

## Benefits of recycling are highlighted on Earth Day

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Wednesday, 24 April 2013 14:07 -

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Every year Earth Day, which was Monday, April 22, acts as a reminder of the importance of the environment and emphasizes ways in which to protect it through various programs.

One way in which to honor the traditions of Earth Day is to participate in the recycling programs put on in Phillips County.

Once a bundle of old magazines and newspapers is dumped into the large recycling bins found in Phillips County, the benefits are not made immediately clear. Other than the obvious advantage of being able to reuse waste, citizens rarely understand the financial gains of recycling.

According to Marick's Waste Disposal, Inc. out of Crook, in 2012, Holyoke as a whole was responsible for 23.6 tons of recycled newspapers, plastic, aluminum and steel. Recycled cardboard from all of Phillips County was an additional 120 tons.

Bill Andrews, Phillips County Landfill supervisor, speculated that through these recycling services, the county has ensured another full year of life for the current hole being used to fill with waste. The hole, which when first dug was expected to last five years, is now on its eighth year of use. Why is that noteworthy? It costs taxpayers roughly \$1 million to dig and prepare a new hole for use.

The numbers continue to rise as well. As Andrews pointed out, recycling containers are much more common in the community. So far in 2013, Phillips County has already recycled more cardboard than in all of 2012. After nearly four months, the Phillips County landfill has already received 134 tons of cardboard.

Cardboard recycling trailers are currently in use in Holyoke at Holyoke Marketplace, Ag Power, MV Equipment, Flower Garden, Radio Shack, Sullivan's Appliance, S&W Auto Supply, Hometown Liquor, Speer Cushion, Holyoke Recycling and at schools during the school year.

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In Haxtun, cardboard recycling trailers can be found at Haxtun Recycling, Haxtun Hospital, Haxtun C-Store, Haxtun Liquors, Grainland Co-op Fertilizer, Kurtzer's LLC, Haxtun Road Department during the summer months, Haxtun schools during the school year and floating trailers are available upon request.

Other programs have also taken a recycling initiative. Troop 32 of Holyoke participates in aluminum can recycling. Andrews estimates that from the material the group brings in, roughly five bales averaging a weight of 900 lbs. were recycled in 2012. The drop-off area for the program is located at Holyoke General Store.

Holyoke Enterprise April 25, 2013