

THE RECYCLER

Newsletter of Recycle Rutherford, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Spring 2023

Recycle, Learn, and Celebrate this April!

Healthy Soil Is Essential to Life: Learn What You Need to Do!

Monday, April 24, 2023, 7:00 pm

www.recyclerutherford.org

Dr. Shelley Thomas is the founder and director of The Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition [CALA], which is housed in the MTSU Honors College. After teaching French for 30 years at MTSU and serving as the CALA director, she is now retired and on the educational outreach team for Save Soil. She is the featured speaker for our Spring meeting, a Facebook Live event; use the address above to connect.

Save Soil, the largest of the global nonprofit organizations, is seeking to prevent our planet's rapidly advancing soil extinction. It brings together leaders, scientists, and citizens from around the world to support nations instituting national policies and actions to increase the organic content in farmable soil.

Learn about Save Soil.

As CALA director, Thomas was invited to Tamil Nadu in India 20 years ago by the founder of the Save Soil movement. There she saw first-hand the development of successful Save Soil programs, which have been noted in the Guinness Book of World records, adopted by the Indian government, and presented at the recent 2022 COP 15 (Conference of Parties) annual U.N. meeting on biodiversity. Thomas will present a simplified version of the problem of desertification, explain solutions, and tell us practical ways we can make an impact right here in Murfreesboro. Thomas will respond to questions as part of the program.

Bring Your Coffee Bags to Earth Day to Recycle!
Saturday, April 22, 2023, 10 am–2 pm
Murfreesboro Historic Square



If you're one of the many who need that daily caffeine jolt and buy your coffee in bags, you have probably looked at them in frustration because there is no local opportunity to recycle them. **Come to Recycle Rutherford's booth on Earth Day, and we will be happy to take your clean and empty coffee bags.** Pictured above are examples of typical coffee bags made of multiple layers of paper, plastic, and foil that cannot be easily separated for recycling.

TerraCycle is an innovative recycling company based in the US that has become a global leader in recycling hard-to-recycle materials. They offer a range of free programs in partnership with companies, and they offer recycling of almost anything through their zero-waste boxes for which there is a charge. Recycle Rutherford will work through a TerraCycle program to recycle the bags.

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Touring the Revamped Haley Road Recycling Center

Last October, several members of Recycle Rutherford visited Haley Road Electronic Waste and Recycle Center, 1140 Haley Road, Murfreesboro, to see recent changes to make the site safer and more efficient for users. (photo below right)



Bishop Wagener, director of solid waste, explained that the bins are arranged so that recyclers can pull up beside them rather than crossing in front of the traffic carrying their materials, as can be seen in the photo above. The center was closed to users at the time, thus the absence of vehicles. Also, accessibility has been improved so that climbing metal steps and using catwalks on the bins isn't necessary. The bins have been rearranged in order of use with four bins for plastic 1's and 2's because that is the highest volume.

At the left back of the open area is a cardboard compactor located so that recyclers can drive up and unload. Since compacting the cardboard reduces the space it takes up and allows for two-ton loads, the bin must only be pulled once a week instead of several times. Hauling costs are reduced, resources are saved, and efficiency and availability are greatly increased.

The Haley Road site accepts broken down cardboard, flattened plastic beverage containers, newspaper, mixed paper and magazines, glass containers, aluminum cans, steel cans, and corded electronic household items. Televisions and computer monitors can be disposed of at this location for a fee. For the fee schedule, go to <https://solidwaste.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/electronic-waste>

No trash or large appliances are accepted. Large appliances include, but are not limited to refrigerator, freezer, stove, washing machine, clothes dryer, air conditioner, heater, etc.

Repair Cafes Are an Interesting Concept Worth Trying

Bonnie Black shared this information from a Culture Report on NPR (National Public Radio) by Martha Bebinger, WBUR, Framingham, MA.

My interest in an on-air report perked up when NRP featured an item on Repair Cafes keeping some items, usually discarded, out of the landfill. Repair Cafes are organized community events staffed by volunteers who fix items such as lamps, backpacks, and garden tools so that they can continue to be used. Other items repaired include small appliances, jewelry, and electronics, iPads for example, that don't work. Volunteers with various expertise set up shop behind sewing machines, grinders, soldering guns, and toolboxes of parts and supplies.

Framingham, MA is resuming their repair events after a break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The half-day weekend event is usually held three times per year in that city. They report no difficulty lining up volunteers with expertise to address the repairs.

The author of the piece, Martha Bebinger, reported the idea started in the Netherlands. The organizers estimate that 2,600 cafes are organized worldwide and keep half-a-million items each year out of our landfills. With a finite amount of space on planet Earth, that's a good thing!

Do you think there is sufficient interest in Rutherford County for such an event to be successful? Would you volunteer to be one of the repair persons? Do you know of others who might be willing to volunteer? Please respond at www.recyclerutherford.org and click on Contact Us.



