



**Diverting 60% of All Household Waste into Recycling by 2020:  
The Goal, the Challenge, the Reward for Riverwoods**

**Current Dilemma:** Lake County is facing a dilemma. Current landfills within the County are reaching capacity and no new landfills are available. Some estimate that we may have as few as 10-12 years of capacity left. Every five years, the Solid Waste Management Agency for Lake County (SWALCO) updates the waste management plan for Lake County, IL. Within the most recent 2009 Plan SWALCO included a range of disposal options, including alternative technologies, incineration, landfills and transfer stations. Although some of these possibilities were not accepted by the Lake County Board, it was decided by all parties to divert waste from the waste stream with a goal of increasing the recycling rate in Lake County from 39% to 60% by 2020. Currently, only 39% of the waste stream is being diverted into recycling in Lake County. Together, the Lake County Board and (SWALCO) created a special task force to develop a plan to help reach this goal.

**Plan to meet the County Goal:** A twenty-seven member Recycling Task Force of stakeholders was formed to ensure that collaborative planning efforts took place to achieve the targeted recycling rate of 60%. The plan the Task Force developed includes working with the residential sector, the commercial sector and the construction/demolition debris sector. Among the actions suggested to reach the 60% goal in the residential sector are increased education of residents and making it as easy as possible for residents to recycle.

**The Challenge for Riverwoods – Improving our recycling rate:** The goal for Lake County residential waste disposal has been set at 1.8 pounds per capita per day (PCD) by 2015 and 1.4 PCD by 2020. In 2010, the residential waste disposal rate for Riverwoods was 2.2 PCD. The following table compares Riverwoods to similar communities in Lake County.

Community	'05-'09 Persons /home	'05-'09 Census	2010 PCD Disposal rate	Implemented Recycling carts	Collect or publicize E-scrap collection
Deerfield	2.94	16,185	2.1	Yes	Yes
Highland Park	2.64	24,563	1.7*	Yes	Yes
Lake Bluff	2.98	6,318	1.6*	Yes	Yes
Lincolnshire	2.69	6,722	1.6*	Yes	Yes
Long Grove	3.29	7,962	1.8*	NO	Yes

Riverwoods	2.88	3,260	2.2	NO	NO
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**Data from SWALCO**

*\*Currently at or below the target of 1.8 PCD by 2015*

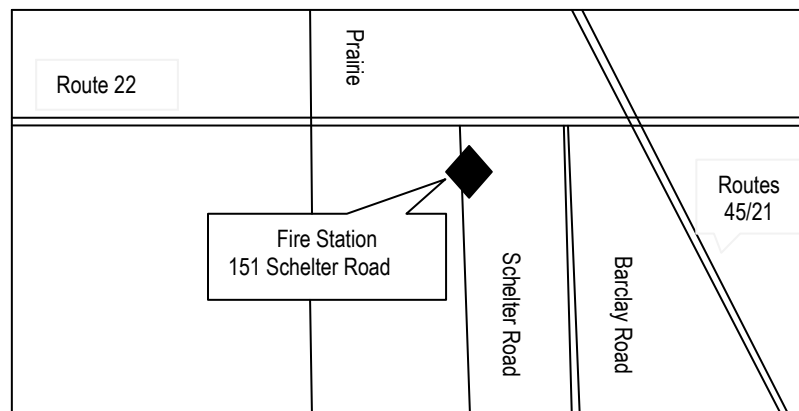
As the table shows, Riverwoods has a way to go before it reaches the goal of 1.4 PCD or even the level of residential waste disposal currently achieved by our neighboring communities.

What can we do to make this better? A good place to start is education. In this time of heightened awareness of environmental responsibility, most residents understand the importance of recycling. However, many people are confused regarding what items can be recycled and where and how to recycle them.

**Implementing the 60% Diversion Plan in Riverwoods - Curbside recycling made easy:** Thanks to the coordinating efforts of SWALCO, all contracted waste haulers who serve Lake County have agreed to accept the same items for curbside recycling and the items DO NOT have to be separated. Residents can place all curbside recyclable items in totes or in a large garbage container which has been identified as a recycling container. SWALCO has developed an easy-to-follow chart called *Lake County Curbside Recycling Guides* (see insert), which explains the items that can and cannot be included in curbside recycling. Curbside recycled items are separated later by mechanical processing and work crews at centralized recycling locations.

