



RECYCLE CENTRE

OCTOBER 2008

THIS MONTH IN THE RECYCLE CENTRE:

DEFORESTATION

GOING, GOING GONE!

Of great concern is the rate at which deforestation is occurring. Currently, 12 million hectares of forests are cleared annually - an area 1,3 times the size of KwaZulu/Natal! Almost all of this deforestation occurs in the moist forests and open woodlands of the tropics. At this rate all moist tropical forest could be lost by the year 2050, except for isolated areas in Amazonia, the Zaire basin, as well as a few protected areas within reserves and parks. Some countries such as Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Sri Lanka are likely to lose all their tropical forests by the year 2010 if no conservation steps are taken.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ❖ About half of the mature tropical forests, between 750 to 800 million hectares of the original 1.5 to 1.6 billion hectares that once covered the planet have been cleared.
- ❖ The forests are being destroyed at a pace tracking the rapid pace of human population growth.

- ❖ Unless measures are taken on a worldwide basis to preserve the forests, by 2030 there will only be ten percent remaining in the world.

ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ Plant a tree today and aid in replenishing trees on the earth.
- ❖ Recycle paper. The less paper used the more trees saved!

GO GREEN TIPS:

1. Skip the bottled water-
 - Use a water filter to purify tap water instead of buying bottled water. Not only is bottled water expensive, but it generates large amounts of container waste.
 - Bring a reusable water bottle, preferably aluminum rather than plastic, with you when traveling or at work.
2. Take shorter showers to reduce water use. This will lower your water and heating bills too.
3. Unplug appliances when you're not using them. Or, use a "smart" power strip that senses when appliances are off and cuts "phantom" or "vampire" energy use.

GO GREEN WITH THE BUILDING BLOCKS TEAM