



Environmental News

EMS Pollution Prevention



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New EO (Environment Officer) Training Link:

<http://tti.na.amec.com/IMCOM/login.asp>

Visit our share portal:

<https://home.army.mil/sites/eur/Ger/Ans/dpw/Environmental/default.aspx>

Our EMS Goals for this Year:

1. Reduce Energy Consumption by 3%
2. Reduce Water Consumption by 2%
3. Implement a Green Procurement Program

Energy Saving Program at USAG Ansbach

As part of the Environmental Management System (EMS) of the Garrison (according to the ISO 14001), the members of the Cross Functional Team (CFT) continually set up programs to reduce energy and water consumption and to encourage more green procurements.

In the last newsletter, we informed you about the installation of a heater booster at both DFAC (Katterbach and Illesheim) to save warm water consumption.

Another project has been implemented to save energy at DFACs: the installation of plastic strip curtains at entrances of walk-in fridges or freezers (see picture). These

curtains allow to maintain the cold air inside fridges while doors are open and without disturbing the work flow.

The second part of that project is to install a door contact interrupter which will stop the fridges motor as soon as doors are open. This will also significantly help to reduce our energy consumption.

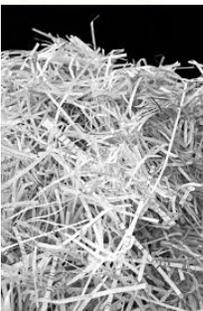


Example of plastic strip curtains at the entrance of a walk-in freezer

By: Nastasia Wanat

How to Dispose of Classified Documents?

The Environmental Final support to dispose classified documents (paper, CD or hardware), please contact the Garrison Security Office, Bldg 5253, DSN 468-7943 or 468-7507. documents shall be shredded (see left) and then disposed of as normal paper.



Shredded paper

This office has a shredder level 6, NSA approved suitable for that purpose.



By: Nastasia Wanat

Upcoming Events

21 March 2015

Annual Clean-up Aktion Saub(ä)er

Off-post clean-up initiated by the city of Ansbach
Join us at 8:00 am
At the Lemon Lot close to Katterbach Kaserne main Gate

More information at
DSN 467-3306
CIV 09802 83 33 06



STOP IDLING

**Don't be idle
Idling is
ILLEGAL!!!**

For Our Air



I Turn My Engine Off
When Parked

**Besides air pollution
and noise, idling wastes
gas and money!**

Turn off the engine,
if stopped for
more than 20 seconds

Idling can be fined with a
€10 ticket

The Northern Goshawk - Bird of the Year 2015

In 2015, the northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) was named “bird of the year” by German bird protection associations (NABU, LBV). The goshawk was selected because it is still a common victim of poaching, especially in Europe. The goshawk, like all birds of prey, is strictly protected by German and European legislation. Hunting, fowling, and the disturbance of nests (eyries) and roosts are prohibited. In the United States, the goshawk is similarly protected as a native bird of prey under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)
Creative Commons License, by Astaro Sardo

The northern goshawk is a mid-sized raptor, and the largest member of the group of “hawks” (Genus *Accipiter*), often referred to as the “true hawk”. The adults are dark-grey above and white or very light grey below with black horizontal stripes. The wings are dark grey. A white eye strip is a characteristic feature of the adult, distinguishing the goshawk from other raptors such as the buzzard. Juve-

niles are brownish in color and sometimes hard to differentiate from other birds of prey. Females are about two feet long with a wingspan of about 50 inch. As in the case of most raptor birds, the male is the smaller, and much lighter bird, it weighs only about half as much as the female.

The northern goshawk is a prevalent species of the northern hemisphere. It populates large parts of North America, Europe, and Central to Northern Asia - in fact it is the only hawk species native on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Despite its widespread distribution, one needs to be very patient observing a goshawk in nature. Contrary to its cousin, the buzzard - which can be seen circling in the sky and sitting along country roads - the quiet and shy goshawk lives hidden in the woods. It usually starts for a very fast and short attack from a raised hide and is able to maneuver very skilled and agile through dense undergrowth and around hurdles - taking every cover available. Prey includes mid-sized birds like crows and doves, but also mammals like rabbits and squirrels. The goshawk is also known to go for chicken, ducks and rabbits grown on farms, making the bird traditionally unpopular among breeders.

The goshawk’s original habitat is a near-natural forest as it can be found at our Local Training Area near Oberdachstetten, where it is a confirmed breeding species. During the last two decades however, the goshawk has been observed to populate more and more also urban habitats - due to the abundance of prey like rats, street pigeons, and magpies. They breed in old tree stands in parks and cemeteries. In Berlin, for example, more than 100 breeding pairs live within the city limits; the breeding pairs are very loyal to one district once occupied and defend their hunting territory over years.

