



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

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In-House Recycling Program Generates Savings for Shelby County Government

An in-house recycling program coordinated by the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability and the Shelby County Division of Corrections has saved Shelby County Government thousands of dollars during the past months.

Since June, corrections center inmates have sorted paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and metal cans tossed by employees into recycling bins at 14 county government buildings. The items have been sold to recycling companies. **"This is a good example of how we've increased efficiency and saved taxpayers money,"** said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

"Almost 96 tons of recycled materials have been collected. That's helped offset the dumping fees we pay at the landfill when discarding Shelby County Government debris. We've saved more than \$13,000," said Tom Needham, Director of Shelby County Public Works. The County hopes to add a recycling program for aluminum cans.

The County also bought a paper shredder that has enhanced the corrections center's job training program. **"Inmates have been trained to use the machine. Recycling is a growing industry. Inmates with these skills will have a better chance for employment upon their release,"** said Bill Gupton, Director of the Shelby County Corrections Center. The County will still use paper shredding companies to collect and destroy some documents with personal information.

"We've been impressed with Shelby County Government's commitment to recycling. An effective community recycling initiative works best when government employees make a commitment to participate," said John Zeanah, Administrator of the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability.

The jointly-funded Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability has earned the *4-Star Community* rating and the *Gold Award* from the Tennessee Valley Authority for its innovative programs to conserve energy and natural resources.

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