

FRCNW's 'Green' team thinking zero waste

NAS Whidbey Public Affairs

Fleet Readiness Center Northwest is taking Navy Whidbey Recycle's "Zero Waste by 2020" challenge to heart.

"Nobody should be taking out trash anymore," said Aviation Administration 3rd Class Stephen Anderson, FRCNW's champion for reducing the amount of solid waste that ends up in the command's dumpsters.

"If it goes in our trash bin, we (Navy) have to pay big bucks for it to be transported to a landfill off-island," said Anderson. "We can change that and maybe change the culture in our command. That would be good — for our country, our Navy, our families and our health."

Enter the Green team. Colateral duty recyclers from FRCNW's various divisions have already made a difference. Recycle boxes, bins and containers are in place throughout the command. To step up their efforts even more they'll be meeting once a month to identify and address issues that come up — and continue to improve the recycling effort.

Last week's inaugural



COURTESY PHOTO

All eyes are on FRCNW Command Master Chief Charles Bond as he tosses his plastic water bottle in a recycle bin following the first meeting of the FRCNW Green team, April 3.

meeting of the Green team really got down to business brainstorming ways to do just that: Setting up watch bills for taking containers to the pick-up location, posting pick-up schedules, broadcasting reminders on the 1MC, making educational videos, creating bulletin

boards, putting containers in the right place and creating fun incentive programs.

Compost was a popular topic. Navy Whidbey Recycle picks up FRCNW's compostable materials three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. That's the easy part. The

Green team is figuring out sure-fire ways to get everyone in the command on board to put their compostable trash in the right can so it can be taken out for pick up. Since some people don't know the difference between compost and trash the Green Team will be working on flyers,

posters and videos — along with hands-on demos — to educate the work centers.

And that's where Janet Hall, Waste Wise coordinator from the Washington State University Island County Extension Office, (360) 678-7974, halljn@wsu.edu comes in. She gave the Green team a short

lesson on the difference between recyclable versus compostable so they could share the information with their work centers.

Basically, if it's recyclable, it has to be processed to be used again and most likely transported to another location for that to happen. Aluminum, paper, tin cans, glass and plastic all fall into the recyclable category.

If trash will naturally decay back to what it was originally — organic matter — it's compostable. Food waste, yard clippings, paper products, chipped pallets and biodegradable plastics can all be tossed in the compost container — the ones with tight-closing lids to keep out critters and odors.

Here at NAS Whidbey Island, food waste (animal and plant-based) can be composted because Navy Whidbey Recycle's composting containers generate high enough heat to kill bacteria.

Homeowners should refrain from putting animal products into their compost bins or risk drawing neighborhood scavengers like raccoons and rats.

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Air station recycling receives community award



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Destrly Henderson, center, public affairs manager for Boise Inc., Wallula Mill, presents the American Forest and Paper Association Community Paper Recycling Award to NAS Whidbey Island's Paul Brewer, base Integrated Solid Waste Manager; and Capt. Christopher Phillips, NAS Whidbey's executive officer.

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The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) 2012 Community Paper Recycling Award was presented April 3 at NAS Whidbey Island's Recycling Center as part of the "Countdown to Earth Day Kickoff" event.

"This is a shining example of what can be accomplished through a solid paper recovery program," said AF&PA President and CEO Donna Harman in a news release. "We at AF&PA are proud to recognize NAS Whidbey Island and all of the hard working individuals who make this initiative a priority on a daily basis."

The base program stood out from more than 200 applications from

42 states as a result of successfully recovering 2,664,000 pounds of paper and paper-based packaging in 2011, averaging 222 pounds per person.

"The enthusiasm of your workers and the people here this morning is amazing," said Destrly Henderson, public affairs manager, Boise Paper, Wallula Mill, who traveled here to present the award. "People come in wanting to recycle and you make it easy and fun."

Accepting the award on behalf of the air station were Paul Brewer, base integrated solid waste manager; and Capt. Christopher Phillips, NAS Whidbey Island executive officer.

The award-winning pro-

gram was started in 1990 as part of a larger effort to meet changes in the overall way business was conducted at Navy bases across the globe, and in the past five years, more than 7,370 tons of paper has been recovered for recycling. Program administrators credit their results to annual educational opportunities, community events and the sharing of best practices through publications, meetings and personal interactions.

The American Forest & Paper Association is the national trade association of the forest products industry, representing pulp, paper, packaging and wood products manufacturers, and forest landowners.