

## **Reduce...Reuse...Recycle: Library Goes Green Part I**

Going green is more than just the latest trend; it's about lifestyle changes for the long haul. Keeping this in mind, green concepts for the Library are evaluated for cost-effectiveness, how much staff time is involved and their potential for use throughout the District. Take paper recycling for example. In the past, white and mixed paper was collected from a few branches by delivery and buildings and grounds staff who deposited it in the Nestlé Purina recycling container located in the staff parking lot at the Library Center. Nestlé then processed the paper into cat litter.

A new program, facilitated by Intellishred by Edco, is being implemented throughout the District. The Intellishred system has several advantages over the Library's previous paper recycling efforts. They provide the collection containers, of various sizes and as many as can be used, instead of the Library purchasing and replacing sometimes costly bins.

"We originally established a once a week pickup schedule with Intellishred, but we are generating enough paper at the Library Center to go to twice a week. Now that we are taking the system district-wide they will pick up the paper recycling from all the branches and take it to their central location freeing up the building and grounds staff for other duties," said Facilities Manager Allen Woody.

There are currently 27 containers, including locking ones for sensitive materials, just at the Library Center. Before a staff person or volunteer had to spend time shredding all of those sensitive documents, but Intellishred takes the locked containers to its secure facility and pulverizes the materials, not only saving staff and volunteer time, but also saving the District the cost of purchasing expensive shredders. Intellishred is also more liberal about the types of materials they will accept, including thermal paper like the type used in the receipt printers at Library circulation desks, cardboard, pasteboard, DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes. The paper collected by Intellishred is used by Georgia-Pacific in the manufacture of their Mardi Gras line of paper towels and napkins.

Other district-wide sustainability efforts include the use of environmentally friendly ice melt, switching from incandescent to fluorescent and LED light bulbs and the establishment of print management, which will help eliminate huge amounts of wasted paper over time as explained in the article above. And what about all of those old computers collected by the Computer Services Department?

Once or twice a year, depending on the quantity of retired computer components, Springfield's Computer Recycling Center comes to the Library Center and picks up all of the parts Computer Services has set aside for recycling, including cathode ray tube monitors, PCs, keyboards, mice, printers and other miscellaneous parts. The Computer Recycling Center requires a small fee for the disposal of the cathode ray tubes from the monitors, which contain hazardous chemicals, then recycle and resell every part possible.

"We use everything until it can't be used anymore—nothing goes to the recycle pile until we're sure it can't be repaired anymore," said Computer Support Assistant John Sackreiter.