



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Cincinnatians Recycle More in 2008

City hopes program continues momentum in its 20th year

CINCINNATI (April 20, 2009) – Cincinnati residents put 12.2 percent more material in their recycling bins in 2008. According to recent data released by Hamilton County Environmental Services, Cincinnatians recycled 12,175 tons of material in 2008, or about 164 pounds per household. In 2007, residents recycled 10,851 tons, or about 146 pounds per household.

The increase is attributed to the increasing awareness of the City's curbside recycling program through consistent promotions, as well as Mayor Mallory's Community Council Recycling Challenge, in which communities competed to sign-up new recyclers.

"The efforts of the community councils directly resulted in nearly 5,000 new recyclers," said Sue Magness, Cincinnati recycling coordinator.

2009 marks the City's curbside recycling program's 20th anniversary, and Magness hopes it is one of the program's most successful years.

"We have great momentum going into this year," Magness said. "In 2008, we saw a 129 percent increase in the number of residents requesting recycling bins."

While Magness notes that 2008 saw an increase in the amount of material Cincinnatians recycled, there is still vast room for improvement.

"Currently only about 40 percent of residents are recycling on a regular basis. That means more than half of residents aren't participating. We need to continue using consistent promotions to educate our neighbors to further enhance the program's success. We also are looking into implementing new technologies and incentives to help increase the City's diversion rates."

Since the program's inception, Cincinnatians have diverted nearly 250,000 tons of material from the waste stream. In addition to conserving landfill space, these efforts have:

- Reduced greenhouse gases by 192,282 Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent, the equivalent of taking 151,005 cars off the road for a year
- Conserved enough energy to power 46,602 homes for a year
- Saved the equivalent of 39,560,243 gallons of gas
- Protected 1,800,684 trees

The City of Cincinnati has worked to make recycling easy and available to all residents. Residents living in single-family homes or multi-family residences with less than nine units, can sign-up for curbside recycling at no additional cost. Residents should call 591-6000 or visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov to request a recycling bin. Residents not qualified for the curbside recycling program can still recycle by using one of the 9 recycling drop boxes placed throughout the city. A complete list of the city's drop box locations can be accessed at www.cincinnati-oh.gov.

The City of Cincinnati's recycling program is administered by Rumpke Recycling. A variety of materials are currently accepted, including plastic #1 and #2 plastic bottles, glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, and a variety of paper products. For a complete list of acceptable materials, please visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov.

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