By: Stephan Haas



Buy Green Corner: *Eat Seasonably*

With the increase of the population urbanization, people are less and less aware of where and when various foods are produced. Eat seasonably has lots of advantages: seasonal food is definitively fresher, taster and more nutritious. Moreover, it is usually cheaper, especially as when the food has been locally produced. When you pay attention on choosing local and seasonal products, you save the energy needed (and associated CO₂ emissions) to grow and transport the food we eat.

Of course, eat seasonably does not mean that we must

forego all imported vegetables which do not widely grow in the region! But in this case we suggest to favor vegetable with for example the label “Faire Trade” which even contribute to develop countries’ economy.

In February - March the best seasonably vegetables are celery roots, leeks, kales, rutabaga, turnips, potatoes, sun chokes...

Find more information and recipes ideas on the next web-sites:

<http://www.eattheseasons.com/index.php>

<http://eatseasonably.co.uk/>



By: Nastasia Wanat



EMS Pollution Prevention



In This Edition: Students making a greener difference 1, Plastic— Reduce and Recycle 2, Organic eggs 2

- New EO (Environment Officer) Training Link: http://tti.na.amec.com/IMCOM/login.asp
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APRIL Environmental Awareness Month!

Students Making a Greener Difference

You've heard the saying "it takes a village to raise a child" but for a group of middle schoolers at Ansbach Middle High School, it takes a child to help teach a village. In conjunction with the Army Educational Outreach Program's eCybermission competition, three groups of students worked to improve the community's recycling project at school. According to one group "the lack of recycling has been a problem in our school for a while now, and no one has put any effort into trying to fix the problem." They decided to put in the effort. As part of the competition, they had to design an experiment to address a community problem, collect and analyze data, and then use their results to develop a new plan. Each of the groups decided to focus on a specific area within the school; recycling at lunch, in the hallways, and in the classrooms. They worked to add more recycling bins with clearer labels, created posters, and spoke to classmates about recycling. As a result of all their work, the school saw an increase in recycling, and many students said they even recycled more at home. The students hope to try and implement similar projects at the elementary schools, and maybe even the community.



By: the students of 7th grade, Ansbach Middle High School

Upcoming Events

22 April 2015 EARTH DAY Oberdachstetten 0900 - 1230 Join US / German Elementary School Kids discovering Environmental and Energy Topics Sponsored by Service Credit Union & AAFES SERVICE CREDIT UNION AAFES Army & Air Force Exchange Service

24 April 2015 at 1430 ARBOR DAY Ansbach Elementary School Join us and the kids to plant the tree of the year (a field maple) Arbor Day



Plastic — Reduce and Recycle



Plastic is a fascinating material which everyone utilizes into our environment. Depending on the type, thickness and ingredients, plastic takes different times to degrade. For example, soft plastic (a bottle) takes up to 100 years to degrade. Hard plastic (bottle cap) can take up to 500 years for degradation. In the U.S., 9 % of plastic trash gets recycled. In Europe it is 34.7%. The remaining amount gets incinerated or land-filled. Nowadays our oceans carry more than 270.000 tons of plastic waste, increasing every day. Plastic parts in the ocean are mistaken as food by fish and other animals. As a result they die starving with a full stomach. With fish eating plastic parts, plastic gets

Today the world produces more than 290 million tons of plastic, with a raising trend. This enormous amount becomes a prob-



Plastic floating in oceans (open source pic).

lem, when plastic trash gets into our environment. Depending on the type, thickness and ingredients, plastic takes different times to degrade. For example, soft plastic (a bottle) takes up to 100 years to degrade. Hard plastic (bottle cap) can take up to 500 years for degradation. In the U.S., 9 % of plastic trash gets recycled. In Europe it is 34.7%. The remaining amount gets incinerated or land-filled. Nowadays our oceans carry more than 270.000 tons of plastic waste, increasing every day. Plastic parts in the ocean are mistaken as food by fish and other animals. As a result they die starving with a full stomach. With fish eating plastic parts, plastic gets

into our food cycle – what we don't want. Therefore it is very important that we reduce our overall consumption of plastic and focus more on recycling. In March 2015 a new European legislation was passed, aiming at reducing plastic consumption. As a result, countries in the European Union put higher taxes on plastic bags and they are also allowed to even ban plastic

bags on a national basis in the future.

Here are some tips to reduce plastic consumption:

- Don't take plastic bags when shopping, bring reusable bags with you.
- Buy reusable products with reusable packaging like returnable glass products.
- Avoid plastic products, buy alternative products in wood, glass or metal.
- Never dump plastic products in our nature!
- Avoid plastic products containing Bisphenol A (BPA), watch out for *BPA-Free* labels.

