



St. Lucy Parish

Earth Ministry

Newsletter

May 2019

Electronic Recycling June 22 (10am - 3pm)

DTE Energy Electric: The Future?

By: John Hickey

Did you know DTE Energy owns fifteen railroad trains and a port facility at Superior WI, distributing vast amounts of coal to utilities and industries throughout the Great Lakes region?

Yet, despite its current lopsided reliance on coal as a fuel for generating electricity -- fifteen per cent higher than neighboring utilities -- our electric power provider has embarked on an ambitious program to replace its aging coal-fired plants with cleaner technologies.

DTE Chairperson Gerry Anderson has targeted a zero-coal mix for the utility by the year 2040. Expected sourcing is 40% natural gas fuel, 30% wind, 20% nuclear, and 10% solar.

Economics and public relations are as much responsible as "going green" for this shift. Natural gas, thanks to the latest highly productive but environmentally bruising extraction methods such as hydraulic fracturing (described in a previous newsletter), is now cheaper than coal, and it's 70% cleaner burning.

Mr Anderson also promises that DTE will eventually have the nation's largest solar-energy installation east of the Mississippi, a 240,000-solar-panel complex in Lapeer.

The first step in realizing DTE's 25-year make-over plan took place earlier in 2018 with ground-breaking at the Blue Water Energy Center in East China Township, a \$1 billion gas-fueled complex that will power 850,000 homes by 2022.

Progress won't be smooth, with lots of environmental and business groups refusing to compromise on the scale and cost of new facilities, but it will be necessary for reaching a balance between the future energy needs and ecological security of the region's industries, transportation, and households.

Earth Ministry

A word of thanks to all our Committee members and those who help them picking up our recycling and delivering it to the various intake spots around town and in Detroit and Southfield. Also for keeping us up to date on the various changes that keep happening as more and more is learned how we can best keep up to be "green".

Committee Members:

Donna Belli
John Hickey
Gail Kassin
Diane Kassner
Diane McDonald
Carol Mott
Pam Prisbe
Carol Schoener
Sandy Tenkel
Roy and Ruth Vorhees
Cis Zielinski

**Watch the Lucy Light bulletin
for our next meeting date**

Everyone is welcome!

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WWW.STLUCYCHURCH.COM

A Little Bit at a Time by Diane McDonald

It seems that all the news we hear about the environment these days isn't good. It's either wildfires or hurricanes often accompanied by mudslides or other disasters. While we worry about our Great Lakes. Leaves you feeling pretty helpless doesn't it? Well we can often make the biggest changes by doing the smallest things.

I found that there are bamboo toothbrushes available. Right at our Kroger or on line. All but the bristles are recyclable. One of those replaces 4 plastic brushes again, recyclable.

Change brushes three times a year, that's 12 brushes, 4 people in your family, get the picture?

Dental floss as well is available in glass containers and has more in the container and replaces 7 plastic containers that go into a land fill. One hundred and sixty seven, that's right 167, plastic water bottles are easily kept out of the environment by using a reusable

water bottle. How many does your family use? Now YOU do the math. Not pretty is it? So a bottle is a worthy inconvenience don't you think?

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When you take those colorful reusable grocery bags into the store or to the farmers market using just one keeps the plastic out of the lakes and oceans to be mistaken for food by wildlife. Another tip, I have a cute cloth bag brought from Mexico by my sister. I use that for the drug store and other shopping. I got many wonderful comments when I used it while Christmas shopping refusing plastic bags. Bonus 1 reusable bag saves 170 plastic bags.

Take your reusable cup to the coffee shop and save 500 of theirs.

Save rags at home or use cloth towels and save 7,300 paper towels.

Just try these few simple things. You will soon find yourself discovering other ways to

Make that landfill smaller "a little bit at a time"

Recycle Here! Update by Roy Vorhees

As a reminder, every few weeks St. Lucy takes a van load of bags of YOUR clean Styrofoam and waxy containers (aseptic materials) to Recycle Here!, a huge warehouse in Detroit that recycles practically everything that isn't hazardous. Most of the other recyclables St. Lucy takes is recycled locally, including that which we collect from our semiannual Electronic Recycling event.

For those concerned about getting rid of household hazardous waste, there are several options:

~ stay apprised of your LOCAL Hazardous waste day (usually once during the summer months)

~ Mt. Clemens Hazard Waste Site (43525 Elizabeth)

~ Detroit hazardous waste

2000 E.Ferry

-Thursday's 7:30 - 2:00

-Fourth Saturday. 8:00-3:00

Household Hazardous Waste

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| - paint | - florescent tubes |
| - propane cylinders | - aerosol cans |
| - gasoline | - microwaves |
| - fire extinguishers | - single screen tvs |

The Zero-Waste Lifestyle, Live Well by Throwing Away Less

by Amy Korst Review by Diane McDonald

I found the ideas in this book so easy and inventive. It became reasonable to see how one could begin to live the Zero-Waste lifestyle. But it didn't take long to begin to feel terribly overwhelmed. Frankly, my head started to spin, compost, recycle, biodegradable, free cycle. Suddenly it sounded like a full time job and like I would have to go back to school for another degree. But as I read on I realized that Zero-Waste was not really something to do all at once. Start slowly. Ease into it. Set a goal. The book has the goals separated into *Easy*, *Moderate* and *Advanced*. They break down like this.

