



Washtenaw County Conservation District

August 2018

Recent Changes in World Markets Influence Recycling in Washtenaw County

By Hannah Bradshaw

In Washtenaw County, recycling is a fairly common practice. According to Recycle Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor alone diverted 14,191 tons of materials from landfills due to recycling or composting. Recycling must be processed, and we have limited infrastructure in the U.S. to do so. As a result, many of the bottles, cans, and paper products we recycle here are sent overseas-- until recently that is.

The U.S. does not have many recovery facilities to process recyclable material. The recovery facilities that do exist in the U.S. are also more costly than landfills to operate. Recycling can be contaminated due to unrinsed plastics or trash mixing. As such, it is more economically advantageous for the U.S. to send their

recycling materials overseas. Though the EPA's 2016 report on the economic status of recycling states that recycling creates jobs, it doesn't account for the recent changes in the world market for recyclables, which are bought and sold just like any raw material. Due to tensions with China, the U.S. is seeing an intense decrease in the demand for recyclables.

China has established infrastructure for processing recycling, but in 2018 banned the importation of plastics. Unfortunately for American recycling, there now exists a huge gap between the supply of recycled materials and the demand on the world market for such materials. Due to the limited recycling infrastructure, plastic meant for recycling is

being dumped into landfills or incinerated.

New metal tariffs from the Trump administration have also effected the price of metal recycling, causing an increase in cost. Metal tariffs have made it more difficult to import metal into the U.S. but exporting metal has also become difficult due to China's retaliation to the new tariffs.

The U.S. is at a crossroads. In order to keep up with the demand for recycling, we will have to create more infrastructure as the world markets close their doors to American recycling materials. Otherwise, landfills and our environment will suffer the consequences.

A few simple things that you can do to make recycling a more sustainable practice:

Our Staff and Board Directors

Matt Koen, Chair

Jill Dohner, Vice-Chair

Howard Sias, Treasurer

Don Rentshler, Director

Julianne Chard, Director

Megan DeLeeuw, District
Manager

Nick Machinski, MAEAP
technician

Hannah Bradshaw, Intern

**Unless someone
like you,
cares a whole
awful lot,
nothing is going to
get better.
It's not.**

-Dr. Seuss

The Lorax

Recycling, continued from page 1....

1. Check your local recycling service website to see what they will and will not accept. This cuts down dramatically on the recycling processing that needs to be done at a facility.
2. RINSE, RINSE, RINSE, your plastics. Much of the recycled plastics from the U.S. are contaminated and can't be used again.
3. Make sure your recycling is free of trash. This cuts down on both contamination and processing costs/time.
4. Keep paper for recycling dry to prevent contamination.
5. Remove caps from plastic bottles to prevent contamination and sort out caps that aren't generally recyclable.
6. Re-use items rather than recycling. Glass jars can be used for glasses or for containing bulk foods.



Photos taken from the Lake Erie Conference on August 18th at Stone Lab. Farmers from Michigan got a hands-on look at the effects of excess phosphorus in Lake Erie. Participants walked away with a more nuanced understanding of the challenges and potential solutions.



Welcome to Our New Board Director: Julianne Chard

By Hannah Bradshaw

This July, Former Board Member Carley Kratz resigned from the Conservation District Board due to her recent move out of the county. Dr. Kratz will be missed. The board is excited to welcome Julianne Chard as the new member of the board who will be filling Dr. Kratz's spot until next election in January 2019.

Julianne Chard is a resident of Chelsea, Michigan. She is practicing architect with over 25 years in planning and development in southeast Michigan and a graduate from the University of Michigan. As Director of Capital Projects for Ann Arbor Public schools she managed the construction of Skyline High School, awarded a LEED Silver for effective storm water management and geothermal design. She's excited to work with the Conservation District and we are excited to learn from her perspective!



