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Thursday, February 24, 2011  LEICESTER NOTEBOOK

Book lovers read ‘Recycle me’ between the lines
By Betty Liljestrom CORRESPONDENT

If you’re a reader, here’s a question for you. What are you going to do with the book you’re currently reading once you’ve finished it?

If it’s a library book, hopefully you’re going to return it to the library so someone else has the opportunity to enjoy it.

If it’s a book you purchased and you really like it, perhaps you’re going to put it in a prominent space on one of your bookshelves, so it will be handy if you feel like picking it up and reading it again.

Or maybe you’ll loan it to a friend who likes the same kind of books you do.

But do you ever think about recycling it?

Ruth Kaminski, Leicester’s recycling guru, came up this week with a long list of ways books can be reused or recycled — and not all of them involve Leicester’s Recycling Center.

“We see a lot of those bins here and there that collect books,” she said in an e-mail. “They are from a for-profit organization called Got Books, and they sell them and some of the proceeds go to the place where the container is located.”

Got Books is located in Wilmington, but its containers are spread out over a wide area. The closest one to Leicester, Ruth said, is at David Prouty High School in Spencer.

“Got Books finds good homes for donated books, CDs, DVDs, audio books and records,” she said. “Donated books are first handed sorted at the company’s warehouse to determine their best use. Books that can be reused are sold through the Used Book Superstores or online. Books that are damaged or unusable are recycled.”

Got Books also operates several philanthropic programs that distribute thousands of books for free, including Books for Troops program, which sends books to local residents serving in the military overseas, and Books for Teachers, which provides book donations and educational discounts to teachers and schools.

The Leicester Recycling Center has been collecting books for 15 years, she said.

“We collect for Literacy for All, which ships books to countries that are in desperate need, like Africa and the former Soviet Republic. We sent some to Appalachia, too. Some places have 200 students and only 10 books — not conducive to learning English, is it?”

She says the center sends an overseas shipping container — trailer-truck size — four to five times a year

The center’s book collections also benefit local area group homes, including Starting Point, which deals with 12- to 18-year-old boys with varied reading abilities. The center also collects books for people incarcerated in prisons, for hotels that have a sitting area where customers can sit and read, and for the Glarin Center for the developmentally disabled in Shrewsbury. The center also saves some books, so if there is a disaster, there would be books to read in shelters for young and old alike.

“This past weekend we put together a box of books for a 9-year-old girl who loves to read and was the victim of a fire that destroyed all her books,” Ruth said. “So you see, we think there are enough books to go around to support the needs. We just need to remind people not to throw them in the trash, but to bring them to Recycling in Leicester and we’ll put them to good use.”
Recycling Details

Brita Filters

Recycle Brita® pitcher filters at Leicestor Recycling:

1. Dry the filter by shaking off excess water and setting it in a dry place for at least three days.
2. Wrap the filter in a plastic grocery bag, which will be recycled at the Recycling Center.

Or you can simply mail your filter.

1. Dry the filter by shaking off excess water and setting it in a dry place for at least three days.
2. Wrap the filters in a plastic grocery bag, and then pack it in a box. (Boxes and bags will be recycled.) If possible, send multiple filters at a time.
3. Mail filters via ground shipping to:

Preserve Gimme 5
823 NYS Rte 13
Cortland, NY 13045

Preserve will recycle the Brita plastic pitcher filter casings received into Preserve’s eco-friendly, 100 percent recycled products such as toothbrushes, cups and cutting boards. All Preserve plastic products are also recyclable, giving Brita® filter materials a third life. The filter ingredients—activated carbon that reduces chlorine (taste and odor) and ion exchange resin that reduces lead, mercury, copper, and cadmium and zinc that might be found in tap water*—will be regenerated for alternative use or converted into energy.

*Substances reduced may not be in all users’ water.

Preserve has calculated that the benefits of keeping Brita® filters out of landfills and making them into Preserve products outweigh the impact of shipping them for recycling through this program.

Preserve also recycles #5 plastic such as yogurt containers into toothbrushes and rainbarrels.

RECYCLE YOUR BRITA FILTERS AT YOUR RECYCLING CENTER OR SEND TO PRESERVE.
Inkjet Cartridges

FACT

In the U.S., more than 13 cartridges are disposed of every second, totaling an estimated 375 million each year. The total weight of these cartridges is equivalent to 67,612 Ford Explorers or 112,463 Volkswagen Beetles.

DO SOMETHING

Many cartridge companies now reuse almost 100 percent of old cartridges to produce new ones, adding only new ink. It takes about 80 percent less energy to remanufacture the cartridge plastic than to produce it from new materials. Local office supply stores often recycle cartridges. You can recycle them at our Center and our local schools come and get them as a fundraiser and other times the Veteran’s recycle them as well.
Recycling Details

**Junk Mail and Telephone Books**

To cut down on junk mail you can try to identify lists from which your name is obtained and have your name removed from the list.

Telephone books can be recycled at the Recycling Center at the same place that cardboard and newspaper is recycled.
Rigid-Bulky Plastics

FREE “RIGID PLASTICS” DROP OFF

At Leicester Recycling beginning November 2011
And following on open Saturdays (1st and 3rd and 5th if applicable)

Deliver your unwanted bulky, rigid plastic items to the recycling center for reuse and recycling!
Reuse if not broken...recycled if broken.

ACCEPTABLE: Bulky, rigid, molded plastic items such as crates, buckets, toys and lawn furniture

UNACCEPTABLE: PVC products (pipe/tubing/hoses/vinyl siding); plastic films/sheets;

Do you feel guilty when you have to toss plastic plant pots and trays into the trash? Or do you have a growing pile of containers you don't know what to do with? Here are some local options for reusing and recycling CLEAN rigid plastic plant pots & flats, hanging baskets, and carrying trays:
- Donate them to a garden club for reuse;
- Call your garden center and ask if they'll take them back;
- Bring them to a garden center for recycling;
- Deliver them free to your recycling center

Rigid plant pots & trays accepted only (no soft plastic 4-or 6-packs).
Recycling Details

Televisions

Recycling Televisions

Televisions are picked up by CRT Recycling and brought to their Brockton, MA facility by truck. The televisions are then unloaded by hand and placed in appropriate sectors of their warehouse for proper determination of reuse or recycling. Televisions that cannot be reused containing cathode ray tubes are accepted into the facility where the tubes are then removed. Plastics and electronics are separated and sent off for proper recycling. CRT drills a hole in the tube or twist off trigger in order to release vacuum, remove all external straps, place tubes into metal containers then crack the glass to pull out inside shield. Glass is then sent out for proper washing and glass-to-glass recycling. CRT Recycling Inc. hold a class A recycling permit and comply with all state and federal guidelines regarding the disposal and/or recycling of CRT’s.

Bailer

Recycling container for wood

Bailed Plastic from televisions

Wood that is removed from console televisions is separated and sent off for proper recycling

TELEVISIONS ARE PRICE ON SITE BY THE POUND. APPROXIMATE COST IS $5, $10, $20 AND MORE FOR LARGE SCREEN, OLDER LARGE MODELS AND CONSOLES