

# Chapel Hill resources for re-using resources

by Lynn Medford  
Assistant News Editor

It takes 17 trees to make one ton of paper and eight tons of paper to make 20,000 copies of an average size textbook. If recycled paper is used, 136 trees are saved in the printing of that textbook.

Considering the colossal volume of textbooks used in Chapel Hill and the enormous volume of beer consumed over those textbooks, it is appropriate that two newspaper, one aluminum and one glass recycling systems operate in Chapel Hill.

The Chapel Hill chapter of ECOS operates the largest newspaper recycling system here. With offices located at 106 Henderson Street, ECOS handles from four to 10 tons of paper each week, Larry Tuttle, ECOS recycling coordinator, said.

Two ECOS workers pick up newspaper,

computer paper and cards, ledger grade paper (paper that has not been glossed or chemically treated such as forms, old test papers, dry-process copy paper, bond paper and old publications), and 200-pound volumes of cardboard.

Paper to be recycled may be stapled but not glued or joined by paper clips or rubber bands. Brown envelopes, envelopes with windows, magazines and brown bags are not acceptable, because their volume and quality are low.

Paper picked up by ECOS is sold to Paper Stock and Reclamation Systems, recycling plants in Durham which shred and bale the paper. The baled paper is then sold to various industries to be made into home building supplies, packaging for automobile parts, seat cushions and textile cones. Each new home uses one ton of recycled paper, and one automobile uses between 400 and

600 pounds, Tuttle said.

Most of ECOS's paper eventually goes to Hartsville, S.C., to be made into textile cones.

Paper for recycling sells for \$12 a ton now, although last summer it sold for as much as \$30 a ton. Because last winter's recession and the resulting slowdown in the automobile, building and textile industries, the price dropped to \$8 a ton in December.

Although last year ECOS received funds from Student Government to build ECOS boxes for collection points, the organization operates its recycling without outside funding—and without profit, Tuttle said.

ECOS has 17 newspaper collection points on campus. The major ones are located near Spencer, Old East, Whitehead, Mangum, Lewis, Cobb, Connor, Teague, Avery, Morrison, Ehringhaus, Hinton James, and Craig dormitories and the Y-Court.

The Town of Chapel Hill also operates a newspaper recycling system, picking up paper at four off-campus collection points. Labeled dumpsters are located at the recycling center on Plant Road (off East Franklin Street), north of the Municipal Building on Airport Road, and behind the fire stations at Elliott Road and Glen Lennox.

The local Girl Scouts recycle aluminum cans, having collection barrels next to the newspaper dumpsters at the Glen Lennox and Elliott Road fire stations and at the Municipal Building. Aluminum cans have no seams on the sides or bottom and may be crushed easily by hand.

Reynolds Aluminum Recycling, which collects throughout Piedmont and Coastal North Carolina, picks up aluminum at University Mall every other Tuesday. The company pays 15 cents a pound.

Colorless and green glass is recycled by Boy Scout Troop 39. Approximately three to four tons of glass is collected by the Scouts at marked barrels at the Plant Road Glass Depot, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Glass bottles should have plastic labels and caps removed.

A system for recycling plastic milk containers has also been established by ECOS. Clean, uncrushed gallon containers with caps may be left in the bin at the Plant Road recycling center. The containers are reused for packaging chemicals.

Having recycling systems available is not enough to have an effective recycling program, however. Last April, Chapel Hill Mayor Howard N. Lee appointed a recycling implementation task force to encourage citizens to participate in the recycling program. Jane Sharp, chairperson of the task force, said.

The task force plans to use a \$500 appropriation from the Board of Aldermen to buy 100 per cent recycled paper for bus schedules and town stationery, she said.

Other task force plans include an exhibit on recycling on Sept. 13 at University Mall and a possible weekly column in the *Chapel Hill Newspaper* outlining ways to reduce consumption.

A door-to-door collection system for home solid wastes will begin operation in June, 1976, if freight rates are low enough and if the town appropriates money for trash collection efficiency studies, Sharp said.

She said the task force plans to request the Board of Aldermen and Orange County Board of Commissioners to pass a law, similar to the Oregon bottle bill, requiring bars to serve only draft beer. This bill was recommended by a recycling task force in 1973.

The task force is having problems getting local media coverage, since their hints to reduce consumption would result in loss of business to local merchants, Sharp said.

"We try to encourage the businesses to look at the long term view—if there's no resources, there'll be no business," she said.

# Food co-ops offer savings on groceries

by Tim Pittman  
Staff Writer

Four major food cooperatives offering a variety of products at savings of up to 30 per cent off retail have made low food prices a reality in Chapel Hill.

The Chapel Hill Food Co-op is the largest and the oldest, but the Newman Center, Community Food, and Student Consumer Action Union (SCAU) co-ops are also well established for cooperatives.

Although each co-op has its own system of operation, certain similarities exist throughout the cooperatives. All the co-ops are organized in units which each pays a membership fee. A unit may be a family or a group of people. Each member of the unit agrees to work a certain amount of time each month to aid in collecting and bagging the produce.

These cooperatives can offer substantial savings on food since their products are bought in bulk from the Farmer's Market in Raleigh or other wholesale distributors.

The Chapel Hill Co-op was organized in August, 1971, with students trading green peppers on the steps of the Baptist Student Union, co-op chairperson Lynn Harmon said. But the co-op has grown from eight or 10 units in 1971 to 110 units today. Harmon estimated that 250 people are involved in the co-op.

The food, primarily produce, canned goods and cheeses, is sold by the co-op at wholesale prices plus a 10 per cent surcharge which includes sales tax. The co-op is open from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Baptist Student Union in Battle House. Persons interested in joining should go by the co-op during business hours.

The Newman Center Co-op, located on Pittsboro Street, offers fruit, vegetables and processed meats such as hot dogs and salami at prices 15 to 20 per cent cheaper than retail stores. It operates from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Center, Pat Kropp, the co-op's bookkeeper, said.

Beginning in October, 1973, the co-op grew steadily from 20 units to 60 units last semester. For more information about joining the co-op, interested persons should come to the co-op during its operating hours.

The SCAU co-op was organized in October, 1974 and grew to over 100 units by the end of last spring. Fresh produce, cheese and natural foods are sold at wholesale price plus 10 per cent. Chairperson Debbie Ingram said.

Located at the Chapel Hill Carrboro Multipurpose Center on Weaver Street in Carrboro, the co-op is open from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., each Wednesday. Persons interested in joining should come during these hours.

Specializing in natural foods such as grains, beans, spices and honey, the Community Food Co-op also sells its products at wholesale prices plus 10 per cent.

Located at the Community Bookstore on Rosemary Street, the co-op is open from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Membership information can be obtained by going by the co-op or calling the Community Bookstore (967-1157).



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