By: Alain Bogert



Buy Green Corner: Organic Eggs



Each person eats on average 255 in the US and 218 eggs in Germany a year. The different labels giving information about hens' welfare and type of food hens are eating are listed as numbers on European eggs (0, 1, 2). In the US, labels (cage-free, free-range, pasture-raised, certified-organic) are written on cartons but they do not have official standards.

Since 2012, egg-laying-hens bred in battery-cage have been forbidden in the European Union, whereas the vast majority of them (95%) are confined in battery-cages in the US with less than 67 square inches per hen (picture 1). This space does not allow them to spread their wings.



Picture 1: Battery-cage

In the US as in Europe, hens producing organic certified eggs are fed with organic, all-vegetarian diet and are free of antibiotics, and pesticides.

At the commissary in Urlas, you can buy European organic certified eggs.

The **cage-free** production of eggs is represented by the number 2 on European eggs. Each egg-laying-hen lives in 1 sf.

The **free-range** production corresponds to the number 1 on European eggs. Hens are uncaged, inside barns and have some degree of outdoor access.

The **organic certified** production is the most humane for hens' welfare. 2.8% of the US egg production is organic against 8% in Germany. It lists as the number 0 on European Eggs.

Check the provenance of your eggs on <http://www.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.de/en/home/>

By: Nastasia Wanat





Environmental News

EMS

Pollution Prevention



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The House Martin

May is the time of the year, when all migratory birds have finally returned from their winter grounds. Among them are several swallow species, like the common house martin, returning to Europe after a long flight from southern Africa.



The house martin adapted well to the traditional way of human living in rural areas. It likes using eaves of buildings to attach its nest, built from mud and straw. Both of these materials are less and less common in the modern "clean" agricultural landscape with paved roads, walkways, and stock breeding in enclosed stables.

Therefore house martins populations in middle Europe are strongly declining.

Removing and destroying bird nests because birds dropping damage façades, is not only illegal according to §41 of the German Federal Nature Protection Act, but doesn't make sense, since a single pair of house martin catches up to 250,000 mosquitoes around a house during one breeding season. As they like breeding in colonies, they keep entire villages "mosquito-free".

What can you do when having swallows feeding their offspring just above your balcony with droppings all over the place? Install a board attached to the wall below the nest.

Approx. 1 foot wide, and at least 1½ feet from

nests to allow swallows approaching their nests in flight from below (see picture above). Do not hesitate to call DPW Environmental Division (DSN 467 2225) for further advise.

By: Stephan Haas

Use Water Wisely - Irrigation Policy

Water is a very valuable resource that needs to be used wisely. USAG Ansbach has established an irrigation policy for the watering of lawns, flower beds, ground cover, trees and other plants. Use water wisely:

- Don't irrigate during the hottest hours from 1000-1600.
- Irrigation is more efficient in the morning before 10 a.m.

- Irrigation systems must be approved from O&M Division and need to have measuring devices installed to ensure monthly reporting to O&M Division (DSN 467-2998 or CIV 09802-83-2998).
- Off-post residents: collect rainwater for irrigation.

By: Alain Bogert

Upcoming Events



REMINDER

PLEASE KEEP OUR HOME- TOWN CLEAN

Bring Private-Owned Household Hazardous Substances (material and waste) to the **Recycling Centers** during operating hours. See recycling website

<http://www.ansbach.army.mil/Recycling.html>

Industrial, business or military Hazardous Substances shall be disposed at the **Hazardous Waste Storage Area**,

Bldg #5518 (Katterbach) on T. 0900-1200 or Bldg #6689 (Storck Barracks) on W. 0900-1200

If needed, appointments can be set up by calling

DSN 467-3424 or 0162-296-2656

Community Environmental Stewardship Events

Earth Day 2015

On 22 April 2015, on a very sunny day, about 200 German and American children participated in the annual Earth Day organized at the Local Training Area (LTA) in Oberdachstetten by the Environmental Management Division (EMD). The EMD greatly thanks Host Nation Nature Conservation offices and all volunteers from the Garrison who helped in provid-



Earth Day 2015 at the LTA, PAO picture

ing an outstanding event to children. EMD is also grateful to the Service Credit Union Bank and to AAFES for their support!

Children experienced topics like: animals living in forest, water conservation, soil, sheep farming, energy saving, fire fighting, taste.



Arbor Day 2015

For the first time at the USAG Ansbach, the Ansbach Elementary School celebrated the Arbor Day on 24 April 2015.