Easy

- Stop buying single serving items.
- Donate unwanted items to thrift stores.
- Wait a day before buying something new you really want; go back for it only if you really must have it.
- Stop buying bottled water; use a refillable bottle instead.
- Bring a reusable travel cup to the coffee shop.
- Buy concentrated liquid drinks.
- Use cloth bags.

Moderate

- Stop using paper towels.
- Join a Terra Cycle Brigade.
- Hold an annual garage sale.
- Reuse plastic produce bags- bring them back to the store next time you shop for produce.
- Pack your lunch bag with reusable containers, not plastic baggies or wrap.
- Buy in bulk.
- Shop at antique or thrift stores.
- Sign up for a Freecycle account.

Advanced

- Eliminate foil, plastic wrap and baggies from your life.
- Turn some trash into up cycled craft projects.
- Eliminate straws or invest in a reusable straw and bring it to restaurants. Or better yet, stop using them altogether. (Beauty hint, using straws causes "smoking lines" around your mouth. just sayn').

So you see it start slowly, do just a few things and try browsing through a book or some articles. This book has lots of really fun and exciting things that the entire family can explore.



Earth Ministry Recycling in St Lucy Parish

Bins for the following items are in the hallway or Holy Family Hall.

Please see signs in those locations for more information.



Ink Cartridges



Batteries



Eyeglasses



Rubber Soled Shoes



Glass



Can Tabs



Waxy Containers



Clean Metal



Paper



Rigid Plastic



Plastic Bags



Styrofoam

The Zero Waste Home: The Ultimate Guide to Simplifying Your Life by

Reducing Your Waste by Bea Johnson

Review by Pam Prisbe.

In her book Bea Johnson suggests that “if you can cut your trash down by even 20 percent, you’ll gain 80 percent of the benefits, like saving time and money for experiences instead of shopping for unnecessary stuff that will just clog up landfills.”

The Zero Waste mantra is : Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot

REFUSE: Refuse what you do not need like single use plastics. Refuse disposable containers and straws at restaurants. Bring your own glass or paper container for left overs.

Refuse freebies like food samples, hotel room toiletries, party favors, etc.

Refuse junk mail. Get rid of your catalogs at Catalogchoice.org. Mrs. Johnson acknowledges how difficult it is to block waste from entering the mailbox.

Refuse buying excessive packaging and discarding it without urging the manufacturers to change.

REDUCE: Reduce what we do need and cannot refuse. Choose products that you can at best reuse or at least recycle. Buy in bulk. Restrain from buying individually wrapped snacks.

REUSE: Reuse what we consume and cannot refuse or reduce. Mrs. Johnson states that “Buying only used clothes has contributed to cutting their household budget by 40%.

RECYCLE: Recycle what we cannot refuse, reduce or reuse. In the shower she suggests keeping a bucket to collect water until it is warm. This can be used to water plants.

Check the blog “Trash is for Tossers” by Lauren Singer. Helpful websites are Earth911.com and ZeroWasteHome.com and greengarbageproject.com

A helpful app to download is : [iRecycle](#)

ROT: Bea Johnson lives in the San Francisco area where it is easier to compost year round for sure. She states that “1/3 of all household waste is organic.” The kind of container or system you use depends on the size of your yard. She recommends keeping a good size container under your kitchen sink for collecting veggie scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, dust bunnies, dryer lint, etc. She suggests using a worm bin in the basement in the winter. She recommends the website composting101.com.

The 5 R's of Zero Waste



Light Bulb Disposal

Incandescent bulbs can be put into the regular trash, wrapped in paper to avoid someone being cut.

As for CFL's (curly) As their name suggests, compact fluorescent **bulbs** don't take up much room. Unless they're broken or otherwise damaged, CFLs will hold their mercury indefinitely. Rather than **disposing** of them with household trash, simply store expended CFLs until easy **recycling** is available in your area. There are drop off sites at most Hardware stores or this would be a hazardous waste disposal. Long fluorescent bulbs should **ONLY** be disposed at a Hazardous Waste location, ...Pack your tube in newspaper or bubble wrap when transporting to a recycling center or household hazardous waste event. You don't want it to break in your car, it has Mercury in it.