

# North Coast Sustainability

Sharing new ideas and best practices



A COLLABORATIVE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FOR CUYAHOGA COUNTY

Winter 2009/2010

Volume 1, Issue 3

## University Circle and Downtown Cleveland Food Waste Composting Takes Off:

(Beau Daane, Business Recycling Specialist, Cuyahoga County Solid County Waste District)

In April, 2009, the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District ([www.cuyahogawsd.org](http://www.cuyahogawsd.org)) brought together over 55 large food waste generators, waste haulers and composting facilities to discuss the challenges and opportunities for food waste composting in NEO. Recently, two nodes of activity have developed in NE Ohio: University Circle and Downtown Cleveland. The Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, the Cleveland Botanical Garden and Case Western Reserve University are leading the way in University Circle, composting many thousands of pounds per week either onsite or at Sansai Environmental.

Downtown Cleveland is catching up as eight large downtown food waste generators began composting on November 2nd, 2009. As of mid-November, a ton of food waste was being collected for composting three times per week. The eight companies include Quicken Loans Arena, Forest City Enterprises, Great Lakes Brewing Company, Flannery's, Constantino's, the Federal Court House, the Zoo, and URS. Landmark Disposal is hauling the material to Sagamore Soils. The Cleveland Browns were already composting with Rosby Resource Recovery.

In addition to the downtown Cleveland activity, by spring 2010, the West Side Market will have two in-vessel composters that will collect 75% of the Market's food waste and turn it into compost. The Rockefeller Greenhouse on MLK, Jr. Blvd. plans to use the compost. This will be a win-win for the City: instead of paying to throw away food waste and spending money to purchase compost, the City will save money on avoided trash costs by turning 'trash' into nutrient rich compost.

Food waste composting is just starting to 'tip' in NE Ohio. There is still much to do! If you know of a business or institution anywhere in Cuyahoga County interested in food waste composting, please encourage them to contact Beau Daane, Business Recycling Specialist at the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District at 216-443-3732.

## The Cleveland Carbon Fund

(Joyce Burke-Jones, Cuyahoga County Office of Sustainability EO  
Thomas Ford, County Senior Public Affairs Officer)

By now almost everyone is aware, to some degree, of the detrimental effects that growing amounts of carbon and carbon gases are having on the planet. More than 7.5 billion tons of carbon gets released into the atmosphere every year in the U.S. alone, but the problem always seemed too large for an individual to address beyond changing a few light bulbs in his or her house.

Now the Cleveland-based Cleveland Carbon Fund (CCF) is breaking new ground and offering the public and individuals an easy way to play a larger role in reducing carbon emissions.

The Board of County Commissioners recently committed to partner with the CCF and other local charitable organizations like the Cleveland and Gund Foundations, in funding and promoting projects throughout Northeast Ohio that reduce carbon emissions, boost environmentally conscious businesses, and benefit the general health of the community. CCF is one of the first organizations in the country to offer the public a way to address global environmental issues on a local basis. Projects such as tree plantings, home and commercial weatherization, and lighting updates and retrofits will be selected soon for CCF funding, and individuals' tax-deductible donations to the fund will put them on the cutting edge nationwide in stimulating economic development regionally, and reducing the carbon emissions that are damaging the community and the entire planet.

**For more information about the Cleveland Carbon Fund, go to**

**<http://www.clevelandcarbonfund.org/about/>**

### Upcoming Events:

- DEC. 11TH, 8AM—12PM, SHAKER SQUARE FARMERS MARKET, FOR MORE INFO: [WWW.SHAKERSQUARE.NET](http://WWW.SHAKERSQUARE.NET), [WWW.NORTHUNIONFARMERSMARKET.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHUNIONFARMERSMARKET.ORG)
- DEC. 13TH, 10AM—5PM, GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER, FREE GENERAL ADMISSION. [WWW.GREATSCIENCE.COM](http://WWW.GREATSCIENCE.COM)
- DEC 14TH, 5:30PM—7:30PM, GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER, NORTECH ADVANCED ENERGY SPEAKER SERIES: BIOMASS TO ENERGY, FREE, REGISTRATION REQUIRED, [HTTP://NORTECHBIO-MASSENERGY.EVENTBRITE.COM/](http://NORTECHBIO-MASSENERGY.EVENTBRITE.COM/)

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# North Coast Sustainability



## LED Lights for the Holidays

(Joyce Burke-Jones, Cuyahoga County Office of Sustainability EO)

Consumer Reports (CR) recommends replacing holiday decorative lighting every three seasons to avoid significant fire risk. And when doing so, replacing incandescent lights with more efficient and more durable LED lights.

energy, compared with 12 to 105 kWh for the incandescents, saving \$1 to \$11.