The event has been supported by the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) who provided the tree (a field maple, tree of the year 2015 in Germany) and by Theater Aviation Sustainment Manager OCONUS (TASM-O) who made the sign.

Students of the Ansbach High School Journalism covered the event. On 15 May 2015 they

published their article "Memories of Trees and Families" and also a video which you can see on DoDEA Europe website:

<http://www.dodea.edu/Europe/Area-News.cfm?>

or on the USAG Ansbach Homepage

The Environmental Management Division (EMD) has been very pleased to see children as members of the club PRIDE planting the tree with such an enthusiasm. EMD is looking forward to celebrating the Arbor Day 2016!



Arbor Day 2015 - PRIDE club from the Ansbach Elementary School planted a field maple. EMD pictures

By: Nastasia Wanat



Buy Green Corner: what is a "Pfand" ?

Do you know what "Pfand" in German means?

"Pfand" is a small money deposit (between 0.08 and 0.50€ per bottle) that each customer pays in Germany when one buys a drink (water, juices, sodas, beers), glass milk or yogurt bottles.

Metal cans, plastic and glass bottles are charged of the "Pfand". Customers get back the money if they bring back bottles to automats "Leergut Automat" which we can find in every German supermarket.

Even if most of bottles are charged of the "Pfand", some bottles do not have "Pfand" and can be properly recycled.

Moreover, if you buy a beer crate, the crate also has a "Pfand". Returning them you will receive credit for, its about three to four Euro.

You can also recognize that bottles are charged with "Pfand" when you see the symbol, as shown on the right side of this article. Sometimes, only the word "Pfandflasche" is indicated on the bottles,

meaning you can take them back also.

This system has been implemented to favor the re-use of bottles and limit the continual production of new bottles using new materials. Other European countries also have the "Pfand" system, for example Austria and Switzerland.



By: Nastasia Wanat

The Magic World of Bees



At the Julius Maximilians University of Würzburg, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Tautz is developing a program called HOney Bee Online Studies (HOBOS) since 2006.

Goal is to collect data all over the world in order to better understand honeybees' behavior and their key role for ecology and agriculture

On the internet portal HOBOS, translated in English, you can watch live videos of inside beehives.

<http://www.hobos.de/en/default/bee-year.html>

Environmental News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2015

EMS

POLLUTION
PREVENTION



OUR EMS GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

1. Reduce Energy Consumption by 3%
2. Reduce Water Consumption by 2%
3. Implement a Green Procurement Program

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Paper or Plastic?

By Andria Smith

Remember the days of being asked at the grocery store whether you wanted paper or plastic bags? It would seem like those days were long gone. Now the option to choose has been replaced with plastic only. Have you ever thought about how many plastic bags you take from the grocery store in a month, a year or even in one single trip? What do you do with all of your plastic bags when you get home? Next time you are at the supermarket think about how your habits impact the environment.

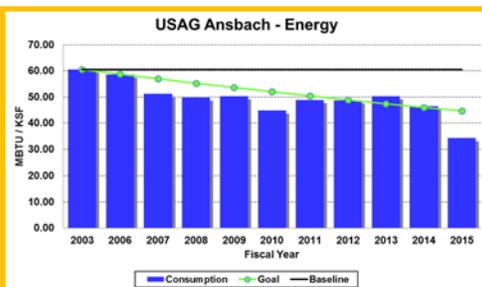
The United States alone produces on average about 100 Billion plastic shopping bags annually. In 2013, the EPA noted that only 14% of plastic bags, wraps and sacks were recycled. That figure is remarkably low, considering most plastic shopping bags are recyclable. Landfilling plastic bags is also bad for the environment. It takes on average 1000 years for a plastic (polyethylene) bag to break down. It is important to note that polyethylene does not biodegrade, they photodegrade, which means it breaks down into

smaller and smaller toxic parts, contaminating soil and waterways. This then ends up in the food chain as the animals we eat accidentally ingest the plastics.



The next time you go to the market or grocery store, think about re-using your plastic bags or asking for paper bags. You can also purchase a reusable canvas or cotton tote for your shopping. Most stores carry their own line of reusable bags and even offer a reward every time you use the bags in their store. Ask your local supermarket or shopping center, on- or off-post, if they carry reusable bags or if they have an incentive program. When it comes to the environment, everyone's action counts!

Will We Reach Our Energy Goal for FY15?



The 4th Quarter is not over yet, looking at the current trend, it appears we are not on track to reach our energy goal for FY15. Please keep the following in mind to help us reach our 3% reduction in energy consumption:

- ✓ Turn off the lights when not in the room
- ✓ Unplug appliances not in use, such as fans and electronics
- ✓ Cool your room with fresh air instead of air conditioning
- ✓ Switch to energy saving light bulbs

Environmental Tip



Keep container lids closed to reduce foul odors and prevent vermin or you may have an unwanted guest...



