



WHY RECYCLE?



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for 2 hours?
- Some 3 million tons of plastic garbage swirls around in the North Pacific, in a mass estimated to be double the size of Texas?
- More than 9 million people in the United States live near a hazardous waste facility? More than half of these (5.1 million) are people of color.
- If 8,000 out of 80,000 people used a reusable water bottle for 365 days rather than buying water in a bottle, we would save at least enough energy to power an average household for 552 years!

So why do we as Christians care? Why do we as United Methodists care?

As Christians, we have all heard the Creation Story in the book of Genesis. Additionally, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church reflect that we have a long history of concern for Social Justice. Our 1st Social Principle addresses **The Natural World**. This principle starts with the statement, “All creation is the Lord’s and we are responsible for the way in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are **God’s creation** and not solely because they are useful to human beings. **God has granted us stewardship of creation.**” **WHAT A RESPONSIBILITY!!** Section A of **The Natural World** principle, titled *Water, Air, Soil, Minerals, Plants*, notes that, “**We support and encourage social policies that provide for appropriate recycling and disposal of municipal waste.**” The last section of our Social Principles is **Our Social Creed**. The second paragraph of the creed states, “We affirm the natural world as God’s handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by mankind.

So why are we telling you this?

As part of our Social Action Programming, United Methodist Women (UMW) supports 13 Principles (steps) to Sustainability. Principle 11 is **Waste Reduction**; our objective is to reduce waste going to landfills by careful purchasing decisions as well as promoting reusing, recycling, and composting. Our Wilkesboro UMW unit is starting a recycling program at our church. We will be providing information and recycling guidance in weekly bulletins and will place information sheets about the recycling bins. We ask that you continue to place aluminum cans in the “cans for Adam” container in the breezeway outside the church office; other recyclables (cardboard; plastic bottles; paper/newspaper/magazines; and metal/steel cans) can be placed inside the recycling bins located downstairs by the youth room in the Sanctuary building and in the fellowship hall in the education building. Please be considerate of those who will be emptying these bins to take to recycling centers by rinsing out bottles and cans and ensuring you only place accepted recycling materials as posted above the bins. We thank you for helping us to be “Good Stewards” of our earth - God’s creation.

Your Recycling Committee,
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Wilkesboro United Methodist Women