NEWSLETTER Volume 2 - April 2011

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Environmental Services we provide:

- Environmental Management System
- Environmental compliance training and assistance
- Hazardous Material/ Hazardous Waste management
- Natural and cultural resources management

If you have any questions, please contact us at 354-6795 or

environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil

We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

Energy Efficient Lighting - New Labeling

Lighting uses 15% of the total consumption of electricity of the average household. To save energy and therefore reduce CO_2 emissions, the European Union has decided to gradually phase out incandescent light bulbs by 2016. They will be replaced by more energy-efficient light sources.

Currently, we have three general alternatives to incandescent light bulbs: Halogen, light-emitting diode (LED) and compact fluorescent lamps (known as “low-energy light-bulbs”). These alternatives do not only use less energy and therefore help to reduce CO_2 emissions, they are also more durable and therefore more cost-efficient. Replacing old bulbs with the new energy-saving types is easy because energy-efficient light bulbs usually utilize the same screw fittings that were used for incandescent light bulbs.

Nevertheless, buying energy-saving alternatives can cause a little confusion. In the past, consumers were used to buying incandescent light bulbs based on their wattage. However, wattage is a measurement of energy use, not brightness. Different technologies produce the same amount of light (measured in lumens) using different amounts of energy (measured in watts). A compact fluorescent bulb may be able to produce the same amount of brightness as a traditional incandescent bulb, while using significantly less energy (watts). As a result, reliance on watt measurements alone makes it difficult for consumers to compare different light sources, and labeling of light bulbs solely based on their wattage is no longer suitable. New rules (effective in USA in mid-2011, in Europe since September 2010) require new labels that focus on brightness in “lumens”, in order to help consumers with their purchasing decisions. Under the new rules, the back of each light bulb package will have a label that provides information about: brightness, the bulb’s life expectancy, light appearance (warm or cool light), wattage, and mercury content.

Be aware of mercury!

Compact fluorescent lamps or “low-energy light bulbs” contain mercury. The maximum amount allowed in one lamp is 5 mg, with some lamps containing as little as 1 mg. This mercury is capped and can only escape when the bulb is broken. When a lit bulb breaks, more mercury can escape than from an unlit, cold bulb. To remove the broken light bulb, please use a dustpan and dispose of the material in a closeable plastic bag. Broken and spent lamps should not be disposed of with regular household trash or recycling glass, but as hazardous waste. Household hazardous waste can be disposed of at the **Garrison Recycling Centers** (Askren Manor, Ledward Barracks or Conn Barracks). Never abandon hazardous waste at the Recycling Centers – always ask Recycling Center personnel for assistance! Some supermarkets and other sellers also take back spent lamps. **Please note that it is very important to properly air the room in which the lamp was broken**.

Environmental Leadership Day 2011

Every year, the Garrison celebrates an Environmental Awareness Day for school children to raise awareness of environmental protection and sustainability. The children participating shall lead other Garrison members, such as their parents, in protecting the environment. This year’s event will take place in Conn Barracks on 17 and 18 May.

At different stalls the Environmental Division, the SORT Co-ordinator, Schweinfurt Wildlife Park, the Federal Forestry Office and many other organizations will present a number of environmental topics through practical exercises, tips, games, and handicraft work. For example, children can plant flowers, manufacture paper or pet the goats at the children's zoo.

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Did You Know: Bats in Germany

Bat during hibernation (Size approx. 8 cm/3.15 inches)

Bats are mammals which hibernate in order to survive the winter, when few insects are available for the bats to feed upon. During hibernation, all vital functions (e.g. heart rate and breathing rate) are reduced. The metabolism is almost deactivated. The bats therefore expend much less energy and can live on their fat reserves.

Most bat species move into sheltered caves, mining tunnels, other subsurface hiding grounds, bunkers, or hollow tree trunks for hibernation. Bats usually interrupt their hibernation to check the climatic conditions of their wintering ground. If the microclimate does not suit them any longer, they will change their accommodation. The temperature of the wintering grounds is approximately 2 to 12 °C/35.6 to 53.6 °F.

Hibernation is not a real sleep, moreover a "winter lethargy". Bats are aware of everything happening in their environment during hibernation. After coming out of hibernation, they need plenty of energy. If the bats are frequently disturbed in their wintering grounds, they wake up and feed on their reserves unnecessarily, which can become fatal for them.

In mid-March to early April, the bats slowly complete their hibernation and head to their summer habitats. Summer quarters of the males and nursery roosts of the females are located e.g. in tree hollows, attics, cattle sheds, or gaps in the exterior façade of buildings.

Facts about Bats in Germany:

- They are all relatively small
- They exclusively feed on insects
- They are the only mammals which can actively fly
- They use echolocation for orientation
- They leave their quarters after sunset
- All species are listed in the Red List of Endangered Species and are protected Europe-wide.

Total Number of Bat Species

Worldwide:	900
In Europe:	37
In Germany:	24
At USAG Schweinfurt (recorded to date)	14

Recycling of Cork

Cork is more than just a bottle seal, it's a product of centuries-old, ecologically sustainable agriculture. Cork is a natural and renewable resource from the outer bark of the evergreen cork oak (*Quercus suber*).

There are approximately 2,200,000 hectares of cork forest worldwide, mainly located in Portugal and Spain. The cork trees live for about 200 years and once the trees reach about 25 years old the cork is stripped from the trunks every 9 years. 340,000 tons of cork are produced each year.

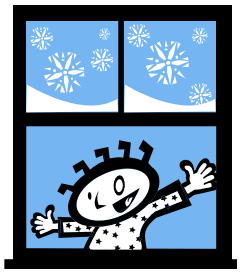
The production of cork produces 75% less carbon dioxide than the production and disposal of screw seals. Nevertheless, cork should be reused or recycled in order to conserve this natural and renewable resource. For example, cork from wine bottles can be used as insulation material.

Join us in recycling cork from wine bottles!

The collected cork will be donated to a social facility and will be used as insulation material. The Cork Collection Point is located at Askren Manor Recycling Center.

For further information, please contact the Environmental Division at DSN 354-6795.

Correct Airing

Heating your home during the cold season consumes a lot of energy and produces carbon dioxide (CO_2). But indoor air quality is not only influenced by temperature but also by air moisture content. Only a regular exchange of air guarantees a comfortable and healthy interior climate. To reduce indoor humidity just stick to the tips below. Sensible airing can save a lot of money and reduce the amount of CO_2 emitted to the atmosphere without losing comfort!

- While heating, close all windows!
- Turn off the heating completely when you want to air the room. Open the windows wide for up to 5 minutes and afterwards turn the heating back on.
- Intermittent, full ventilation with opposite windows opened wide is much more effective than continuous ventilation with a partly opened window. This wastes energy and cools window frames , which can increase the risk of mold in your home.
- Air your room two to four times a day, depending on how long you are in the room.
- After getting up in the morning, air your bedroom well. That will get you fit for the day and will drive away all the moisture that has accumulated overnight on your furniture and walls.
- After having a shower or a bath, cooking or cleaning: open windows, close doors. This allows the damp air to leave quickly.