Android

iPhone

USAREUR Soldier Field Card App

Could Aluminum Foil be a Health Hazard?



Foil with salt and acid is a potential health hazard.

"People take in aluminum from various sources, especially from food products and antiperspirants."

-Toxicologist Prof. Edmund Maser, University of Kiel

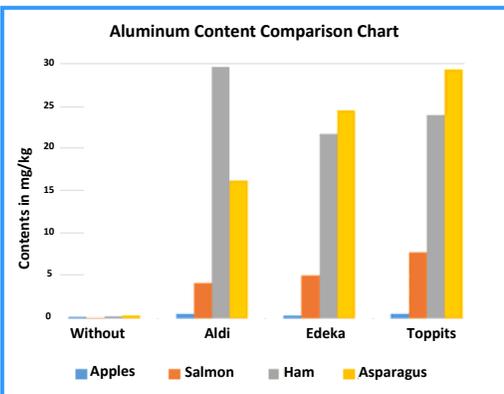
Have you ever noticed how much aluminum foil you use in your daily life? A recent study was conducted in order to investigate whether humans potentially consume aluminum at an amount greater than the tolerable threshold set by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The study investigated several food items wrapped in aluminum by three different brands: *Aldi, Edeka and Toppits* (brand name). The food: *apples, salmon, ham and asparagus* were each wrapped and kept for 3 days.

The chart to right compares the aluminum content levels present in the food verses how much aluminum is naturally present, i.e. without aluminum foil. As can be seen ham and asparagus by far have the most aluminum content present after 3 days of wrapping, with salmon and apples following next in line. This is a stark contrast and should be noted when wrapping food with high salt content.

The EFSA has established that a

tolerable upper limit intake of aluminum is about one milligram per kilogram of body weight per week. For example, an adult weighing about 60 kilograms (132 lbs.) has a tolerable intake of 8.6 milligrams of aluminum. To put that into perspective, if this adult would consume about half a kilo (1.1 lbs.) of asparagus cooked in aluminum foil, they would have already exceeded their threshold.



According to the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), the potential hazards of aluminum are serious and can affect the nervous system, reproduction (fertility and fetus) and bone development.

A common practice that should

be avoided is bringing salt and/or acidic foods into contact with aluminum. It is very tempting to season food with salt or lemons for baking meals in foil; however aluminum ions are transferred at a greater rate and in some cases may even dissolve directly into the food. The effect is amplified when you keep food wrapped in foil for days.

With summertime being grilling season, it is important to safe-

guard yourself from these risks. As you grill your meats over foil, instead of adding seasoning salts directly to the meat over the grill, add the salts immediately after you remove the items off the grill.

When it comes to yogurt lids and soda cans, you can rest assured that these items are safe. In

the future to protect your health, use glass containers instead when needing to save food for a couple of days. You can also place your vegetables and fruit cut side down to keep your items fresh in the fridge.

By Andria Smith

Buy Green: Summertime BBQ By Andria Smith



Take action this summer by protecting the climate and environment from barbecuing environmentally friendly.

When buying charcoal, make sure it comes from sustainably managed forests. This helps avoid the decrease in tropical rain forests. You can purchase FSC labeled goods as they are a NGO that strives for a sound ecological, social and economic forest management.

If purchasing ignitor, buy compressed wood treated with oil or wax or brush wood. Paper, pinecones or chemical ignitors are not recommended as they release carcinogenic substances when burned.

The next time you pick your grilling foods, think about this: One-fifth of green house gases are produced from cattle farming, confirming the fact that the ecological footprint for meat is several times worse than vegetables. Grilling veggies can be delicious and an environmentally friendlier alternative. If meat is essential, look for bio labeled meat, which ensures that the animals were treated well and contributes to less environmental pollution.





Environmental News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2015

EMS

POLLUTION PREVENTION

OUR EMS GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

1. Reduce Energy Consumption by 2.5%
2. Reduce Waster Consumption by 2%
3. Implement a Green Procurement Program

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If Not Us...Then Who? *By Andria Smith*

How many times have you seen an image of a polar bear floating on an iceberg in the middle of the ocean, like the picture below?



source: www.justpo.com

What comes to mind when you see it? Does a sense of impending doom come over you or numbness, as you've probably seen this picture a thousand times. Think back to the first time you saw this image and what that meant. This issue has not gone away just because we have become desensitized to imagery.

This October, challenge yourself to think about how your actions impact the people and environment around you. This month the Garrison is celebrating Energy Awareness Month and it is our duty to reach our energy and water reduction goals of 2.5% and 2%, respectively, for FY16. Celebrate this month by simply taking small actions everyday to reduce your energy and water consumption.

