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# REZ RECYCLER

March 31, 2008

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**How long does it take for these materials to decompose in a landfill?**

- *Banana Peel*—3 weeks
- *Newspaper*—1 month
- *Cotton Rag*—5 months
- *Wool Sock*—1 year
- *Tin Can*—100 years
- *Aluminum Can*—200-500 yrs
- *Plastic Jug*—1 million years
- *Styrofoam cup*—indefinitely, scientists are unsure if it will ever completely breakdown

**Cut back on disposables**— Bring your own mug to Starbucks or your local coffee house. You could get a discount (10% at Starbucks), and it's 1 less disposable cup that will end up in a landfill. Switch to reusable cups and dishes at home and work too.

**Turn off your computer**— When in standby mode, your PC is still using energy. In fact, a significant portion of the electricity used in your home comes from electronics that are not turned off. Try plugging your computer into a power strip and shutting it down completely at the end of the day. Remove chargers from outlets when not in use.

**Stop junk mail**— Most of us receive a steady flow of unsolicited junk mail, catalogs, and magazines. Call 888-5-OPTOUT or get off mailing lists at [www.NewDream.org](http://www.NewDream.org). Make sure to recycle what you do receive. Less energy will be spent on creating paper and less trash will be created.

Source:  
[www.kansasrecycles.org](http://www.kansasrecycles.org)  
[www.ksewaste.org](http://www.ksewaste.org)  
[www.kansasgreenteams.org](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org)

## Gardening

The Farmers Almanac "Gardening by the Moon Calendar" is determined by our age-old formula and applies generally to regions where the climate is favorable.

**April 2008**

- 1-3** Excellent time to kill weeds, briars, poison ivy and other plant pests.
- 4-5** First day good for planting root crops. Second day good for planting above ground crops. Both days extra good for planting vine crops and setting strawberry plants.
- 6-7** Poor planting days. Break ground or



- 8-9** Good for planting beans, corn, cotton, tomatoes, peppers and other above ground crops.
- 10-11** Poor days for planting, seeds tend to rot in ground.
- 12-14** Plant tomatoes, beans, peppers, corn, cotton and other above ground crops on these most fruitful days. Plant seedbeds. Start flower gardens.
- 15-19** Grub out weeds, briars and other plant pests.
- 20-21** Favorable days for planting root crops. Fine for sowing hay, fodder crops

- and grains. Plant flowers.
- 22-23** Good days for planting beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, peanuts and other root crops. Also good for cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, kale, celery and other leafy vegetables. Start seed beds. Barren days. Do no planting.
- 27-28** Favorable days for planting beets, carrots, turnips, radishes, onions and other root crops.
- 29-30** Excellent time to kill weeds, briars, poison ivy and other plant pests.

## 10th Annual PBPN Earth Day Celebration

**Mark your calendars!!**  
**Prairie People's Park**  
**Sunday, April 20th, 2008**  
**Registration will begin at 8:00 am**  
**Predictor's Walk to begin at 8:30 a.m.**



- Events:**
- Environmental Information Booths
  - Run/Walk/Bike Ride/Biathlon
  - Youth Activities

**NEW!!**  
**"Green Machine" Soap Box Derby**  
**Recycle your junk into a derby car!!**

**Don't miss out!!**



# Spring Break Outreach at Boys & Girls Club

## Monitoring for PM<sub>2.5</sub> by Steve Duryea, Environmental/GIS Technician

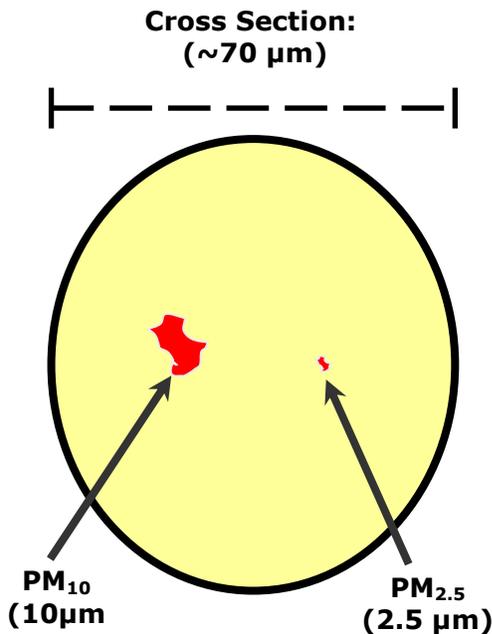
Through a no-cost lease from the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center in Las Vegas, NV, the Department of Planning and Environmental Protection has received an R&P 2000 FRM Air Sampler. The sampler will be used for a two-year study to measure particulate (dust) levels at the Nations' Integrated Solid Waste Center on 142<sup>nd</sup> Road.



The sampler will “inhale” 16.7 liters per minute of air over a 24-hour period every 6 days.

The volume of air sampled corresponds to the volume of air the average adult inhales over a 24-hour period.

The air will be “sized” as it travels through a PM<sub>10</sub>



### How large is a micron?

The yellow circle illustrates the cross section of a single human hair, which is approximately 70 microns in diameter. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles are so small the body has a difficult time expelling them and they can easily enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

inlet on the top of the machine, a PM<sub>2.5</sub> impactor well inside the machine, and finally through a 47 mm Teflon filter. The particles, 2.5 microns or smaller, are deposited on the filter. How large is a micron? See the inset below.

The filter is weighed at the TAMS Center’s Gravimetric Lab prior to shipment to the Department and is weighed again upon receipt, after the filter has been exposed through the sampling process. The difference in weights provides the amount of PM<sub>2.5</sub> present in the sample.



