

For this month.....

## Summer Time Tips

Summer is full swing with the Fourth of July holiday upon us. Just because we are out and about at picnics, parties and on vacation, does not mean we cannot keep recycling and waste reduction in mind.

⇒ **Recycle on the Go.** Whether you are at a park without recycling containers, or you are vacationing in a rental cabin or at a campground, set up an extra container to collect your recyclables to continue to reduce waste while away from home. Some parks and campgrounds may have recycling containers, but when in doubt, check the local county or city website to see if there are drop-off locations available. For example, there are drop-off spots all around the Traverse City area, if you vacation there. Another option is bring those recyclables home!



*Ostego Lake State Park, near Gaylord, MI*

- ⇒ **Buy Recycled Content Products.** Paper plates and napkins are a mainstay of summer parties and vacations. Its understandable—you want an easy solution that does not require a lot of work. No problem, but next time you make this purchase, look for picnic supplies that are made from recycled content. Purchasing products made from recycled materials keeps the recycle cycle going!
- ⇒ **Camp Green.** If you are a camper, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a “Camp Green” Initiative. Click here to learn about ways you can reduce your impact while camping in our beautiful state. <http://tinyurl.com/p3pkcva>
- ⇒ **Clean Your Plate!** All those farmer’s market purchases are fresh and delicious, but most of what we buy never even makes it on our plates. The average American family of four throws out more than **25 percent** of the food they purchase. This waste totals more than **\$1,600 a year** per household (or more than \$30 week)(*Earth911*). Start with smaller portions, and purchasing only what can be consumed in a couple of days can help to reduce waste.

*Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!*

*Remember, your community PAYS for trash, but EARNS rebates for recycling.*