 Start by doing the things you already know to do, but simply forget. For instance, make sure to turn off the lights when you leave a room, whether at home or work. Did you know that leaving a light on for up to 8 hours a day over a year could cost you nearly an extra \$110? Why waste money carelessly on an action that is virtually free? It only takes a second to turn off a switch and only two minutes to check your home before you leave for the day.

 Another action you can take is making sure you unplug any electronics not in use.

How often have you simply kept your laptop or phone plugged in although it was fully charged? Appliances and electronics drain energy even when not being used and that still costs money. Consider purchasing a "smart" power strip. It is a more convenient method of powering on and off your electronics with just one button. Also, these strips help protect against wasted energy consumption.

 With chillier weather just around the corner, try these old school methods to stay warm. The free and practical option is to layer-up. Try wearing more weather appropriate clothing. If at home, cozy up under a warm blanket and wear heavier sweaters and socks before turning on the heater. If at the office, bring heavier jackets and layer-on some extra shirts. Also, try naturally warming your home by keeping the blinds open during the day to let the sun shine in. You would be surprised how warm your home will be by the time you come home from work. You can do the same also at work and feel the warmth of the sun.

These are just a few, simple things you can do to contribute to the Garrison's goals. Not only are you improving your home and work environment, you are making an impact on a much larger scale. So let us not be jaded this month by treating this as just another month focusing on just another cause. Let this month truly be about changing habits that have lasting impacts. Because if we do not start now, we have to ask ourselves, if not now, then when and if not us, then who? You have the knowledge and know what to do. No one is better at getting the job done than you. Remember you are the best tool to saving energy!

Upcoming Events

October is Energy Awareness and Action Month



The Best Tool to Save Energy is You!

Thanksgiving Day



November 26th 2015



Android iPhone

USAREUR Soldier Field Card App

Our New Energy Manager



Mr. Juan Murillo

If you have any ideas on how to conserve energy and water and want to share your thoughts, please contact me at DSN 467-2300. You can also find me in the DPW Bismarck Kaserne, Bldg. 5843 A.

Turning Words into Action and Action into Results



CoGen Unit in Shipton



Example of Photovoltaic Cells¹
Future Project for the Garrison

October is National Energy Awareness Month. This month is a national effort to underscore how central energy is to our nation's prosperity, security and environmental well-being. The USAG Ansbach is celebrating this month by taking action on conserving energy and water to help enhance mission effectiveness to keep us Army Strong! The Garrison as a whole has been working hard to implement projects that focus on meeting our environmental goals according to the new EO 13693.



In our efforts to reduce energy intensity by 30% by the end of FY15, several projects have been completed and more are scheduled to be initiated this FY16. A few projects included window replacements in Hangers 3 & 4 in Katterbach and a continuous effort in replacing energy inefficient lighting of exterior lights with LEDs in Katterbach.

Unfortunately even with these efforts, we did not reach our energy reduction goal for FY15, unlike past years. The Garrison's energy bill so far for this year is over \$10M and rising. Therefore more effort is needed to make sure we achieve our goals for FY16. Projects have already been planned for the future to

enhance the Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) which include roof insulations and window replacements in the hangers and motorpools in Storck. Also, the Garrison is working on cooperating with the Host Nation on joint actions for energy.



Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary to the Army, said access to "unfettered energy" is essential for the military to live up to its mission. Therefore utilizing other forms of energy such as renewables is important, not only for the mission, but the environment. The Garrison recognizes this concern and has already begun to take action. A CoGen Unit has been installed in Shipton and a solar system for hot water generation was installed in the Storck Barracks Mess Hall. Nearly \$700K has been invested in these projects and more is expected in order to reach our 7.5% renewable energies goal.

Unfortunately, we only utilized 0.2% of renewable energy. In order to reach our goal in FY16, supporting the ECIP is vital and therefore, installation of photovoltaic cells (solar panels) on roofs in different areas such as Katterbach, Urlas and Storck are planned. Another solar heating

system for hot water is also planned for the Barracks in Katterbach.



We as a Garrison and as individuals understand that water is a precious resource and we have a duty to protect it and consume responsibly. Our goal is to reduce consumption by 2% per annum. We have been doing a great job of reaching that goal every year since FY03, with the exception of FY14. We were over our goal by 13.4%! This was due to a water main break that was not identified for several months. This oversight cost the Garrison several thousands of gallons in wasted water. The issue was corrected and we have reached our goal for FY15.