MAEAP Updates for August

By Nick Machinski

The Washtenaw County Conservation District is hosting a farm tour on Tuesday, August 28th at 5:30 pm. We will be meeting at Selter Farms 9090 Bemis Rd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197. From there we will be visiting Rochowiak Farms and Zilke Vegetable Farm. The tour will be highlighting MAEAP as all three of farms have been participated in the program long enough to become re-verified in their respective systems. Dinner will be provided by Zilke Farm Kitchen after the tour. Please call (734)761-8789 to register or

There are several cost-share opportunities for farmers through the district. MAEAP has funds for small projects, such as the purchasing of spill kits. There is also the Farmer-Led Conservation Applications that provide cost-share for those in the Western Lake Erie Basin for implementation of best management practices. There is also an opportunity for cost-share with Accelerating Conservation Adoption in the River Raisin. The program is administered through Michigan State University and also provides cost-share for implementation of best management practices on one's property. If you have any questions about these opportunities, please give me a call at (734)761-8789 ext. 1218

Coleman's Farm Achieves Multiple Verifications

By Nick Machinski

Coleman's Farm is well known around the Sa-line area for supplying unique and fun corn mazes during the fall. This fall the farm will be able to show off something else, MAEAP verifications for their farmstead, cropping and livestock systems. It isn't easy for a farm to achieve the sought-after trifecta, but Kirk and Kim Rose did just that. They have goats, horses and several 4-H animals on the farm for children to pet and three different mazes for everyone to enjoy. Grab some cider, doughnuts and get lost on Coleman's Farm this fall!

Dyer Organic Family Farm Adds Another One

By Nick Machinski

Dick and Diana already had the farmstead and cropping verifications under their belt, but with the acres of habitat around, they added the latest MAEAP system: Forest, Wetland and Habitat (FWH). One can hear the calls of frogs from the pond and spring located on the property. And if you are a bird watcher then there is no better place than the Dyer's. The farm was also re-verified in its farmstead and cropping systems and helps other small farms in the area by providing a space for them to grow their own crops. One can spend hours just enjoying the scenery and the sounds to the wildlife on this farm.

Bulbs for Bees

By Megan DeLeeuw

This fall we are offering a selection of fall-planted bulbs that provide excellent early forage for bees and native pollinators. Bees are able to detect flower nectar with high concentration of sugar and are attracted to flower colors such as: white, yellow, blue and UV. These bulbs flower at different times in the spring and with the correct planning, the right mix of bulbs will keep the pollinators happy all spring! Check out photos and/or order directly on our website . All bulbs will be available for pick-up on Saturday, October 13th.

Crocus (*sativus*), Large Flowering Mix

Winter buttercup (*eranthis*), Cilicica

Siberian quill (*scilla siberica*), Alba

Anemone (*coronaria*), The Bride

Anemone, (*coronaria*), Blanda Blue Mix

Camassia Lilly (*Camassia lichtlin*),

Cusickii

Allium, Mixed

Fritillaria, Michailovskyi

Invasive Species of the Month: Gypsy Moths



Gypsy moths are a all too common occurrence in Michigan. The caterpillars are known for their huge appetite, which can be very damaging to an infested tree, leaving it vulnerable to disease. An infested tree can be identified by sightings of the caterpillars or moths as well as fallen leaf debris and bark remnants. A defoliated tree may be a sign that gypsy moths have taken over. Gypsy moths affect hardwoods, primarily Oaks, but also Maples and Birch.

If you find that you have an infested tree, there are several steps that you can take to help your tree and prevent the spread of gypsy moths. First, if you notice eggs, you can scrape them off the tree and into soapy water to ensure that they won't hatch next year. If you notice caterpillars, you can create a sticky barrier band to prevent them from getting to your tree's leaves by following the instructions linked here: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/GMBarrierBands.pdf>. Finally, if you find that your tree's leaves have already been eaten, simply take extra care of your tree by watering it at least once per week to reduce stress whilst it grows back its leaves. More information can be found on MSU extensions website as well as through the City of Ann Arbor.

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