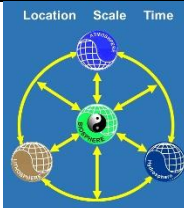


Applied Geography for Sustainable Living

Eye on the World

No. 1 Vol. 1
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[Applied Geography for Sustainable Living](#)



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Applied Geography Education: the path to a more sustainable future.

New Applied Geography Logo

It's been a while since we were able to issue the last RTC-TH Update Newsletter in Fall 2014. The start of the "Eye on the World" newsletter has taken longer than we had hoped. We are here at last, going to press and posting this to the re-vamped website.

With our fresh start is a new logo. The center piece remains the same: light blue stylized Yin-Yan globe with white grid and the words Applied Geography. The remainder of our name "for Sustainable Living" in black letters on the background green leaf emphasizes our focus on the environment. We hope our new simple stylized logo will be easy to recognize and accepted as representing the same high quality of work we produced through the RTC-TH.



Our new logo; Applied Geography on a leaf.

The topic of sustainable living is wide-ranging as we do not intend to limit our scope. It is hard to live totally sustainably or self-sufficiently anywhere. This is especially true in an urban setting. Generally, the more complex your living situation, the more specialized inter-



MASHABLE.COM

Recycling in the United States is in serious trouble. How does it work?

[About this website](#)

dependencies you must rely upon. Life in the city often forces you to depend on the power, water, and trash services for your home. In a more rural setting, you could be off the grid, have your own water well, and deal with most of your trash on your own.

The recycling mantra of yesterday was "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle." Some are modifying this to "Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, recycle" as two factors have hit recycling:

1) falling prices for recyclables; 2) higher standards for clean recyclables have made many sources for recycled trash ineligible for recycling. Stockpiles of collected recyclables are

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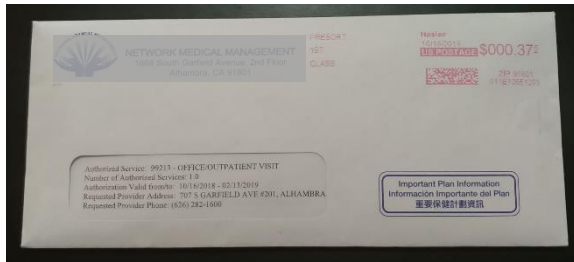
beginning to pile up. China notified the city of Los Angeles it would no longer purchase recyclable plastics because the level of contamination of its materials was too high and unacceptable for use in China. With no buyer, the collected materials pile up and are becoming a public health hazard. The forces the recycling centers to spend more money taking measures to comply with public health regulations. As costs continue to rise, it seems much of the materials will be destined for a landfill.

Los Angeles recently unveiled RecycLA, an innovative public-private partnership. The goal is to offer effective trash and recycling services to commercial / industrial business, institutions and multiple unit residents. China's announcement blocked the movement of plastics and other recyclables out of the LA transfer centers. As the stockpiles build, it is hard to imagine how the city

will be able to NOT begin putting the stuff into landfills. Ironically, one of the goals of recycling was to reduce the volume of material going to landfills. 🌐



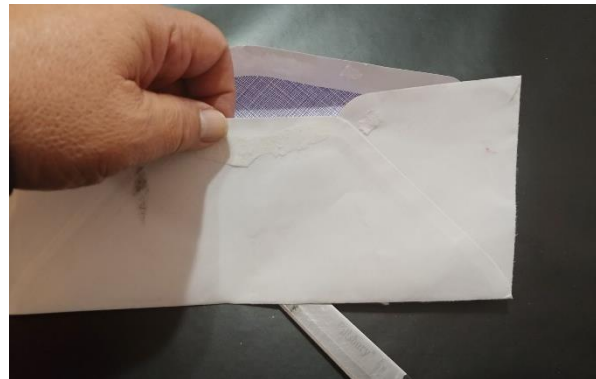
Filet of Envelope: Junk Mail to Scratch Pads



The digital age supposedly ushered in the paperless office. Although we signed up for paperless billing, etc., we continue to get numerous pieces of mail daily. We tried using the backs of the envelopes for scratch paper. But that seemed wasteful as the insides of many were clean and unprinted. We began to “filet”

the envelopes and make scratch pads with the salvaged paper. The cost of scratch pads can be a dollar a pad of 50 sheets. We can staple about 25 sheets together, so every 2 pads we make saves us some money. **[Note:** The estimated money saved into a bank account. The money is really saved and not just a paper savings.]

The filing process is rather simple. Remove the contents from the envelope. Only filet envelopes that give you relatively clean writing surface. Some envelopes have printing on the outside, but the insides are plain. Security envelopes are printed on the inside, but the outside back is plain, or half of the front is clean.



We often end up with two basic sizes of filets. Shorter ones tend to be about 12 cm X 16 cm (4" X 6"). Longer pads are about 12 cm X 24 cm (4" X 9"). We staple the pads together with a single staple in the upper left corner. We try to keep a these scratch pads handy next



to our radio station and computer work station. The paperless office is a concept which hasn't emerged as a full reality here. 🌐

Dead Tennis Balls Resurrected



When we moved into an upstairs apartment, the landlord was very clear they were seeking "quiet" tenants. The long-time renter below our apartment had noise issues with the previous occupants. The apartment we were renting had wood laminate floors. So anytime we moved a chair, there was a potential noise problem.

We have friends who play tennis. We asked what they did with the worn-out tennis balls. "Take all you want. We have trouble discarding them." So, we grabbed a couple of basketsful of used tennis balls and began our



chair muffling project. We simple cut two slits in the form of an "X" and inserted the bottom end of a chair leg into the ball. Viola! Sliding the chairs across the floor produced no perceptible noise.



It's been about 3 ½ years since we moved in. There have been no noise complaints so far. Resurrecting old tennis balls and giving them new life as chair mufflers has worked out very well indeed. 🌐

Re-using Styrofoam & Plastic Bubble Packing

Many vendors ship orders to us with different kinds of packing materials. Three common ones are Styrofoam sheets, air-filled plastic pads and plastic bubble padded envelopes.



Since our apartment has no insulation in the exterior walls. The larger pieces of Styrofoam and air-filled padding were used to create an insulation barrier. We decided to set the priority to protect the battery bank. [Note: The temperature difference between an insulated section from an uninsulated section was 7°F.



Smaller pieces of Styrofoam and plastic bubble padded envelopes were combined to line the ammo cans used for storing our various field radios. This cushions the radio equipment from unexpected shocks from accidental knocking around in the field. The ammo boxes are water-tight, air tight, and are an effective Faraday shield from EMP



Styrofoam liners cut to fit the bottom and larger sides.



A plastic bubble padded envelop is cut for a protective liner.



This box stores one of the field HT radios.

This box contains a Bao Feng F8HP dual band (144/440 MHz). Included with the radio are: rubber duck antenna, a notebook, User Manual, spare batter, AA battery pack, AA batteries,



boom mic/headset, and a jumper adapter cable (SMA-F to SO239). This adapter can be used to connect the HT to larger external antennas using standard PL259 connector. This means the HT can be connected to mobile antennas on our vehicle or base station antennas. 🌐