In order for the Garrison to continue reaching and surpassing our goals, several projects were initiated. Waterless urinals and highly efficient sinks were installed in Urlas and Katterbach. Future projects include making several repairs to fix water leakages and drastically decreasing potable water usage. Our Garrison is doing its part to help protect and secure the environment for our future. Let's all remember to do our part. Everyone's actions count!

By Andria Smith & Regina Kranz

Green Corner: Family, Food and Football by Andria Smith

Synonymous with Thanksgiving, it's almost like a ritual of eating until you're stuffed, then watching football, falling asleep and repeating. It's amazing how food is even leftover by the end of the evening. Unfortunately, holiday season is the most wasteful in terms of food and resources. According to the World Watch Institute, Americans produce "an extra 5 million pounds of waste and 3xs as much in food waste from Thanksgiving until New Years". With so many in the world going without, let's do our part as a Garrison to be mindful of our waste. Here are some small tips to improve your Thanksgiving holiday:

There's an App for that...



Wonder how much water you use to do daily activities? Play games and track your usage with this new app. For more information visit www.h2otracker.com

Be Realistic & Plan

If you want to save on money and food, make sure to buy only what you need. The best way is making sure to write a shopping list and sticking to it!



Portion Sizes

Encourage your guests to self-service and smaller portions. This ensures they put on their plate what they can eat. You can always go back for seconds.



Love Food Hate Waste

Instead of throwing away leftovers, make new meals from them. Check out the web for recipe ideas. Also allow guests to take home food in order to reduce waste.



Compost & Recycle

Make sure to place all food scraps in the bio bag, including bones. And of course make sure to correctly separate and recycle ALL wastes!



¹cityofapalma.org, 2015



US ARMY GARRISON ANSBACH, DPW ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD)

Environmental News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2015

SEMS

POLLUTION PREVENTION

OUR SEMS GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

1. Reduce Energy Consumption by 2.5%
2. Reduce Waster Consumption by 2%
3. Implement a Green Procurement Program

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

Environment Officer (EO) Training Link:
<http://tti.na.amec.com/IMCOM/login.asp>

Visit our share portal:
<https://home.army.mil/sites/eur/Ger/Ans/dpwl/Environmental/default.aspx>

Finishing Out the Year *By Andria Smith*

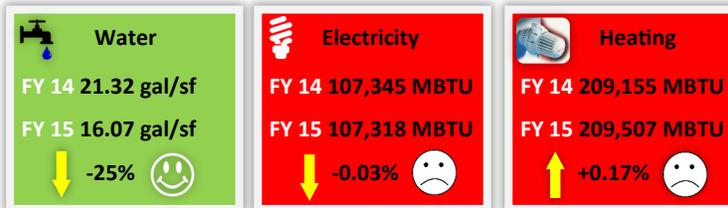
With the year winding down, it is always import for us, as a Garrison, to reflect on our performance. Our Sustainable Environmental Management System (SEMS) goes under review every year in order to determine our progress and based on our performance, we make the necessary changes to ensure continual improvements.

As a Garrison, we have a set out three goals for the year: 1) Reduce energy consumption by 2.5%, 2) Reduce water consumption by 2% and 3) Implement a green procurement program. In order for us to determine our progress, we compare how we did in 2014 to 2015. The figures below detail how we did in consumption of heating, electricity and water. As we can see, we did an excellent job in reducing our water consumption, but we did not achieve our goal in reducing energy consumption. Although, we have been able to perform better in some areas, there is

always room for improvement. We should remember to do our best in taking the small steps to conserve energy. Remember to turn off the lights when you leave a room and unplug unused electronics. You may think you are just one person so your actions alone are insignificant, but if everyone did their part, we would see significant savings in resources and money.

We should also do our best to recycle better in the coming year. As a Garrison, we only achieved a 52% recycling rate. If everyone sorted their waste properly, we could have increased our rate by 30%. Those saving could be better spent on more valuable programs needed for the Garrison. So as you are unwrapping your gifts this season, please remember to recycle.

Let's make achieving our goals successfully in the New Year our resolution. When we work together, we can achieve greatness!



Steps to Heating & Ventilating Your Home Properly

1. Turn off the heat completely
2. Open windows fully
3. Air at least for 5 minutes
4. Close the windows
5. Turn back on heat

Proper Heating and Venting

As much as we enjoy our warm and toasty homes, it is important to properly heat and ventilate your homes in winter. Opening the windows in winter is a bit of a foreign concept for most Americans, however, it is important as German homes are not built with extensive ventilation systems and are fairly airtight. In order to save on energy costs, improve indoor air quality and prevent mold, follow the steps shown in the figure to the left. You should air out your space 2-4 times a day, especially after showering, cooking and mopping floors.

