

Environmental Checklist

The Environmental Advisory Committee of the Town of McCandless has developed a simple to use Environmental Checklist for our residents of simple things we can do in our daily chores to protect and enhance the environment in our town.

In the Home

- Is there a waste can for recyclables?
- Avoid cleaners marked “danger” or “poison” on the label, and look for the tell-tale warnings, such as “corrosive” or “may cause burns”
- Turn out lights that are not needed
- Use a programmable thermostat to control temperature during the day and night to save energy
- Wash full loads of clothes when possible. When purchasing detergents, chose phosphate- and APE- free products to protect water quality and protect aquatic life
- Use your dishwasher with a full load
- Change your furnace filter every six months to save energy

Outside the Home

- Pick up, bag and dispose of your pets waste in your yard or others when you are walking your pet
- Dispose of your grass clippings and yard waste using a Waste Management yard waste container or use them for composting
- Do not place any waste in the storm drains

In your Neighborhood

- Organize a neighborhood cleanup day each year
- Report any environmental problems that you cannot handle to the Town of McCandless

Preparing for Spring and Summer

- Service your lawnmower to decrease pollution from exhaust

- Clean up flower beds from debris and fallen leaves
- When storing your winter tools, such as a snow blower ensure that all gasoline is removed from the tank to prevent vapors from entering the atmosphere and storage area. This is also a fire prevention issue.
- When planning your garden visit the following websites with information about native plants:
 - <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening//perennial-garden>
 - www.iconservepa.org/plantsmart/plantsdatabase/index.htm
 - www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/DCNR_20031352.pdf
- Ensure all drainage from your yard is directed to the street storm drains and as required by Town ordinance.

Junk Mail Initiative

Junk mail equals habitat loss, species extinction and climate change. Every 41 pounds of junk mail destroys 36 square meters of natural habitat and creates 105 pounds of CO2 emissions. 100 million trees were used to produce junk mail in the U.S. for just one year. This includes 114 billion pieces of bulk advertising that we spend 70 hours per year dealing with in our homes. The following are ways to reduce and stop JUNK MAIL.

- Set a goal of ZERO MAIL. Many service providers and local utilities offer paperless/e-mail invoicing through their website
- Contact the Direct Marketing Association to be removed from many companies mass mailing lists for up to five years
- Create a place to store all unwanted mail. Once a month email or call the companies and ask to be removed from their mailing lists
- If you see the phrases "return service requested," "forwarding service requested," and other type requests on the envelopes, write "refused return to sender" and place it back in the mail.
- To stop receiving unsolicited credit card and other credit related offers, opt out permanently at www.optoutprescreen.com or by calling 1-888-5-optout. Learn more via the FTC.
- Your credit card company probably sells your name the most often. Call and ask them to stop.
- Avoid filling out contest cards, these are almost always fishing expeditions for names
- Switch to online news and magazines
- If you would like to help with reducing your junk mail check out organizations like 41pounds.org catalog choice, paperkarma.us/junkmail.com and stopthejunkmail.com.

The EAC is established to work with the Town Council and provide initiatives to enhance the environment and make McCandless an example for other communities. To do this we need feedback on this Environmental Checklist and the Environmental Tips that have been in McMail, and suggestions for residents. Please provide your feedback and ideas to eac@townofmccandless.org.