



# The Recycling Minute

"Recycling only takes a minute"

Isabella County Recycling Center

Volume 2

## Thank You to Waste Management

Have you heard the news? Since the Isabella County Recycling Center opened in 1993, Waste Management has been under contract to run the Recycling Center. Since that time, Waste Management employees sorted and processed all the recycled materials at the Recycling Center. That contract ended on March 31st, 2008, and was the last day Waste Management was with us.

We want to thank Waste Management for 15 years of service, and also for their hard work and dedication to the Isabella County Recycling Center. A special thanks to Norm

Yoder, former Facility Manager. Norm went above and beyond many times over the years. He believes in the work we do at the Recycling Center, and this showed in his work. Thanks Norm!

### *Thank you to Waste Management for 15 years of service!*

I would also like to thank the other Waste Management employees who were with us when the contract ended: Linda Jackson and William Wood.

Former Waste Management employees who will be continuing with us are: Desiree McCormick, Op-

erations, and Clarence Rose, Processing.

As of April 1st, 2008, the Isabella County Recycling Center is run by Isabella County employees.

Say "hello" to employees: Amy Shindorf, Resource Recovery Director; Marnie Basney, Environmental Education Specialist; Bruce Chapman, Facility Manager; Desiree McCormick, Operations Specialist; Carey Pauquette-Schalm, Clerk; Charity Dear, Driver; Brett Fox, Driver; Jermaine Collins, Processor, Michelle Davidson, Processor, and Charles Willford, Operator.

## WE'RE OPEN FRIDAYS!

As you may have already heard, the County has taken over processing of the Isabella County Recycling Center.

In the future, we hope to expand our services. As we do, we will communicate to the public through this newsletter as well as other sources.

The County takeover is a very positive transition, that will save taxpayer dollars. The more people recycle, the more revenue that is generated, and the more money that goes into County programs.

## WE'RE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING PLANT POTS!

Bring in your used plant pots and flats for re-use and recycling.

I need to get myself out there and grab some containers to plant herbs in.

### Upcoming Events:

**MAY IS BIKE MONTH!**  
Dust off those bikes and save gas!

Michigan Recycling Coalition Annual Conference & Expo  
5/13-5/15

Memorial Day: 5/26  
Recycling Center Closed

International Trails Day: 6/7

MRF Board meeting: 6/19

Citywide Garage Sales: 6/21

HHW Collection: 6/27  
8:30-10:30 am  
By appointment ONLY

### Recycling Tonnage:

Since Opening in 1993:  
524,451.16 tons  
Year-to-Date  
36,214.12 tons

### For More Information:

Isabella County Recycling Center  
4208 E River Rd, Mt Pleasant

[Map](#)

Recycling Hotline: 989-773-9631

My email  
[recycling@isabellacounty.org](mailto:recycling@isabellacounty.org)

Web site  
[www.isabellacounty.org/recycles](http://www.isabellacounty.org/recycles)

[Recycling Guide](#)

[HHW 2008 Guide](#)  
(includes dates)

[Suggestions](#)

[Please Remove Me](#)

[I receive multiples](#)

[Sign Me Up!](#)

[Sign Someone Else Up](#)

## Latest Happenings/Programs:

### Environmental Education for Isabella County to utilize: Trainings

As Environmental Education Specialist, my duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conduct tours of Recycling Center
- Present to classrooms about recycling/benefits
- Write a biweekly newspaper column about environmental concerns
- Present at local expos and business fairs
- Conduct HHW collections
- Answer inquiries from the public about recycling, recycling programs, and general environmental concerns
- Record and prepare monthly board minutes



If you would like to utilize my services, free to Isabella County residents and businesses, please contact me.

To better serve my community in my position as Environmental Educator, I periodically attend special trainings and workshops. Since the last newsletter, I have attended the following trainings:

- United Way Volunteer Management Training Series
- HAZWOPER 24-hour certification (Hazardous Waste Operator)

### MT PLEASANT FREECYCLE

To exchange items for FREE:

Go to Mt Pleasant FreeCycle at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MtPleasantFreeCycle/>. I have personally utilized FreeCycle for a few months now. It's awesome! I have received a satellite receiver, bread machine, and dresser, and given away some sheet sets. All for free! What a wonderful way to exchange useful items at no cost!