Upcoming Events

Look for our free 2016 environmental calendars, available at the EMD.

IDLING IS PROHIBITED



Turn off your engine when parked to preserve air quality and save fuel.

For Christmas Tree Pick-Up Information



Contact O&M @
DSN 467-2063/3370



Android iPhone

USAREUR Soldier Field Card App



Make Your Holiday Season a Bit Greener By Andria Smith

DIY Christmas Décor¹DIY Ornament²Unconventional Gift Wrap³

When it comes to the Christmas Holiday, we tend to go all out on buying the best gifts, food and décor. Do you ask yourself at the end of the season, how can you make it even better, without harming the environment? There are several ways to ensure you have a sustainable and enjoyable holiday.

First, let us begin with the décor. For more unique and budget friendly Christmas tree decorations, consider making your own ornaments from nature or recycled materials. The materials are free and more meaningful when you or your family make them together. Also, make sure you use LED lights for your tree and put them on a timer. The environment and your wallet will thank you. If you have lights with a few broken bulbs, just replace the ones that are broken. There's no sense in spending more money on brand new lights when only a few need replacing.

Next lets think about what to put underneath the tree. Finding just the right gift for your loved ones seems to always be the hardest thing to do. Instead of buying new gifts, op for DIY or pre-loved gifts. They are unique and one-of-a-kind gifts specially crafted. You can also make do-

nations to local charities on behalf of your loved ones. Another alternative is gifting an experience, for example, cooking lessons or concert tickets. It's another way to give something meaningful without leaving a large ecological footprint.

After that, comes the wrapping of the gifts underneath the tree. Instead of wasting time and money on traditional wrapping paper, consider using old scrap materials or used t-shirts. You can save on money and waste, since you can continue to reuse these unconventional wrapping materials for future presents. But if you must use wrapping paper, please make sure that it is recycled paper.

When you want to send your season greetings far and wide, you can reuse your cards too.

"Try chopping up last year's cards and turn them into gift tags, or cut off the picture side and send them as Christmas postcards. E-cards are a great way of saving money and trees, but if you prefer sending them the traditional way, go for cards made from recycled paper or ones that support a charity".

-greenvillages.com

Lastly, comes the dinner for the Christmas Day feast. In order to save on money and cut waste, consider only purchasing what you need. Make sure to write a shopping list and stick to it when you go to the market. Also, consider purchasing seasonal foods and from your local farmer's market. This reduces the amount of trips you need to make to and from the stores. And save your leftovers to make new meals or find local organizations accepting food donations. Throwing away food usually ends up in landfills and food waste generates methane gas, which is actually more harmful to the environment than CO₂.

When the holiday is over, what do you do next? We do not want to believe that the gifts we give loved ones may not be exactly what they wished for, but how many times have you received something you wanted to exchange? Instead of tossing unwanted items, return them for something you would like or donate them to a charity. You can also re-gift items after you've enjoyed them. This keeps items out of landfills longer.

Taking sustainable baby steps this year will be rewarding for you, your wallet and the environment. Happy Holidays!

Green Corner: 0 Christmas Tree by Andria Smith

Christmas Day is fast approaching and everyone is rushing to get those last minute items or gifts. And what is Christmas without an iconic Christmas tree? This year when you are thinking about what type of tree to purchase, consider your options. We should all try to be more sustainable, especially around the holidays as waste significantly increases during this time of year. If you are on a budget and want to be the most sustainable at the same time, the best option for a tree is to simply decorate an outdoor tree for Christmas. Not only do you save money, you can spread the holiday cheer for you and your neighbors. If you'd like a real Christmas tree, consider purchasing a tree from a local farmer. Supporting sustainable and organic farms helps prevent environmental degradation wrought by pesticides on big conventional operations. There are several farms in the Mittel Franconian area, just search for the term "Christbaum" or "Weihnachtsbaum" when researching on the internet for where to find a tree. Another benefit of real Christmas trees is that they are recycled into

mulch or compost after being enjoyed for the holiday. Ask your local farmer if they also have potted trees for rent. This allows you the ability to have a live tree in your home without the need to cut it down. After your use, it gets planted and continues to live until the next holiday season. If you are considering an artificial tree, that is also pre-lit, make sure to look for energy efficient labels such as EnergyStar. Also, the trees should be lit with LED lights to ensure energy efficiency. In order for an artificial tree to be more sustainable than a real tree, it must be used for at least 20 years. Make sure to pick a tree you will enjoy time and again, in order to protect the environment.

Outdoor Christmas Tree w/LED⁴

¹brit.co, 2015; ²kidsomania.com, 2015; ³skirtkongblog.wordpress.com, 2015; ⁴lifehack.org, 2015