



Ideas for Recycling and Energy Efficiency

Submitted by Diane Friese

Monday, October 8 is the last Vienna Bulky Pickup Day for 2007. Remember that each household can dispose of only 3 car-sized tires free on Bulky Pickups. Additional tires and those which are oversized are subject to a fee and must have a sticker on them prior to being picked up. Stickers can be purchased from one of Vienna's Selectmen.

Recycling Tips:

Do you sometimes find that you have a pile of small candle ends that you are saving and don't want to throw away, but never get around to using? Here are few ideas for using them:

- Melt down all your old candles ends into one big multicolored candle using a tin or empty frozen orange juice can as a mold
- Use to make matches damp-proof
- Coat rolled newspaper starter logs for use in fireplaces, woodstoves or in your camp fires

If you find yourself with some miscellaneous socks without mates, the following are some recycling ideas:

- Give these socks to your children or grandchildren for sock puppets
- Take old socks camping and double them up to use as pot holders
- Use to dust or polish furniture or stone sculptures
- Tie them into a knot and use as a dog toy
- Use to clean up after your arts and crafts or projects particularly when using glue

Energy Efficiency Tips:

Water conservation is something we should all practice even here in Maine. With the exception of the air we breathe, water is the single most important element in our lives. It is too precious to waste. Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers which are research now shows are rapidly melting. This leaves just 1% for all of humanity's

needs on the planet!

It costs your household money every time your electric pump comes on to bring water to one of the faucets you turn on. The more electricity you use, the more the large power plants have to produce and the more pollution they spew into the atmosphere. The pollution from commercial and industrial energy plants is a significant contributor to global warming which is already impacting our climate here in Vienna. The following are some water and electric conservation suggestions:

- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. A slow drip can waste 15-20 gallons a day. Fix it and you will save almost 6,000 gallons a year plus that much wear and tear on your water pump.
- Check for invisible leaks in your toilet. Put a bit of food coloring in each toilet tank. Without flushing, wait 15 minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It's not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. That's more than 30,000 gallons a year!
- Fill your dishwasher or clothes washer full because it uses the same amount of water for a normal cycle, whether it contains a full load of dishes or clothes or just a few items. (Also there is no need to fully wash dishes before loading in the dishwasher - just scrape off food scraps)
- Shower "the navy way". Because fresh water is relatively scarce on ships, sailors were taught to just get wet and then turn off the shower while soaping and scrubbing and turn it back on again to rinse off. This is a significant water conservation technique.
- Turn your water heater down to 130 degrees.
- When you are rinsing your vegetables and fruits, stopper the sink instead of using running water.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill dish pans or stopper your sinks with soapy and rinse water instead of using running water.

We can all make a difference by saving water resources in our own homes and as an extra bonus reduce our home energy costs.