There is a growing market for many of the recycled materials collected. These can be used to manufacture a wide range of useful items. For instance, recycled paper finds a new life as paper toweling, printer paper, stationary and cards. Glass can be used to make tiles for attractive kitchen countertops and backsplashes, and recycled plastics can be used to make landscaping timbers and outdoor furniture. Recycled plastic bottles can also be broken down and the fibers used to create durable stain resistant carpet yarns as well as soft, fleece-like blankets, reusable bags, and other products.

**Implementing the 60% Diversion Plan in Riverwoods - Where to dispose of chemical waste:** Disposing of chemical waste has become easier than ever before. SWALCO opened its first satellite center for the collection of Household Chemical Waste in cooperation with the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District. Household Chemical Waste includes many of the hazardous or toxic items you might find around your home, including: household cleaners, gasoline/kerosene, antifreeze, drain cleaners, pesticides, lawn and garden chemicals, fluorescent light bulbs and CFLs, prescription and over-the-counter medicines and supplements for people and pets (No DEA Controlled substances), oil-based paints, thinners, varnishes, aerosols, household batteries (lithium and rechargeable only) and other products. Chemical waste items can be dropped off at Fire Station 51, 115 Scheller Road, Lincolnshire **by appointment only. CALL 847-634-2512 for an appointment before dropping off chemical wastes.** (See insert)



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**Directions:** Schelter Road is the second road west of Milwaukee Avenue, south of route 22.

**Recycling of other Items:** There are other common items which can easily be recycled.

Item	Location Accepting Items
<b>Plastic bags</b> (clear and opaque) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dry cleaners' bags,</li> <li>• grocery bags,</li> <li>• sandwich bags (<i>remove sliders</i>),</li> <li>• newspaper sleeves</li> <li>• packaging around bulk items (<i>such as paper towels and toilet paper</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>Grocery Stores including</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominick's</li> <li>• Jewel</li> <li>• Sunset Foods</li> </ul>
<b>Packing materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• packing peanuts</li> <li>• clean bubble wrap</li> </ul>	<b>Most UPS Stores</b>
<b>Packing Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Styrofoam</li> </ul>	<b>Abt Electronics Store</b>
<b>Athletic shoes</b>	<b>Sports Stores</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running Away - Deerfield</li> <li>• Runner's Edge - Wilmette</li> </ul>
<b>Fluorescent bulbs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• traditional</li> <li>• compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLS)</li> </ul>	<b>RIVERWOODS VILLAGE HALL</b>
<b>Printer Cartridges</b>	<b>RIVERWOODS VILLAGE HALL</b>

**Recycling - A Win for the Environment, Riverwoods and its Residents:** Recycling makes good economic sense. The Village of Riverwoods receives money from Waste Management/Recycle America LLC based on the amount of materials which have been recycled in Riverwoods and market value of recyclables during the previous quarter. In the first two quarters of 2011, the Village of Riverwoods received over \$13,000 for recycled materials sent to Recycle America.

Not only does the Village benefit from recycling, but residents do as well. Recycling decreases the volume of materials going into landfills. With increased recycling, most residents will be able to opt for a "limited pick-up" option from their contracted waste hauler, thus saving money. For example, Waste Management defines "limited pick-up" as 3 standard garbage cans, not including recycled materials.

In summary, there are many incentives to recycle. We are an important part of the solution. The next time you are getting ready to throw something into the trash ask yourself, "Is this something which I can recycle?"

*Contributions to this article were made by John Norris, Trustee and Merleanne Rampale, Public Information Officer, SWALCO*

***Look for upcoming information on RPC's winter program regarding recycling in Riverwoods!***

Yes, I want to support the RPC in its efforts to encourage environmental awareness in Riverwoods.”

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$250    Other

I have attached my employer's matching contribution form.

Join at a level of \$100 or more and receive a 10% discount on most plants sold each spring by the RRA Plant Sale Committee.

Please make your check payable to the Riverwoods Preservation Council, P.O. Box 122, Deerfield IL 60015. The RPC is an independent, resident volunteer-run non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Find the Riverwoods Preservation Council on Facebook, at [www.riverwoodsrpc.org](http://www.riverwoodsrpc.org), and at [riverwoods@riverwoodsrpc.org](mailto:riverwoods@riverwoodsrpc.org)