

## Wachusett Recycled Resource Center

The Wachusett Recycled Resource Center provides free art and craft materials and a meeting place available for anyone in Central Massachusetts. Volunteers staff the Center, located on Boyden Road in Holden. The Center offers free craft classes one Saturday each month. Groups also meet at the Center.

### **Open Hours**

**Monday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Thursday 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

The Resource Center will close when the Wachusett School District closes due to weather.

Materials are donated by manufacturers in the region and by individuals. These materials include fabrics, yarns, papers and posterboard, containers and craft supplies of all sorts. More than 5000 visitors including teachers, seniors, scout leaders, church schools, drama groups, art museum classes and residents of all ages received materials at the center each year.

The Center operates from a one story, handicapped accessible building in front of Wachusett Extended Care (formerly Holden Hospital). Umass Memorial Realty provides the building and plows the parking lot. Six Wachusett towns share the cost of the utilities proportional to their populations. Volunteers staff the center, transport materials from donor companies, shovel the walks, clean the center and provide maintenance.

In addition to providing free supplies for all, some special projects accomplished with Center provisions include:

- Caps knit for newborn infants in hospitals
- Hats and mittens knit for children in need
- Costumes and scenery for community theatre and school drama projects
- Destination Imagination project materials and meeting place
- Worcester Art Museum class supplies
- Supplies for teachers who come from all over Worcester County

In 2002, Holden Grange presented their community service award to the Resource Center. Hazel Lund, center director, and Andrew DeMarco, student volunteer, accepted the award. In 2004, the Holden Democratic Committee, bestowed their Good Neighbor Award on Hazel Lund for her service. And in January 2008 dozens of volunteers attended a testimonial dinner for Hazel Lund where Rep. Lew Evangelidis presented Hazel with a proclamation of thanks from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for her exemplary service.

One fourth grade boy remarked, "This place is better than Wal-Mart. You can get everything here!" His friend added, "And it's free!" Another center shopper said, "This place is like a pot of gold." The Wachusett Recycled Resource Center is truly a resource for everyone.

# **Wachusett Recycled Resource Center**

**Open and free to all**

**Monday, 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

**Thursday, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

**52 Boyden Road, Holden**

From Main Street, in Holden center, next to Friendly's turn off Main Street onto Boyden Road, then turn right at sign for Wachusett Recycled Resource Center, then right along the front of Wachusett Extended Care. Continue straight to the Resource Center where there is an entry ramp.

Call Pat Charbonneau 508-856-0180 or Colleen Abrams 508-829-3954 for more information or to volunteer

## ***What can you find at the Center or donate?***

aluminum trays, baby food jars, bags, baskets, beads, binders, bottle caps, boxes, burlap, buttons, cardboard, cardboard tubes, CDs, coat hangers, coffee cans, containers, craft books, egg cartons, fabrics, feathers, felt, film canisters, floor tiles, flower pots, greeting cards, holiday decorations, labels, lids, magazines, magnets, papers, pine cones, pins and needles, posterboard, pringle cans, rubber, stickers, string, styrofoam pieces, wallpaper, wood, yarns and more...

The Center also accepts button, rechargeable NiCad, small sealed lead acid and alkaline batteries for recycling. The Center accepts fluorescent tubes for a small fee.

Compost bins are available at \$30 each.

## General Recycling Facts

### Aluminum

- Aluminum can be recycled using 5% of the energy used to make the original product.
- Recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television or computer for three hours.
- Americans throw enough aluminum away every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.
- Using recycled aluminum instead of virgin materials decreases water and air pollution and energy use by 95%.
- You can make 20 cans out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make one new one.

### Glass ↑

- Recycling 1 glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for 4 hours.
- In the coming decade, Americans are projected to throw away over 11 million tons of glass bottles and jars.
- Recycling saves 25-30% of the energy used to make glass from virgin materials.

### Steel ↑

- Every ton of steel recycled saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.
- Enough energy is saved each year by recycling steel to supply Los Angeles with electricity for almost 10 years.
- The steel industry recycles nearly 19 billion steel cans into new products each year - about 600 cans recycled every second!

### Composting Facts ↑

- Almost one third of the waste stream by weight is organic waste like food, leaves, and grass.
- In Massachusetts, leaves and yard waste make up approximately 17% of our waste stream.
- Each person in Massachusetts creates about 530 pounds of food and yard waste each year. If all that material was piled onto a football field, the pile would be 2,067 feet high, higher than Mt. Wachusett.
- A 1000-square-foot area of lawn can generate up to 500 pounds of grass clippings in a single growing season.

- Use of compost can reduce the need and use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

## **Plastics** ↑

- Americans throw away enough plastic bottles each year to circle the earth four times.
- Every hour, we throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles. (22 billion plastic bottles per year).
- Five recycled plastic bottles make enough fiberfill to stuff a sky jacket.

## **Paper** ↑

- A 12-foot high wall could be built from NYC to Los Angeles with all of the office and writing paper thrown out in the U.S. each year.
- Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees.
- Every Sunday, the U.S. wastes nearly 90% of all the recyclable newspapers. This wastes about 500,000 trees.
- One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.
- Americans use more than 67 million tons of paper per year, or 580 pounds per person.
- More than 1/3 of all paper fiber used to make paper comes from recycled paper.

## **Junk Mail** ↑

- American's receive almost 4.5 million tons of junk mail per year.
- About 44% of junk mail is never opened.
- Every person in the US receives the equivalent of one and a half trees per year or approximately 560 pieces of junk mail per year.
- The average person gets 1.5 personal letter per week compared to 10.8 pieces of junk mail.
- Approximately 40% of the solid waste mass that makes up our landfills are paper and cardboard.
- 100 million trees are ground up each year to produce junk mail.
- Your name is typically worth 3 to 20 cents each time it is sold
  - American's go through 2.5 mill plastic bottles every hour. Only a small percentage is recycled
  - Every Sunday more than 500,000 trees are used to produce 88% of the newspapers that are never recycled
  - We throw away enough iron and steel to supply continuously all of our nations' automakers.