**Durability.** LEDs won. All LED bulbs were working even after 4,000-plus hours, while each string of incandescents had one or more bulbs burn out before 2,000 hours. The LED bulbs we bought were also plastic and therefore less likely to break than the glass incandescents.

**Brightness.** Incandescents won. The C9 and C7 incandescents were five to six times brighter than the LEDs, though the mini incandescents were slightly dimmer than the mini LEDs."

They also remind consumers to only buy UL, ETL or CSA certified products, no matter what type fixture is being purchased.

I haven't been able to get

three seasons out of most of holiday lighting I've bought over the past few years so I'm 100% LED holiday lighting for 2009.

Access the following articles for specific comparisons:

Holiday Lights: Incandescent vs. LED - <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/home-garden/bed-bath/home-decoration/holiday-lights-incandescent-vs-led/overview/index.htm?INTKEY=I95BOEO>

Save Money by Replacing Incandescent Holiday Lights with LED Versions <http://blogs.consumerreports.org/home/2009/11/holiday-christmas-lights-led-lights-incandescents-home-depot-exchange-program.html>

### Upcoming Events:

- DEC. 14TH, 6:30PM—7:30PM, OSU EXTENSION, INFORMATION SESSION ON TRAINING PROGRAMS IN URBAN AGRICULTURE, LANGSON HUGHES LIBRARY, 10200 SUPERIOR, CLEVELAND
- DEC. 15TH, 4PM—7PM, TREMONT FARMERS MARKET—HOLIDAY MARKET, PILGRIM CHURCH, WEST 14TH STREET
- DEC. 17TH, 6:30PM—7:30PM, OSU EXTENSION, INFORMATION SESSION ON TRAINING PROGRAMS IN URBAN AGRICULTURE, CARNEGIE WEST LIBRARY, 1900 FULTON, CLEVELAND

CR tested mini, C7 & C9 lights with the following results:

**"Price.** It's a toss-up. Per string, LEDs can be a bit more expensive than incandescents. The C7 and C9 sets we bought had the same number of bulbs as incandescents, but the LED were shorter (16.7 feet vs. 25 feet), so we needed three strings for a 50-foot wrap, vs. two incandescent strings. As a result, it cost \$30 to \$40 more to wrap a tree in C7 and C9 LEDs. Mini LED strings we tested were the same length as incandescents (25 feet) but cost \$6 more.

**Energy use and costs.** LEDs won. They used 1 to 3 kilowatt hours of

## Funding Cleaner Ohio Air Through Fleet Diesel Improvements

(Joyce Burke-Jones, Cuyahoga County Office of Sustainability EO)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data shows that 79% of airborne cancer risk emanates from diesel exhaust. With this information, Clean Fleets Ohio is spreading the word about a new program targeting Ohio business and government fleets.

### Ohio Green Fleets

"The goal of Ohio Green Fleets is to significantly improve the environmental performance of business and government vehicle fleets across Ohio through diesel cleanup and other strategies. This new program is:

- Working with fleet managers to develop a Green Fleet policy tailored to their specific needs.

- Hands on support and assistance in implementing the policy.

- The development of a statewide rating system to recognize those fleets that have made positive progress toward their environmental goals. Please read more about [Ohio Green Fleets' success stories](#) to see those who received Ohio Green Fleets certification.

Ohio Green Fleets is presented with support from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (Ohio Energy Office) and Ohio

Environmental Education Fund. Program partners include Earth Day Coalition, US EPA SmartWay, and several local and regional organizations."

It's a great opportunity to benchmark fleet status with peers, identify economic risk, and position for fleet upgrade funding.

