

Celebrate Earth Day in H-WH by recycling

THE DAILY WORLD

Posted Apr 21, 2011 @ 06:16 PM

HELENA-WEST HELENA — In celebration of Earth Day, the City of Helena-West Helena would like to share a little known fact: we recycle. For the past seven years the city's Street and Sanitation Department has run a cardboard recycling facility located at 201 Sebastian. The facility was built through grant funding received under Mayor Johnny Weaver and collects cardboard from local businesses. The collected cardboard is bailed and then sold to Link Recycling, a firm based in Louisiana.

The city began recycling cardboard not only to conserve natural resources, but also to conserve the city's financial resources. The City of Helena-West Helena currently pays \$28 per ton in annual trash disposal fees, with close to \$350,000 spent in landfill charges in 2008 alone. A recent audit of the city's trash has shown that almost 30 percent is recyclable, with cardboard representing a good portion of this. Already as a result of the current recycling program, approximately 100 additional tons of cardboard was diverted from the landfill, representing \$2,800 in savings. And this is only cardboard collected from businesses.

Residents can and should help recycle. You may not know it, but the city collects cardboard recycling on the same day as trash day. If you have cardboard, simply flatten out all of your corrugated boxes, cereal boxes, pasta boxes, etc, tie them with twine or stack inside of another cardboard box, and place it beside your roadside trashcan on trash pickup day. Mark the cardboard with a sign saying: "For Cardboard Recycling." If you have a large load of cardboard you can drop it off at the recycling facility anytime Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or you can call the Sanitation Department at 870-572-5665 to let them know that you have a load for pick up. Your cardboard will make its way to the recycling building to be bailed, sold, and recreated into newly recycled products.

Several other types of recycling are also available in Helena. Wal-Mart collects plastic bags, which are recycled into new plastic bags for the store. To recycle your plastic bags, simply collect your bags and deposit them in the large bin in the store entrance. You can also recycle your aluminum cans at aluminum drop-off centers such as Aluminum Can Recycling Center on Sebastian in Helena-West Helena. Recycling your cans comes with added motivation – companies actually pay for your cans at a typical rate of \$.42 cents per pound.

The Delta Bridge Project's Tourism, Recreation and Quality of Life Goal Team have formed a Recycling Subcommittee to promote and develop recycling in Phillips County. If you have questions or would like to learn more, email HelenaRecycles@gmail.com.