*"This year is the Isabella County Recycling Center / MRF's 15 Year Anniversary!"*

### Mount Pleasant Citywide Garage Sales:

Since I encourage people to "reduce, re-use, recycle," and it's officially springtime, I would like to let you know that it's almost time for the Mount Pleasant Citywide Garage Sales. You know what they say...one person's trash is another person's treasure! What a wonderful way to encourage re-use of those unwanted items.

The date for 2008 is Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. So start cleaning out your garages, basements, and closets! Then if you have the internet, please visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mtpleasantsales/>. This is the place to sell anything, any time, from single items to yard and garage sales. And it's FREE! If you do not have the internet,

need information or help, please call Linda at 989-773-3713.

"Linda" is a wonderful lady by the name of Linda Colburn. She had posted a request for used tissue paper to wrap items she sells on Mt Pleasant FreeCycle, and to offer some seeds. I got a good feeling about her, so I wrote to introduce myself. The next day she stopped by the Recycling Center and we chatted.

Linda volunteers for many organizations, including: Meals on Wheels as a substitute driver; Art Reach, where she works anywhere from 4-8 hours per month; Friends of the Library, where she works the week of the annual book sale;

she places items, and keeps the book room stocked and straightened at the Thrift Shop on N. Mission; she goes around to area thrift shops looking for items; and has been promoting the Citywide Garage Sales since she retired in 2003. Prior to that, she was a registered nurse for 43 years! She worked 10 years at Central Michigan Community Hospital, but the last 13 years she worked for Sparrow in Lansing.

Linda posted a request for used tissue paper, so please remember to save yours for her. I would be happy to collect it for her at the Recycling Center.

According to the FTC, identity theft happens when someone takes information about you and then uses it to commit fraud. In addition, identity fraud in its various forms has affected ten million people in any given year. What that means in dollars is business losses of about fifty billion, and on top of that, victims of identity theft have spent five billion dollars trying to undo this harm. According to Federal Trade Commission Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras, everyone needs to be conscious that identity theft is real. She also says that although no one's immune, there is a lot you can do to “deter, detect, and defend yourself from identity theft.”

If your identity is stolen, not only does it cost you money but also time, emotions, and stress. It can take years to build good credit, and an identity thief can ruin your good credit quick! In order to deter identity theft, here are a few recommendations.

First, analyze what is in your wallet. Don't carry around anything that has your social security number on it. If someone asks for your social security number, be hesitant. Ask why they need it and how they're going to safeguard it. Be mindful of your trash. Did you know that stealing trash is not illegal? In 1998, the Supreme Court ruled that once an item is left for trash pickup, there is no expectation of privacy or continued ownership. Shred paperwork and financial documents that contain personal information.

The Isabella County Recycling Center's new “Shred” program can help! We distribute large envelopes to residents. Or if you have an envelope at home that is up to 12" x 15.5", remove the metal

clasp, then start placing the following confidential documents inside: credit card statements, medical records, tax records and returns, pay check stubs, credit card applications, expired licenses, insurance policies and contracts, bank statements, mortgage records, student loan receipts, unfilled drug prescriptions, credit card checks or personal checks...anything with confidential information (especially social security number and birth date.) Once filled, seal the envelope and bring it to the Isabella County Recycling Center. At this point, Mid-Michigan Industries' (MMI's) 4 Guys and a Shredder will safely and securely shred your envelope. 4 Guys and a Shredder is a group of 4 individuals with significant barriers to employment that have purchased an industrial shredder to provide secure shredding services to various individuals, businesses and municipalities. They are conveniently located at the Materials Recovery Facility located at 4208 E. River Rd., Mt. Pleasant. The low-cost “Shred” program is only \$1.00 per envelope. Securely locked containers safely hold your documents prior to destruction. This program eliminates the passage of your information through multiple hands, and the need for faulty home shredders. The shredded product will be recycled at no additional fee, which is better for the environment than placing these documents in the trash.

For quantities larger than a manila envelope can hold, MMI's “Four Guys & a Shredder” program can also help. This program provides shredding for \$0.15 per pound if you bring it to the Isabella County Recycling Center. Or, MMI will come pick it up from your

residence for a fee. They also provide shredding pickup free to any business currently under contract with MMI. For businesses that do not presently have a recycling pick up contract with MMI, this service is available for an additional fee based upon distance, volume, and frequency. For more information please contact Sheri Alexander or Shad Welke at Mid Michigan Industries at 773-6918.