**For more information about the program contact:** <http://www.ohiogreenfleets.org/cms/>



## Sustainability: A Business Opportunity

(Jeffrey Baldassari, The Taylor Companies)

The sustainability movement started gaining traction in the United States at the beginning of this decade. Businesses are now recognizing that sustainable value is not only transforming their respective business models but they are now enjoying the fruits of the triple bottom benefits that sustainability yields. The Taylor Companies, the Bedford-based manufacturer of office seating and casegoods, has fully embraced this movement. Taylor has successfully integrated sustainability into its corporate culture which has transformed its identity within the community and its industry.

Established in 1816, Taylor is the oldest business enterprise in Ohio. Since the beginning of its 193 year tenure, Taylor has been headquartered in Bedford, Ohio. In 2004, Taylor needed to relocate from its aging facilities formerly located at the corner of Willis and Taylor Roads. Taylor's manufacturing plants had resided at this location since 1850. Taylor could have relocated these operations to Mississippi or Southern California. Alternatively it had the opportunity to play a key role in the revitalization of an abandoned 50 acre Brownfield located across the street from the entrance to the Metroparks' Bedford Reservation. From all perspectives, this 50 acre parcel had been dead since 1987.

Taylor decided to commit to

the remediation of the Brownfield. While many other local corporations were approached and asked to participate in this challenging venture, Taylor was the only company to do so. Today this former Brownfield proudly stands as Tinkers Creek Commerce Park and it is where Taylor calls home. This was Taylor's watershed moment in the sustainability movement and the Company hasn't looked back.

Sustainability has caused Taylor to rethink and expand its manufacturing business model. To be sure, a manufacturing concern does not survive for nearly 200 years without a well executed business model. Each generation in the Company's history has improved labor efficiency and raw material utilization. Now the current generation is expanding this model to reduce the consumption of natural resources and to redirect the manufacturing waste stream away from landfills.

By investing in energy efficient equipment and having an energy audit conducted, Taylor has found better approaches to conserve natural resources. Presently Taylor's aggregate annual consumption of natural gas, electricity and water is 59% less since moving into the new facilities. This translates into \$80,000 in annual savings.

Taylor's current generation no longer views manufacturing

waste as something to haul off to a landfill. Rather, this output is recognized as a beneficial feed stream for other processes, not a burden on the environment or on the Company's income statement. Today, Taylor responsibly diverts 90% of the manufacturing waste generated at the new Bedford facility through recycling, upcycling and composting. A total of 59 tons of waste was diverted last fiscal year: 38 tons of sawdust was delivered to local farms to be used for animal bedding; 15 tons of lumber scraps were used for thermo energy; 3 tons of cardboard, paper, upholstery fabric and post-consumer plastic were recycled; and 3 tons of leather scraps were upcycled to produce purses and wallets. Taylor's annual net waste hauling costs are less than \$1,000 resulting in \$20,000 of annual savings.

From a social perspective, the Brownfield remediation, natural resource conservation and waste diversion have improved the lives of the residents in Taylor's surrounding communities. Taylor is an active charitable contributor to the Bedford School System which enriches the lives of future generations. Other sustainable practices have added value to Taylor's employees. Working conditions and employee morale have improved. Taylor provides good wages, health care and retirement benefits. Taylor

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## Do you have sustainable ideas?

Are you interested in submitting an article on a sustainability topic for the next newsletter? If so, please email it to Jill Lis at [jlis@ccbh.net](mailto:jlis@ccbh.net) by **March 19th, 2010**.



“THE HEALTHY CONNECTIONS GROUP HAS IDENTIFIED PUBLIC HEALTH AS A CRITICAL PIECE OF SUSTAINABILITY... HEALTH IS CENTRAL TO SUSTAINABILITY.”

As we begin to implement the goals of Sustainable Cleveland 2019, it is clear that the working groups that emerged from the Summit will be an integral part of the process of moving this region into the future. A sustainable city provides a healthy environment for its residents including clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, healthy food accessibility, and green spaces for recreation. The Healthy Connections group has identified public health as a critical piece of sustainability and intends on injecting these principals into the discussion.

