



JULY 2010

RECYCLING ON THE GO

We are willing to bet that so far this summer you have at least once packed up a picnic, visited an area park or maybe even one of the many local outdoor concerts and festivals throughout our community. Regardless of where you went, we are also willing to bet that you likely brought along or purchased a bottle of water, sports drink, soda or beer! What did you do with the empty beverage container? Are you feeling a tinge of guilt right now because maybe you tossed it away in the trash? Don't feel guilty, but let's work on a solution to the problem that many communities face; recycling away from home.

The EPA calls this issue "Recycling on the Go" and has launched a nationwide initiative to educate people about the importance of being conscientious of recycling while at public venues. Through a grant provided by the EPA, **Rethink Your Waste** has 55 ClearStream® recycling bins available for use throughout the county (see photo). ClearStream® recycling bins are clearly marked for recycling, easily moved, stored and used in an outdoor setting. Now that the expanded New York State Bottle Bill covers water bottles, these bins are also GREAT for fundraising. If you are interested in borrowing several ClearStream® recycling bins, contact us at 439.7240 or at recycling@niagaracounty.com.



Niagara County's ClearStream® bins have a pretty impressive resume so far throughout the county. They can be found at every Friday evening concert in Lockport and various other city events and functions; the Niagara County Golf Course; several county buildings; and have also been used at the Niagara Falls High School, Niagara County Fair and other public events. In 2009 over 15,000 containers were recycled and in 2010 we are hoping to beat that number!

These containers are not the only way you can recycle while enjoying local outdoor festivities. You can keep it really simple by distinguishing a recycling bin from a trash can using different colors, labels or lids with a hole cut in the top, or you can make an effort to bring your empties back home (after all, you took them when they were full!).

We have a pretty keen eye for recycling bins and have spotted some across the county at locations such as; Artpark concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday, Youngstown Field Days, An-Jo Park Ball Diamonds, Niagara Falls State Park, and at the Lewiston Smelt Festival. Sometimes these containers are just a simple trash can and lid with a circle hole cut in the top or a bright colored, labeled bin. It doesn't matter what they look like, but it is important to recognize that event organizers have made recycling options available to patrons. We call this *Rethinking Your Waste!* If you know of any

other locations, let us know by e-mail (recycling@niagaracounty.com) or on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rethinkyourwaste).

So, the next time you are preparing for a picnic at a local park or heading out to catch a game, concert or simply spending some time outdoors, be aware of recycling your beverage containers. There are many locations across the county such as grocery and beverage stores that provide redemption services for deposit containers or you can use your recycling bin at home. If you are a not-for-profit group that is interested in borrowing our ClearStream® recycling containers, get in touch with us and we will lend you are bins. We will even help you design, set-up and modify your program to insure success!

In August we will discuss New York State's Expanded Bottle Bill. Happy summer and happy recycling!



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