Filter assembly inside the R&P 2000 FRM sampler and the 47 mm filter, mounted in a cassette.

# Light Bulbs

In December 2007 Congress passed the Energy Bill which contained a provision for light bulbs. The bill placed restrictions on the amount of energy used by light bulbs.

Various guidelines for lumens and watts, can basically be summed up as: By 2020, companies will be producing light bulbs that are 70% more efficient than today's light bulbs.

The "regular" incandescent light bulb commonly used in homes are outdated and inefficient. The bulbs convert only 10% of the required electricity into lighting, while the other 90% is wasted as heat. That waste is also evident on your utility bill. On average you might spend \$50 to \$150 annually on your lighting alone. Newer, more efficient lighting such as CFL and LED bulbs are replacing the old incandescent bulb.

**CFL's or compact-fluorescent light bulbs can last up to 13 times longer and use 75% less energy than regular bulbs.** They are generally more expensive than your regular bulb (averaging \$8.00 for a three-pack), but the difference is quickly made up in your energy savings. The CFL bulb has quickly evolved from its signature spiral design to just about any shape and size, and is even available for use with a dimmer switch.

**LED or light-emitting diode bulbs are about 133 times more efficient than incandescent bulbs.** They are relatively expensive (usually over \$40/bulb), but could someday be more affordable.

## What to Do if a Fluorescent Light Bulb Breaks

**The CFL bulbs contain a trace amount of mercury. (The amount is miniscule compared to the amount of mercury emitted by power plants that help light up your regular bulb, and should not discourage consumers from using them) Special considerations should be given to the disposal of your CFL bulb and to the clean up of a broken bulb. EPA recommends the following clean-up and disposal guidelines.**

### Before Clean-up: Ventilate the Room

-Have people and pets leave the room, and don't let anyone walk through the breakage area on their way out.



-Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.

Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.

### Clean-Up Steps for Hard Surfaces

-Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.

-Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.

-Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and place them in the glass

jar or plastic bag.

Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

### Clean-up Steps for Carpeting or Rug

-Carefully pick up glass fragments and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.

-Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.

-If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.

Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister), and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.

### Disposal of Clean-up Materials

-Immediately place all cleanup materials outside the building in a trash container or outdoor protected area for the next normal trash.

-Wash your hands after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing clean-up materials.

Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your specific area. Some states prohibit such trash disposal and require that broken and unbroken mercury-containing bulbs be taken to a local recycling center.

### Future Cleaning of Carpeting or Rug: Ventilate the Room During and After Vacuuming

-The next several times you vacuum, shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system and open a window prior to vacuuming.

Keep the central heating/air conditioning system shut off and the window open for at least 15 minutes after vacuuming is completed.

Sources: [www.greenguide.com](http://www.greenguide.com)

[www.environmentalleader.com](http://www.environmentalleader.com)

[www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#fluorescent](http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#fluorescent)

# Conserving & Protecting our Water Resources

During the spring it is especially important to conserve and protect water. With so many ways to save water, here are the highlights for 5 key actions to help you capture the water savings around your home. Remember, every drop counts!

- Stop Those Leaks! Check your indoor water using appliances and devices for leaks. Many silent leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain.
- Replace your old Toilet, the larg-

est water user inside your home. If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet.

- Replace your Clothes Washer, the second largest water user in your home. Energy Star rated washers that also have a water factor at or lower than 9.5, use 35 – 50% less water and 50% less energy per load. This saves you money on both your water and energy bills.
- Plant the right plants with proper

landscape design & irrigation.

Whether you are putting in a new landscape or slowly changing the current landscaping at your home, select plants that are appropriate for your local climate conditions.

Water only what your plants need.

Most water is wasted in your garden by watering when your plants do not need the water. Be attentive if you are manual watering by setting your oven timer or some other reminder to move the water promptly.

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Office: 966-2946  
Solid Waste Center: 966-2773  
Wastewater Treatment Plant: 966-0111

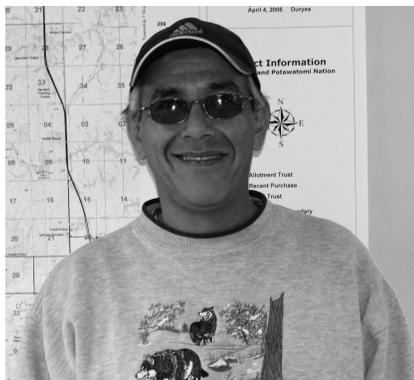


### **Reduce, Reuse, then Recycle**

- **Reduce** the amount and toxicity of trash you discard
- **Reuse** containers and products: repair what is broken; and give unneeded items to those who can use them
- **Recycle** as much as possible and buy products with recycled content

## Environmental Hero

The Division of Planning and Environmental Protection has selected Alan “Boney” Pahmahmie as a 2008 Environmental Hero. Alan helped establish, and also managed the first Tribal environmental office for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in 1990. Today, he continues to



work for the land and environment as the Manager of the PBPB Division of Land Maintenance. Amongst their many duties, Alan and his “crew” oversee the Tribe’s buffalo herd. They do an outstanding job promoting a public appreciation of the buffalo by providing educational tours and site visits. Our office would also like to recog-



nize Alan’s personal dedication and efforts in keeping our Reservation clean and litter-free. He, along with his family, or with his staff have been spotted conducting roadside clean-ups throughout the years. We recognize and appreciate Alan’s efforts in preserving our land and environment!