Bring Your Coffee Bags to Earth Day to Recycle
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TerraCycle has a very informative website from which most of the following information was obtained. They work closely with manufacturing companies to determine the specific needs for raw materials. Shipments of waste are sent to one of their local TerraCycle Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), located in the same country in which the waste originates. TerraCycle currently operates in 21 countries and has more than 35 MRFs worldwide.

When a shipment from a collector arrives at one of their MRF's, they scan it to record the shipment information, date, weight, and what material it contains. They sort materials based on characteristics and composition, using a wide variety of sorting technologies, including manual sorting, size separation, sink/float, optical, air density, gravity, and magnetic, so that materials can be sent downstream for proper processing and handling.

For those of us who wonder if they resort to burning, their site states, "Incineration (or any other form of converting waste to energy) is avoided. We never use incineration as an end-of-life solution for anything that we guarantee to be recycled (all accepted waste streams are listed on our program pages). We only use waste-to-energy for the small percentage of material that we receive that is non-compliant (i.e., materials that the program is not intended to collect) or materials legally required to be processed in this manner (i.e., medical waste), and we make every effort to recycle non-compliant materials that could be accepted in other programs."

Once sorted by category, the different material types are cleaned and then sent to third-party partners to process the materials into usable forms. For example, metals and aluminum are shredded and smelted into metal sheeting, ingots, or bar stock. Glass is crushed and melted to be used in new glass bottles (if clear), or brick, cement, or concrete applications (if

colored). Rubber is generally cryo-milled into a powdered state for flooring applications. Organics are composted or used in industrial and commercial fertilizers. Plastics are the largest category of material TerraCycle collects. These materials are size reduced (made smaller by being shredded or ground), then melted and reformatted into pellets, flakes, or a powder format.



The resulting recycled materials are sold to manufacturing companies who produce the end product and complete the recycling journey. These end products may include outdoor furniture and decking, plastic shipping pallets, watering cans, storage containers and bins, tubes for construction applications, flooring tiles, playground surface covers, athletic fields, and more! Since the coffee bag mixture is largely plastic, it is likely to be used for outdoor furniture and similar items.

The site states, "We strictly control the movement of materials through each part of the recycling process to maintain a recycling chain of custody. This allows us to track and confirm where materials were sent and why."

We invite you to take part in this global effort to reduce the amount of trash that ends up buried in a landfill for centuries. **Bring your coffee bags to our Earth Day booth and make a difference!**

Recycle Rutherford Membership Form

I enclose my annual dues to support Recycle Rutherford and receive the newsletter.

- \$25.00 supporter \$15.00 student \$100.00 patron
- I am contributing \$_____ in addition to dues.
- I prefer the newsletter to be emailed and am providing my email address.

PLEASE PRINT:

name _____ amount enclosed _____ -

address _____

city, state, zip _____

telephone: day _____; evening _____

email _____; volunteer interest _____

Please make check payable and mail to Recycle Rutherford, P.O. Box 1804, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804

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Dates to Remember

Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

Saturday, April 1, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon
4765 Florence Road, Murfreesboro



Earth Day—Recycle Rutherford will collect coffee bags for recycling at their booth; see page 1 for details.

Theme: “Renew Rutherford Together”; included are booths from many organizations, live music, organic and local products, giveaways, and a variety of activities. Presented by MTE.

Spring Meeting—Recycle Rutherford:

Monday, April 24, 7:00 p.m. via Facebook Live
Program: Dr. Shelley Thomas on Saving the Soil
Go to www.recyclerutherford.org to access meeting.

Crafters Exchange Consignment Sale

Wednesday – Saturday, April 26-29
Lane Agri-Park Community Center,
315 John R, Rice Blvd, Murfreesboro.
(615) 542-1669, theconsignmentconnection.com
Great bargains on craft supplies and materials for all hobbies. Info source: *Tennessee Home and Farm Magazine*

2022-24 Officers and Board

Recycle Rutherford holds elections each April at the annual meeting; in general, officers and part of the board are elected in even years for two-year terms, and approximately half the board is elected in uneven years, providing for staggered terms. Because of COVID interruptions, the schedule is somewhat off. There will be an election in 2024.

The officers are listed below with the board members, who are elected each April and serve staggered terms. The date indicates when the terms end. The board meets monthly on first Mondays at 6:15 p.m. via Zoom.

Rachel Cornett, president
Bonnie Black, vice president
Suma Clark, secretary
Rick Racker, treasurer

Board Members:

Linda Hardyman, 2024
Diane Parker 2024
Beth Spivey, 2024

Reminder: To renew your membership, please see the form on page 3. Dues are only \$25 per year. We don't want to lose you!

For more information, go to www.recyclerutherford.org

Like us on Facebook!



P.O. Box 1804
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1804