



# The GREENLEAF

Green Team Newsletter



Issue no. 3

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## Reaching Higher Up On the Recycling Tree

When starting a recycling program it is easiest to go after the standard cardboard, paper, aluminum cans. But what if a program wants to expand? What else is recyclable and how can businesses include those products in the program without adding extra cost, or eating up time of employees?

A lot of products are recyclable but not all recycling programs accept them. Plastic newspaper bags and Styrofoam products come to mind. These products can be recycled, but are not accepted by programs because they are not as high value due to market demand and as in the case of plastic bags, they can gum up high-powered sorting machines that handle single-stream recycling programs.

Styrofoam cups and food containers can be caked with food residue that makes the product undesirable by recycling haulers. These haulers need a steady stream of clean product to justify the use of a truck for hauling or stationing of a trailer for drop off.

Need Green Team Decals and buttons? Members [click here](#) to order more flair for your workers and doors.



The next Star-Telegram advertisement for new members will be in early September. Get your application in today!

## Dear Team

This has been a busy month for the program and it has been a busy month for me personally. I will try to remain consistent about releasing the newsletter mid-month, but I hope you understand if the August letter is a little later than normal.

Our Star Telegram ad for June/July new members was featured at the beginning of August and has been quite the attention grabber for the program.

Members joining during the month of August will be showcased in our next ad at the beginning of September. Members joining in September will be featured in October's ad and so on...

As always, we are looking for next month's spotlight member now. If you would like to be featured in the September newsletter please do not hesitate to contact me. Your company's story may help kick start another company's efforts.

Sincerely,  
**Tim Yatko**  
 Commercial recycling coordinator, City of Arlington



*A City of Arlington recycling station for batteries, cell phones, newspaper bags, Styrofoam.*

Alternatives to recycling such products is reducing their presence in the workplace. When eating out, why not take your own washable containers to go? When going through the coffee line are you carrying your own mug or relying on a disposable cup? So much can be saved from the trash by simple planning and changing of routine. Examining your own practices and making them more "eco-friendly" may encourage colleagues and co-workers to do the same.



*Show your employees recycling in action. A little embarrassment goes a long way towards raising employee awareness about environmental programs.*



## Our Newest Members

- ★ [Inovar Packaging Group](#)
- ★ [Westlake Ace Hardware](#)
- ★ [L-3 Communications](#)
- ★ [Arlington Memorial Hospital](#)
- ★ [North Central Texas Council of Governments](#)
- ★ [Decision Analyst, Inc.](#)
- ★ [ITT Technical Institute](#)
- ★ [Texas Health Resources](#)
- ★ [National Semiconductor – Texas](#)
- ★ [Alternative Mailing & Shipping Systems](#)
- ★ [Tarrant County College – Southeast Campus](#)

## Updates to the Webpage [www.arlingtongreenteam.com](http://www.arlingtongreenteam.com)

**\*Legal size\* Poster Template** – just insert your logo and you have a ready-made poster for display on large bins and announcement boards. You can mix and match materials that are accepted by your program.

## Go Green At Work

Bring your lunch from home if you can. A disposable lunch creates between four and eight ounces of garbage daily. That can add up to as much as one hundred pounds per year! Bringing lunch from home could result in the U.S. workforce saving more than ten billion pounds of trash – equal to the weight of the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

When eating out, request less packaging when you order food to go. More than a third of office workers order in or carry out from a restaurant. If the takeout is just for you, tell the restaurant you need only utensils for one. If every worker did this, we could save twenty-five million plastic forks, knives, and chopsticks per day – enough utensils for three square meals a day for everyone in New York City.

*Taken from [The Green Book](#) by Rogers and Kostigen*

## Rooms To Go: Recycling by the Truckload



Rooms To Go is a recognized name in the world of wholesale furniture. From their distribution center in north Arlington, Room To Go recycles literally tons of material on a monthly basis.

Company wide, Rooms To Go has adopted a corporate stewardship program that mandates the recycling and tracking of materials in order to divert the most they can from landfills. Recycling coordinator Mr. Mahlon Hall oversees the recycling of cardboard, Styrofoam, plastic and wood. A lot of the materials are packaging from furniture. Once it arrives, something has to be done about it. Rooms To Go realized way back in 1992 that the right thing to do was to recycle it.

Since 1992, Rooms To Go has recycled over 96,000 tons of materials. “To put things in perspective, it would take a train with over 2,200 boxcars full of packaging waste to haul [this] to the landfill. The train would have to be at least 25 miles long,” Hall says.

Rooms To Go has seen a steady increase in the amount of material that they recycle on a yearly basis. Even with phenomenally high capture and diversion rates they see the program as one that “will always have room for improvement,” and one that they “will constantly strive to improve.” An analysis of their recycling program in 2006 showed Rooms To Go that they were capturing 99% of all cardboard, 99% of all foam, 87% of all plastic, and 80% of all wood. Considering that the EPA’s solid waste report shows national rates for cardboard, plastic, and wood to be 50%, 6%, and 9% respectively, Rooms To Go has an incredible program in place.



*Contributing members will have their stories posted on the “members” page. [Contact us](#) If you would like your story featured in the next Green Leaf.*