

BCDES Environmental ELEMENTS

Water, Public Health, Environmental Leadership

January 2008

It pays to recycle - literally!

Your recycling habits can directly benefit your community.

In 2006, the Butler County Board of Commissioners approved a Community Recycling Incentive Program. The program gives new meaning to the expression "recycling - it all comes back to you," because communities earn \$7 for every ton of material residents recycle. During the past two years, participating communities have received more than \$120,000.

Beginning in 2008, Butler County will go even further by recognizing "top performers" with a higher incentive rate. Communities that recycle more than 10 percent of their waste will receive \$17 per ton of recyclables, and those that recycle more than 15 percent will receive \$22 per ton.

Your community can use the funds in any way. West Chester, for example, has earmarked their incentive funds for development and expansion of their biking and trails program. What could your community do with these funds?



If you need a recycling bin, please call Rumpke at (513) 742-2900 to have a bin delivered to your home. There is no need to separate materials - everything goes into the bin: all types of paper, cardboard (broken down into 3'x3' pieces), #1 and #2 plastics, glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, paperboard (the boxes used for cereal, cake mixes, etc.), and metal cans. If you are unsure what is recyclable, please contact BCDES.

Township residents can recycle by using one of our 19 recycling drop boxes. The boxes are available 24 hours a day, and the collection counts toward your community's incentive.

For a complete listing of drop box locations, please click [here](#).

Blue Flag Identifies Meter

BCDES reads your water meter every month to ensure that you receive an accurate bill. If we are unable to read your meter, you will receive a bill based on estimated use.

Our goal is to avoid estimated bills and unnecessary adjustments to your account.

To make it easier to find your meter in the snow, we may place a blue flag near your meter.

Please leave the flag in place until spring, and make sure your meter or remote register is accessible to ensure accurate billing.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Protect your family from radon's harmful effects

Did you know radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. However, about 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.

This invisible and odorless radioactive gas can seep into your home through any crevice — from cracks in foundation walls to gaps around pipes.

All homeowners should use a radon testing kit as the first step toward protecting themselves against radon's

harmful effects. Testing kits determine the amount of radon in your home.

A limited supply of **FREE** kits will be available in January at BCDES' High Street location and Butler County departments of Jobs & Family Services, Health, and Safety. You may also purchase a radon testing kit from the Butler County Health Department or at a local home improvement store.

For more information about radon, please click [here](#) or contact the Ohio Department of Health's Radon Information Line at 1-800-523-4439.

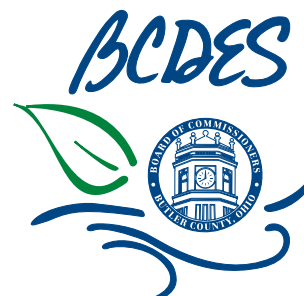
Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and is responsible for about 21,000 deaths every year.

How to contact us

Butler County
Administrative Center
130 High Street, 1st Floor
Hamilton, OH 45011

Main Number:
(513) 887-3066

Fax Number:
(513) 785-5799



www.butlercountydes.org

Breaks happen! Are you prepared?

Do you know what to do if your water service is interrupted?

Occasionally, water main breaks in the distribution system may cause water service interruptions. Water main breaks are very infrequent and typically last only a few hours.

BCDES recommends that you keep a three-day supply of water for unanticipated service disruptions. A rule of thumb is to store at least one gallon for each person in your household for each day. For example, a family of four should store 12 gallons of water. Individuals with special needs, such as nursing mothers, young children, and family members with illnesses, may require additional water.

Storing water is necessary for emergencies, but like all food items, it has a limited shelf life. Tap water that is stored in capped, plastic containers has a six-month shelf life. However, if you boil water for 1-3 minutes you can extend the shelf life to one year. Non-residential customers such as restaurants, schools, nursing homes, and other industries, should have a variety of emergency supplies available, such as bottled water, canned beverages, and plastic or paper serving dishes. It is also a good idea to have your utility's contact information easily accessible to all employees should an emergency arise.

BCDES is committed to minimizing water main breaks and disruptions to your service. For more information regarding what to do in the event of a service disruption, please contact (513) 887-3066.



TAME THE GREASE MONSTER

Grease from cooking — meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products — should NEVER be put down any drain.



When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the inside of the sewer pipes on your property and the pipelines in the street. Over time, it can build up, harden into a plug, and block an entire pipe, causing sewer overflows and backups.

Grease gets into sewers from household drains, as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses. Pipelines blocked by grease can cause major problems such as:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home or your neighbor's home
- Expensive and unpleasant clean-up that you must pay for
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms from the sewage overflow
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for BCDES, which could cause higher sewer bills for you

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
- Whenever you have a greasy pan to wash, wipe it out after use (while it is still warm, not hot) with newspaper or paper towel.
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and then empty them in the trash.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to keep grease out of drains.

If you have other questions about the proper disposal of cooking grease and oils, please call (513) 887-3066.

Recycling programs at a glance

Our goal is to make recycling easy and convenient for county residents and we've done just that! For 2008 recycling programs, please click [here](#) or call (513) 887-3653.

Here is a glimpse of your 2007 recycling successes:

Freon Appliances - BCDES began a curbside Freon collection program in 2007 to replace a former one-day annual drop off event. The new program is more convenient and cost efficient, saving \$18,679 compared to 2006.

Household Hazardous Waste - The long-term program, which runs from June to September, continues to be popular with county residents. In the past two years, more than 428,000 tons of hazardous waste have been diverted from area landfills.

Tire Recycling - BCDES holds a one-day tire drop off event each year. In the past two years, BCDES has collected more than 143 tons of tires.

Electronics Recycling - BCDES collected more than twice the amount of electronics in 2007 compared to the previous year.

Recycling Event Comparisons		
	2006	2007
	Material Collected	Material Collected
Electronics	69,934 lbs	163,481 lbs
Freon Appliances	78.31 tons	76.01 tons
Household Hazardous Waste	216,826 lbs	211,329 lbs
Tire Recycling	61.6 tons	81.5 tons