The next step to reduce identity theft is “detect.” Especially if the thief opens new accounts, there may be no way for you discover it unless you review your credit report and financial accounts regularly. Federal law gives you the right to a free credit report yearly. You can check your credit report at [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com).

If you take steps to “deter” identity theft, but still “detect” you have become a victim, you must “defend” by acting quickly. Contact one of the three credit reporting agencies and put a fraud alert on your file. Next contact each creditor where your information has been misused and close any accounts you believe have been tampered with or opened in your name. Follow up in writing and dispute the accounts, and get a letter resolving the disputed fraudulent accounts. The FTC also has an affidavit which can be used to write an explanation of what happened, which proves the accounts they are trying to collect on are fraudulent. Next contact your local police to file a report, and get a copy. Then report the identity theft online at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) or call 877-ID-THEFT toll free to report it to the FTC. There is also a lot of consumer education material available on the web site.

## Update: Earth Day

The Isabella County Recycling Center's Annual Earth Day celebration and FREE yard waste day was Saturday, April 19th.

This year we gave away a free tree to each family. Residents were able to choose from the following Michigan species trees: White Pine, Red Osier Dogwood, or Ninebark.



Although our annual free yard waste day is over, you can bring yard waste to the Isabella County Recycling Center daily. There is a fee for yard waste. Leaves and grass clippings are \$1.00 per bag. Residents should not leave bags behind. Brush and branches are \$12.00 per cubic yard, and should not be more than three inches in diameter.

EARTH WEEK at the Isabella County Recycling Center was a huge success! We even had television coverage!:

<http://www.9and10news.com/category/story?id=133600> And:

<http://www.9and10news.com/category/story?id=133740>



## Isabella County Recycling Center

4208 E River Rd  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-773-9631

Fax: 989-773-0835

E-mail:

[recycling@isabellacounty.org](mailto:recycling@isabellacounty.org)

**We're on the web!**

[www.isabellacounty.org](http://www.isabellacounty.org)

[/recycles](#)

**“Recycling only  
takes  
a minute”**

Thanks for reading the Isabella County Recycling Center’s 2nd quarterly news-  
letter!

- The MRF was founded in 1993, and was built using a State grant.
- “MRF” stands for Material Recovery Facility, but nowadays we go by “Isabella County Recycling Center” more than we do “MRF.”
- Isabella County residents can recycle for free, residents from other coun-  
ties pay \$2.00 per trip. (Everyone must pay to recycle certain items, such  
as yard waste, tires, and oil.)
- We recycle 3,000 tons of cardboard each year.
- Once recovered, the recycling is baled, then loaded onto trucks and  
shipped to companies that make each material into new things!
- We accept general recyclables, such as:  
  
Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, cardboard, boxboard, brown paper  
bags, white and colored office paper, clear and brown glass, plastic bot-  
tles and jugs, tin/steel, and aluminum.
- We *also* accept the following items:  
  
Yard waste (\$1/bag or \$12.00/cubic yard,) used motor oil and antifreeze  
(25¢/gallon,) used motor oil filters (25¢ each,) household batteries (free,)  
hard- and soft-cover books (free,) and tires of all sizes (prices are as fol-  
lows, off-rim/on-rim: car/truck, \$4.00/\$5.00; semi truck, \$7.00/\$8.00;  
gravel truck, \$10.00/\$11.00; agricultural, \$15.00/\$16.00)
- **Since the Recycling Center opened in 1993, over 1 million tons have  
been recycled!!!**

## Isabella County Recycling Center

### **NEW** Hours of Operation

Mon—Wed  
8 am — 5:30 pm

Thurs  
8 am — 7:00 pm

Fri  
8 am — 5:30 pm

Sat  
8 am — 1:30 pm

Sun

CLOSED



### Depot locations:

Blanchard Village Depot - Blanch-  
ard Road, old county garage

Broomfield Depot - Township Hall  
at the NE corner of Rolland Rd &  
M-20

Fremont Twp/Winn Village Depot -  
Blanchard Road, Winn Community  
Building

Rosebush Depot - Past the ball  
fields at the end of Locust, behind  
Isabella Twp Fire Hall

Shepherd Depot - 208 W Boulevard  
Ave, Department of Public Works

Weidman Depot - Weidman Lions  
Club, Main Street, old fire hall, just  
east of Woodruff Road