Members of the Whole Earth team sought out and evaluated tools and ideas, providing helpful reviews for the readers. To be listed, an item had to meet several criteria, including that it was: useful as a tool; relevant to independent education; high-quality or low-cost; not already commonly known; and easily available by mail. For example, the first catalog had features on the magazine *Scientific American*, the outdoor outfitter L.L. Bean, and a Hewlett-Packard tabletop calculator.

According to Apple founder Steve Jobs, the *Whole Earth Catalog* was the forerunner of the Internet. First, the catalog actively promoted emerging technologies. Second, it encouraged thinking in terms of “systems.” And, third, it relied heavily on the collaboration of its contributors, including “user-generated content.” In other words, the *Whole Earth Catalog* was a search engine, like Google, and a blog — long before those two existed.

In 1972, the *Whole Earth Catalog* won a National Book Award for the serialized publication of Gurney Norman’s novel, *Divine Right’s Trip*. This was the only National Book Award ever given to a catalog.

If you don’t remember the *Whole Earth Catalog*, visit www.wholeearth.com, where you can see old editions online or read some of the articles.



WHAT'S UP?

Please welcome Mrs. **Susan Reese** as the new Program Assistant with both Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful and the Recycling Division. Susan has worked off and on with ACC since unification and, prior to that, with the old City of Athens. She has worked in the Personnel Department, Landscape Management, and, most recently, the Transportation and Public Works Engineering Division. She is a native Athenian and a graduate of UGA. To reach Susan, please email her at susanreese@co.clarke.ga.us, or simply call 706-613-3501, ext. 309 or 706-613-3512.



Employee of the Quarter for Fall 2008: Shedrick Barnett

Shedrick has been with the Solid Waste Department for only two years. During this short time, he has earned his commercial driver's license, which allows him to drive the collection trucks. Shedrick has a great sense of humor and is always a model employee and individual.



We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department Recycling Division

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www.acc-recycle.org

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70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS CONTENT, USING SOY INKS

Please recycle this publication after you have read it!

Thank you for keepin' it clean!

Thank you to the over 450 volunteers who participated in the 17th Annual Rivers Alive event on Saturday, October 4! Volunteers came out on a beautiful fall day and collected approximately 3 tons of trash along our waterways! Volunteers contributed over 1,350 hours of service in support of clean water in our community. Twenty-five tires were collected that day, along with several bikes, a toilet, and a bed frame. This year's contest winners include:

- Most Unusual/Unique Find: Car ignition with the key still in it
- Trash to Treasure: Security camera with audio output and input
- Best Reusable Find: Sledgehammer

Rivers Alive would not be possible without the support of our local sponsors and organizers, including: Waterman Springwater; Jittery Joe's Roasting Co.; Mama's Boy; Coca-Cola; Earth Fare; Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission; Jordan, Jones and Goulding; Georgia

Power; Go Mini; ACC Leisure Services/ Natural Resources Division; ACC Transportation and Public Works/Stormwater Division; ACC Solid Waste Department; Upper Oconee Watershed Network; Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful; the Georgia Outdoor Recreation Program; and Hands On Northeast Georgia.



Tree-cycle me!

Join Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful at the annual "Bring One for the Chipper" Christmas tree recycling event on Saturday, January 3, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You may drop off your tree at any of these locations:

- Barrow Elementary
- Chase Elementary
- Cofer's Home and Garden Showplace
- Sandy Creek Nature Center
- Recycling Centers (Georgia Square Mall Cinema Parking Lot; Lexington Road & Jail Road, behind Tag Office; City of Winterville Public Works Building)

When you drop off a tree for recycling, you'll get a free tree seedling to plant!



Green Life expo

The Green Life Expo will be held at the Classic Center in Athens. At the Expo, you'll discover ways to reduce your carbon footprint by implementing environmentally responsible practices and earth-friendly routines into your everyday lives. Learn how conserving resources saves you money and how small changes made by your family or organization can make a large impact. This event is FREE! For details, visit www.greenlifeathens.com.

Kitty Korner

According to the EPA, the average office worker in the U.S. uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper each year. That's 4 million tons of copy paper annually. Office workers in the U.S. generate approximately 2 pounds of paper and paperboard products every day.

How can office workers use less paper?

As an office cat, I have some ideas:

- Don't Forget to Flip — Encourage double-sided printing and set duplex printing as the default on your printer.
- Choose Recycled-Content Paper — Purchase paper containing recycled content or consider using tree-free paper alternatives. (To learn about tree-free paper options, visit www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/101/1/Treeless-paper-and-kenaf.html.)
- Measure the Margins — Decrease margin, footer, and header sizes. Avoid large fonts and double-line spacing. Print text in two-column per page format. In combination, these changes can reduce your paper consumption (and paper cost) by as much as one-third to one-half.
- Preview — Preview *before* you print documents to ensure they are laid out correctly.
- Lose the Label — Print directly onto envelopes rather than print labels.

For more tips on paper reduction, visit www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/155/1/The-paper-reduction-diet.html.



*Keeping you green,
MRF*

Athens Home & Garden Show

Mark your calendar for the Athens Home & Garden Show on March 7 and 8 at the Classic Center in Athens. The primary purpose of the Home & Garden Show is to educate and inform consumers about the products and services available to them from the builder and associate members of the Athens Area Home Builders Association. The show also serves as a fund-raising event for the Association; therefore, booths are also available for non-members. For details, visit www.onlineathens.com/homeshow.



KACCB wins state award!



In October, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful was awarded first place by the Department of Community Affairs/Keep Georgia Beautiful Program for Litter Prevention. The award recognized KACCB's leadership in forming the team that studied cigarette litter in Athens and developed innovative solutions. The team, including the ACC Public Information Office, ACC Stormwater Division, Athens Downtown Development Authority, Tobacco Prevention Coalition, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, and Athens Design Development, worked collaboratively to develop the "Cigarette Litter Receptacles" that help reduce cigarette litter in downtown Athens.

Give back to your community!

On January 19, join Athens in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Truly celebrate the holiday by turning your day off into "a day on" for the community!

Hundreds of volunteers will join hands to do family-friendly service projects, such as playground maintenance, donation sorting, gravesite beautification, landscape restoration, clean-up projects, and much more. Enjoy a free lunch at noon and then celebrate our success with music, variety shows, poetry readings, and hands-on art at the Lyndon House. Projects start at 9 a.m. Volunteers can sign up to participate by visiting www.AthensMLKDay.org or by calling 706-353-1313.

