



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor, Michigan Web: <http://www.a2gov.org>

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**For Immediate Release**

## **MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY Monthly Open House Schedule, 2011-2012**

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – July 27, 2011 - The City of Ann Arbor's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), 4150 Platt Road near East Ellsworth, hosts free open houses on first or second Saturday mornings (10-Noon) from September through June. The open houses give the public a chance to tour the MRF's municipal recycling operations and to participate in monthly featured activities.

For more information, please call the MRF tour coordinator at 734.794.6000 ext. 43112 or e-mail [nstone@a2gov.org](mailto:nstone@a2gov.org). Individuals and families may drop in during the open house hours; groups of five or more are asked to pre-register. Weekday pre-arranged tours of the MRF are also available for groups of 15 or more; please call for more information or check [www.a2gov.org/mrf](http://www.a2gov.org/mrf).

### **SEPTEMBER: MRF TURNS 16!**

Since the 1995 Material Recovery Facility (MRF) opening, approximately 603,000 tons of recyclables have been processed. Join us for a MRF tour, birthday cake, and to create party favors from Scrap Box materials. Come see our new single-stream facility! Drop-in visitors welcome.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 10:00 AM – NOON**

### **OCTOBER: Nature's Recyclers**

A Leslie Science & Nature Center naturalist will provide a fun, interactive program featuring a vulture and other living recyclers. An optional MRF tour follows the raptor presentation. Interested attendees must pre-register by October 10th at 734.794.6000 ext 43118. Space is limited! No charge.

**---NOTE THIRD SATURDAY---**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, PRE-REGISTERED PROGRAMS START AT 10 AM AND 11:30 AM**

**NOVEMBER: RECYCLED BIRD FEEDER**

Help celebrate America Recycles Day using your empty soda pop bottle to make a bird feeder. Put one of these up and you're sure to attract some new feathered friends. Starter seed will be provided. Optional tours offered.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 10:00 AM – NOON**

**DECEMBER: PAPER MAKING**

Paper is important to our everyday lives, which explains why more than 75% of all recyclables collected at the MRF are paper products. Learn how to make recycled paper by crafting your own sheet to take home. MRF guests will also be able to see alternative "tree-free" papers.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 10:00 AM – NOON**

**JANUARY: MAGNETS**

Create a unique refrigerator magnet or bookmark while reusing colorful, cancelled postage stamps. All are welcome to enjoy this craft project, as well as tour the MRF.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 10:00 AM – NOON**

**FEBRUARY: WORM BIN WORKSHOP**

Join us for a workshop on vermicomposting and building your own worm box. A complete "worm bin kit" is only \$25 and contains a half pound of red worms, *Worms Eat my Garbage* book by Mary Appelhof, bin, newspaper, and turner. All are welcome to attend the presentation, but those making a worm box must pre-register by Jan. 30 at 734.794.6000 ext. 43118. Space is limited for each of two separate sessions starting at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 10:00 AM AND 1 PM**

**MARCH: TERRIFIC TILE MAKING**

Create your own mosaic tile from found art, recycled glass, and buttons. Turn recycled materials into internationally inspired artwork. The small tile is perfect for gardens, wall hanging, decorations, or trivet. These recycled creations are a great activity for families, clubs, and scout groups and are easily recreated at home.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 10:00 AM – NOON**

**APRIL: CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH COMPOST**

Come see how our hard-working compost crew helps nature turn leaves and grass clippings into wonderfully rich compost. Guests will take home a seedling they plant in compost, tour the MRF, and take an optional drive through the adjacent 25-acre compost center.

**Saturday, April 14, 10:00 AM – Noon**

**MAY: A2 DOWNTOWN BLOOMS DAY**

Join hundreds of volunteers in continuing to keep Ann Arbor's downtown beautiful. Volunteers help plant and mulch flower planters during this annual event. Interested groups, families, and individuals meet at Liberty Plaza at 9 a.m. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and pizza lunch. Pre-register by calling 734.794.6000 ext 43112. [www.a2gov.org/green](http://www.a2gov.org/green)

**SATURDAY, MAY 19, 9:00 AM – NOON**

**NOTE: NO OPEN HOUSE IN MAY**

### **JUNE: WONDERFUL WINDSOCKS**

Celebrate summer sunshine by creating a recycled-content windsock using colorful surplus hot air balloon fabric and other durable items from the Scrap Box. This windsock is perfect for hanging inside or out.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 10:00 AM – NOON**

In case of severe weather, check [www.a2gov.org/mrf](http://www.a2gov.org/mrf) or call 734.794.6000 ext 43112 for recorded updates on open house cancellations.

### **GROUP TOURS**

Groups of 15 or more may schedule tours and enjoy 60-90-minute programs on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., finishing by 5 p.m. The MRF offers free tours that are designed for school groups, scouts, youth groups, civic groups, college classes, and others interested in learning about recycling. Please contact 734.794-6000, ext. 43118 or x 43112, or [nstone@a2gov.org](mailto:nstone@a2gov.org), or check [www.a2gov.org/mrf](http://www.a2gov.org/mrf) .