Many of the ideas that emerged from the Summit would significantly improve our community's health. For example, LEED certified green buildings include human health performance in its rating system; urban gardens eradicate food deserts; Farm to School programs foster healthy and health-literate children; 'complete streets' allow people to walk and bike; and transit oriented development reduces vehicle miles traveled for cleaner air and safer transportation. All of these ideas create green jobs and economic stability, which is

vital to Public Health. It is quite difficult to be healthy when you can't purchase nutritious foods, do not have access to or can afford medical care, have little green space for recreation and exercise, have poor water quality in our streams and Lake, and are stressed about job availability.

The connection between public health and the built environment is not new. Federally required environmental impact statements are supposed to consider the effects on human health. Another is zoning. In fact, Single-use 'Euclidian' zoning, (named for our very own Euclid, Ohio) originated as a public health measure to avoid overcrowding and to separate residential developments from the environmental harms of industry. Ironically, we're now trying to reverse many of these practices with denser, mixed-use developments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase physical activity through walking and biking, and provide more equitable access to resources. Greater Cleveland was on the forefront a century ago when it used the built environment to improve public health. We can be again.

Health is central to sustainability. Unfortunately, health is most often an afterthought when decisions regarding development or environmental impacts are discussed. The Healthy Connections group will be focusing on integrating the topic of health into these discussions, collaborating with other groups, and taking the lead on some future projects. The ideas that are emerging from the Summit to create a sustainable region will become the action items needed for a healthier, happier, economically prosperous region. But the drivers for these action items still remain unidentified and questions remain unanswered. What are we willing to change in our personal daily routines that can have a cumulative positive impact on our earth, community, and our neighborhoods? How do we change an ideology that revolves around individual best interest, rather than the common good, without giving up our personal freedoms? How do we sustain a growing population while continuing to progress as humans and not jeopardize the integrity of the environment? The Summit can provide the momentum and direction, but all of us must provide the change.



### A Business Opportunity...

retirement benefits. Taylor enhances these benefits with "Wellness Days" and periodic retirement savings' reviews. All of Taylor's Bedford employees engage in the Company's sustainability efforts.

Taylor is receiving public recognition for its sustainability practices. On October 1, 2009 Taylor was the first business in Ohio to be Certified Green Plus™ by the North Carolina Research Triangle based Institute of Sus-

tainable Development. Green Plus™ has been adopted as the official small and medium sized enterprise sustainability program of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). In the August/September edition of *Business Week's Small Biz* magazine, the national spotlight was placed on Taylor's sustainability practices in the cover story "When Going Green Isn't About Marketing."

Taylor's management and employees understand that sustain-

ability is a business opportunity. It is not cost prohibitive or complicated. Moreover, multi-national Fortune 500 companies do not have an exclusive right to it. Any company regardless of size or industry can embrace and succeed in a quest to become sustainable. Through education, networking and the celebration of each incremental success, the momentum will build until it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy and the triple bottom line will be measurably enhanced.

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## Going Green in the Kitchen

(Suzanne Krippel, R.S., Program Manager, Cuyahoga County Board of Health)

Many of the “green” activities in the home can be accomplished by tiny changes around the house. It is estimated that yard trimmings and food scraps account for up to 24% of the solid waste generated in the United States. But they don’t have to. Diverting these materials from the trash can and make rich, healthy soil for your grass or garden. Remember that tea bags, coffee grounds, and almost any plant can be composted. If you’d like to learn more visit [www.nrcs.gov/feature/backyard/compost.html](http://www.nrcs.gov/feature/backyard/compost.html).

Don’t forget to buy local produce. It supports farmers who grow the produce. It reduces harmful emissions in our atmosphere, since local produce doesn’t have to travel across the country (or world) to get to its destination. Also, it is a fresher, tastier product because the farm to table timing is reduced. Be sure to ask your local grocery store to carry produce grown locally.

Chef Matthew Anderson, Executive Chef of Umami in Chagrin Falls, added these helpful earth friendly tips for greening your kitchen:

1. **Recycle** It may sound easy, but in my house we make a game out of it. We have a

couple of old plastic buckets with pictures on them and my kids have to match what item goes where. We went from a 55 gallon trash can full every week, to 1 bag of trash and a whole lot to the recycle bin!

