



The GREENLEAF

Green Team Newsletter



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Waste Audits: Dive Right In

Has your company conducted a waste audit?

Also called "dumpster diving," a waste audit gives you a snapshot of your waste stream. Besides giving your employees a chance to jump around in a dumpster, it can provide valuable information about what your company is throwing away and the potential for reducing your waste hauling fees.

A waste audit can be as simple as taking a look inside your trash dumpster to see what has been thrown away, or it can involve "dissecting" the trash bags to measure more precisely what's going into the dumpster. Conducting a waste audit is a great jumping off point for companies looking to start a recycling program. Doing the dirty work of dumpster diving can tell a business or non-profit just how much of what they are throwing away can be recycled.



Used paper towels, dirty plastic film, coffee stained Styrofoam...These are a few of a recyclers least favorite things.

Dear Team

It has been a month since the Green Team officially launched at City Council, and the members ranks are continuing to grow.

The plan is to publish this newsletter every month to update our members on the program's progress, communicate improvements made to the webpage, and share the recycling successes of our members.

Does your organization have an environmental story you would like to share? This forum is also a way to cover trends and developments in environmental programs that go beyond recycling.

Sincerely,

Tim Yatko

Commercial recycling coordinator

When was the last time you checked your level of service?

A company should measure the level of trash in their dumpster to make sure the level of service evenly matches the amount of waste it generates. For example if an 8 yard dumpster is being filled only half way on a weekly basis, it would save the company money to reduce the size of the container. Likewise if a company's dumpster is half-filled with cardboard or other recyclable material on a regular basis, the company would be a great candidate for starting a recycling account. 



You don't need a hazmat suit for a trash audit, but it does make you look cool.

Check out our waste assessment worksheet at www.ArlingtonGreenTeam.com



Our Newest Members

- ★ VNR-1 Communication
- ★ Rooms To Go Corp.
- ★ Medical Clinic of North Texas
- ★ Spartech Plastics
- ★ Lane Supply Inc.

www.ArlingtonGreenTeam.com

Updates to the Webpage

- **Members Tab** – see the members of the green team and read their stories
- **Resources** – all the site's downloadable forms in one place
 - o **Tracking Worksheet**
 - o **Waste Assessment Worksheet**

Go Green At Work

There are other things an organization can do to help the environment besides recycling.

-Double-side your copies. Whether printing or copying, use both sides of a piece of paper. If just one in four office workers made all of their copies double-sided, the annual savings would equal 130 billion sheets of paper—a stack thicker than the diameter of the earth.

-Use a ceramic mug for your coffee. Americans use more than fourteen billion paper cups every year, enough to circle the world fifty-five times. The Styrofoam kind will stay on the planet for nine generations, enough time for your great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandkids to be born.

*Taken from The Green Book
by Rogers and Kostigen*

VNR-1 Communications Takes Recycling to the Streets



VNR-1 Communications is an Arlington-based PR and marketing services company. They are located near the Ballpark off of Stadium Drive. An office of nine people, VNR-1's size helps foster an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination when it comes to recycling. "Everyone pitches in to help out with recycling," says VNR-1's recycling coordinator, Christopher Sweet. The office collects and recycles the standard office fare: daily newspapers, soda cans, plastic bottles and containers, glass, and of course office paper. There are several collection bins, but there are no space issues. "We keep these bins in convenient places, but they are still out of the way," says Sweet.

Because VNR-1 does not generate enough recycling to justify commercial dumpster service, the recycling containers are taken home by VNR-1 employees. "This solution may not be for everyone," declares Sweet, "but it works for VNR1. Even though we don't generate tons of recyclables we're interested in doing our part for the environment." To keep track of the amount being diverted from the landfill, Mr. Sweet uses a bathroom scale to weigh the recycling containers. He keeps records in a spreadsheet. "It takes about five minutes a week," he says. "The time we all invest in our recycling program is worth it. Recycling is something everyone can do."

