

# Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



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## Up Front

The eMonitor is designed to keep our Partners and friends updated on CPCS, stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

## Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

Do you ever think about where the trash you throw away ends up? There are several different ways in which our waste is disposed and managed. Most often, if it is not recycled, trash makes it way into a landfill. Landfills are the number one waste management tool used in our country, but they also release toxic chemicals into the water and soil around them. With the amount of garbage expected to double by the year 2030, the cost of recycling increasing, and the space available in landfills decreasing, it is becoming essential to find new alternatives for handling our waste.

This issue of the eMonitor provides information about where our garbage goes and touches on a few new and innovative ideas for managing our waste in the future.



## Get the Facts

Many items are thrown away, but where do they end up? It costs a lot of money to get rid of garbage, so it is important to learn the facts about where your trash goes.

### Where Does Trash Go?

#### Landfill



54%

#### Recycling



33.4%

#### Incinerators













12.6%

Trash ends up in three types of locations. It is put in landfills where it is buried, it is recycled, or it is burned in an incinerator to produce energy.

\* Source: Readers Digest, values represent United States statistics

### What's in the Can?

On average, the typical American will throw out approximately 4.6 pounds of garbage in just one day. So what makes up all of this trash? The table below is a breakdown of the types of garbage we toss and in what amounts.

									
Paper	Yard Waste	Food Waste	Plastics	Metals	Wood	Glass	Textiles	Rubber & Leather	Other
32.7%	12.8%	12.5%	12.1%	8.2%	5.6%	5.3%	4.7%	2.9%	3.2%

\* Source: Readers Digest, values represent United States statistics

### Money Matters

Finding the location to site a landfill can cost **MILLIONS** of dollars and is extremely difficult.

It costs **\$304,479.00** per acre to build a landfill.

The cost to collect waste and dump it in a landfill can is on average **\$88.00** per ton.

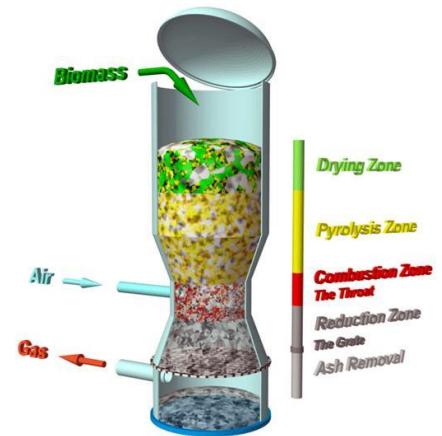
## Forward Thinking

There are several new and innovative ideas for managing trash. Below are four ideas that already take place and may become very common in the near future.

### Burning Better

In the future it may be possible to make our garbage disappear. By using a process called gasification, garbage can be broken down into a flammable, synthetic gas, which can power gas turbines and generate electricity.

**1.7 MILLION** US homes could be powered for twenty-four hours if we turned a day's worth of garbage into energy and fuel.



### Is this Plastic?

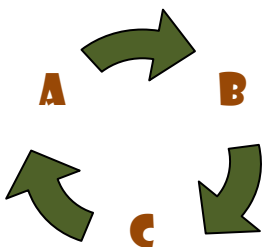
Imitation plastic is fashioned from corn and soybeans. These types of products are biodegradable and made without the use of oil. These plastics are called PLA and several US companies have started utilizing at least some of this technology. These products will break down much quicker when disposed of and therefore may be the direction in which plastics are headed in the future.

### “Pay as you Pitch!”

Since pitching things into the trash costs money, it is only logical that these costs be passed on to consumers. It is becoming more common for deposit fees to be charged for large items entering landfills. Also, many local governments and haulers now charge for every garbage bin and/or bag that is placed at to the curb. As space for trash decreases, prices to pitch will continue to rise.



### Think Circular



Products can be used, recycled, and used again without losing their quality. For example, a Nike sneaker that can be composted, or a Patagonia fleece made from recycled plastic bottles. Products designed with an end in mind are much more environmentally friendly and less resource intensive.

## CPCS News

### **New Community Partners**

Welcome to our new partners this month and thank you to our renewed ones. Together we can make a difference to keep Washtenaw County's waterways clean!



### ***New Partners***

Recycle Ann Arbor

### ***Renewing Partners***

Ann Arbor Township  
Lodi Township  
Seva Restaurant  
Mack Pool

Washtenaw County Facilities  
Lord of Light Campus Ministry  
Water Resource's Commissioners Field Services Division

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## Contact Us

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