

# RECYCLING INFORMATION

During the months of June and July 2010, Salt Lake County Special District #1 (Sanitation) performed a series of waste audits to determine the amount of recyclables going in the black garbage can. This audit is also a way to determine if our bi-weekly collection is effective, or if weekly collection would be beneficial.

The results show that by volume, 31% of what is in the black can is recyclable materials. Based on this finding, we feel that weekly recycling collection would be beneficial to divert waste from the landfills and help preserve our natural resources. The energy savings in recycling is amazing and here are some facts:

- Two million barrels of oil are used a day to create plastic—10% of U.S. oil consumption.
- Recycling plastic saves 90% of the energy it takes to create plastic from new material.
- One recycled aluminum or tin can saves 95% of the energy it takes to create an aluminum can from new materials.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours -- or the equivalent of half a gallon of gasoline.
- The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year!



## Here are tips on the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

**Reduce** means to use fewer products or packaging containers. One easy way to reduce the amount used is to start at the grocery store; buy items that are not wasteful in packaging, and buy in bulk whenever possible. This is a great way to get a large quantity with minimal packaging. Use reusable bags when you grocery shop, or if you only have a few items, carry them by hand.

**Reuse** of materials is good for the environment and also for our wallets. Some examples of reuse include:

- Using reusable mugs and water bottles. Most stores and restaurants are willing to fill and refill your mugs or water bottles.
- Reuse disposable containers; wash and reuse for as long as possible.
- Hold yard sales or take unwanted items to thrift stores.
- When purchasing a new item consider buying from thrift stores before purchasing something new.

**Recycling** is turning items into other items.

- All of our customers have been given a means for collecting household recyclables.
  - General recyclables include aluminum, tin/metals, mixed paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and milk jugs.
- Glass is recyclable, but **does not** go in the Blue Container. We now have three glass collection sites:
  - Taylorsville: 1628 West 4800 South
  - Holladay City Hall: 4580 South 2300 East
  - Millcreek: 3680 South Wasatch Blvd

As a community, efforts to recycle will continue to save natural resources and landfill space. For more information on where to dispose of Electronic Waste and Household Hazardous Waste, please visit our website at [www.sanitation.slco.org](http://www.sanitation.slco.org). Please call us at 385-468-6325, or visit our website with any questions or concerns.