

Recycling is catching on in Cass County

The Cass County Sustainability Committee (CCSC) announces that 162.53 tons of recyclable materials were diverted from area landfills through their scheduled mobile recycling program in 2010. This marks a significant increase of 79.69 tons over the 82.84 tons recycled in 2009. The average monthly tonnage recycled over the 10 months of the program in 2009 was 8.28 tons while the average monthly tonnage recycled over 12 months in 2010 was 13.54—an average monthly increase of 5.26 tons.

This increase occurred in spite of the City of Raymore making curbside recycling available for all households in Raymore on January 1, 2010 and the City of Peculiar beginning curbside recycling on September 1, 2010. With the loss of recyclers in those cities, this means that increasing numbers of people in the surrounding county must be recycling at the mobile events.

However, even with the increase in the tonnage recycled in 2010, there are still many in Cass County who do not recycle. The CCSC will be making efforts to continue to increase participation in recycling throughout 2011.

Captains at each of the five recycling locations—Craig Holcomb, Freeman; Dawn Fricke, Belton; Mary Kamarath, Paula Weisner and Gary and Thelma Palmer, Peculiar; Susie Hatten, Drexel; and Julie Dillon, Garden City have contributed much time and effort to obtain volunteer monitors for each of the events in their community. The volunteer monitors have also given much of their time and effort to help educate people about recycling and to help people with their recyclables.

With the arrival of the New Year, it is a great time to make a resolution to contribute some of your time and serve as volunteer for a couple of hours at a recycling event or to help distribute information about where, why and how to recycle. It is a terrific opportunity to become acquainted with others in your community and to help promote a very worthy cause—recycling.

You can volunteer online at www.CassCountySustainability.com or call 816-779-6708.