2. Use the ends of the celery (root end) as a base beneath a pot roast. Add water to the cooking pan and the root will keep drawing water and flavor up into the roast for a juicy feast.

3. Plant an herb garden. Even a window box full of herbs is more than enough for most families. A few basil, parsley, and thyme plants later and you’re ready to cook! I have fresh herbs from spring until fall. Once it gets too cold outside, I bring the window box in and have herbs through the winter.

4. Save potato or pasta water to thicken soups, sauces or gravies. It contains lots of starch, so don’t just throw it down the drain.

5. Tired of the same old recipes? Take a tip from a chef and mix up your usual menu to include vegetarian dishes like the soup below—your family will love it for the variety and you’ll feel good knowing your new recipe is heart healthy and

delicious.

### Vegetable Soup

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 10 cups (or more) vegetable stock
- 1 cup cooked kidney beans
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 pound small red-skinned potatoes, quartered
- 2 onion thinly sliced
- 2 large carrots, peeled, chopped
- 4 cups chopped tomatoes
- 1/2 pound green beans, trimmed, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 medium zucchini, chopped
- 4 fresh thyme sprigs
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup pasta, cooked

In a large pot, over medium heat, cook the onions and garlic until tender, about 8 minutes. Add the potatoes, carrots, zucchini, and half the green beans and cook for 5 more minutes.

Add the vegetable stock, thyme, and bay leaf. Bring to boil. Cover; simmer until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes.

Add pasta to soup. Add remaining green beans to the soup, simmer for 5 additional minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serves 6 to 8.



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“AS THE HOLIDAYS CLOSELY APPROACH...LET’S STOP AND THINK OF WAYS WE CAN GIVE TO OTHERS WITHOUT TAKING FROM THE PLANET.”

### How to Have a Green Holiday

(Janelle Zindroski, Intern, Cuyahoga County Board of Health)

As the holidays closely approach, and we all begin to do our last minute shopping, let’s stop and think of ways we can give to others without taking from the planet. Here are five simple steps you can take to make sure you are not only having a white Christmas but a green Christmas too.

**Step 1:** When it comes to wrapping paper, which totals over 4 million tons of trash annually use comic strips from the newspaper, old calendars, maps, or old posters. It will not only help protect the environment, but save you money.

**Step 2:** Many would think an artificial tree is more sustainable than a real one, considering that we cut down 34 million Christmas trees every year. When it comes to choosing between the two, a real one is the way to go. Plastic trees are made of petroleum products, and use up resources in both manufacturing and shipping. Buy a real tree, but instead of buying one that has been chopped down get a smaller one that is in a planter. That way, when the holidays are over, you can plant it or keep it in the pot and reuse it for the next 2-3 years. If you choose to purchase a chopped down tree make sure you chip and mulch the tree when you are done using it. Chipped material makes excellent mulch for your shrub beds.

**Step 3:** Decorating the home with lights to celebrate the holidays is another tradition, but a string of 100 tree lights

used for 10 hours a day generate enough carbon dioxide to fill 5 party balloons every day. Instead, switch from old ones to LED lights. This will reduce your energy consumption by 90%.

**Step 4:** Store-bought holiday cards are rich, elegant, and expensive. They also consume a huge amount of natural resources for a throw-away item. The amount of cards sold in the U.S. during the holiday season would fill a football field 10 stories high, and requires the harvesting of nearly 300,000 trees. Instead, why not send a card through email? For those who do not have email, you can send cards made from recycled paper or have your kids make home made cards out of old ones.

**Step 5:** Tis the season for giving. Here are some tips for sustainable giving:

Services instead of goods (Gift certificates for a massage, music lessons, childcare, car wash, dog walking, lawn care, tutoring, cooking, gardening)

Experiences to enjoy and remember (Tickets to a show, concert, sporting events, local attractions, rock-climbing centers, ice-rink memberships, and museum memberships)

Antiques and collectibles have the added appeal of history and sentimental value. And because they are re-used, there is no impact on the environment.

Edibles. Homemade is heart-

felt. Your time and energy, and culinary creativity are just as valued as that store-bought gift which they may not have really needed.

I hope these five steps will help to make your holidays not only white, but green too. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!

