

Recycling is snap with Fort Polk Net Zero Waste Center

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FORT POLK, La. — Actively affecting positive change may seem daunting to individuals, but working collectively to promote a cleaner Earth amounts to solid improvements.

Fortunately for Fort Polk, recycling falls under the guidance of the Qualified Recycling and Net Zero Waste programs, both run by the Environmental Compliance Division of the Directorate of Public Works. Fort Polk residents are encouraged to do their part and the NZW community recycles day makes dropping off items as easy as 1-2-3.

In April 2011, Fort Polk was chosen as one of six Net Zero Waste pilot installations within the Army challenged to reach zero solid waste entering landfills by the year 2020.

At inception, four work groups were assigned the task of making recommendations for implementation to drive the net zero waste initiative to fruition.

Eleven projects were immediately accepted for implementation in fiscal years 2012 and

2013. One of the results is the Net Zero Waste Center.

Sustainability at Fort Polk is likened to the triple bottom line economic mold that incorporates people, planet and profit. In 2011, 24 million pounds of the installation's municipal solid waste made its way into landfills. The waste that makes its way into the landfills has the potential to affect the environment of the local and surround communities through the water, air and soil.

Fort Polk's QRP challenges the members of the community to help the installation meet its goal of 100 percent zero waste by incorporating the five Rs of the Net Zero program — reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and rethink.

Money generated from recycling through the QRP is returned to the installation. With these funds, the QRP enhances the lives of Soldiers and Family members through contributions to Fort Polk's Morale, Welfare and Recreation. In 2011, the

QRP donated more than \$30,000 to Fort Polk's MWR.

The Net Zero Waste Center holds a community recycles day every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The facility, bldg 3622 at the intersection of Georgia and Maine, accepts the following recyclable material:

- White paper — includes white printer paper, white tablet paper and white cardstock. Ribbon shredded white paper is also accepted. Pulverized or cross-cut paper cannot be recycled.
- Mixed paper — includes colored paper, newspaper, magazines, cereal boxes/box board, manila folders and envelopes
- Aluminum — includes empty aluminum cans and scrap pieces
- Used motor oil
- Used cooking oil
- Scrap metal
- Automotive batteries

For more information call 531-7556.

