

Plastic bottle caps are often not recycled because they are made of different types of plastics from plastic bottles. This makes the recycling process different (*NPR, 2008*)

Mixing bottle caps with plastic water bottles “contaminates” the two plastics, and more resources are required to sort them. (*Scientific American, 2008*)

YOU can make a difference!

Become aware of the problem, and offer a creative solution!

Littered bottle caps can be consumed by wildlife, causing physical problems and death. Caps can end up in waterways—eventually becoming marine debris (*SOLV*)

Bottle caps are the second most littered item—after cigarette butts (*Mom Goes Green*)

2012 Earth Day: “A Billion Acts of Green”

The Dunn-Seiler Museum, in partnership with Gaining Ground Sustainability Institute of Mississippi, is trying to raise awareness among students about the environmental damage caused by plastic bottle caps.

We invite Mississippi’s K-12 students to avoid littering, and throwing plastic bottle caps in the trash. Unfortunately, bottle caps are one of the most commonly littered items. These caps can harm the wild animals that try to eat them, and they can also end up in our waterways. Although bottle caps are not easy to recycle, **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** The Dunn-Seiler Museum and Gaining Ground Sustainability Institute are sponsoring a contest for the **BEST USE of bottle caps**. Let’s avoid littering and landfills, and find a creative, recycled solution for used bottle caps!

Winners will be announced in two categories: elementary (K-6) and middle/high school (7-12). **Submit entries by 5pm, April 4, 2012 to the Department of Geosciences, 108 Hilbun Hall, Mississippi State University.** Winners in each category will receive a plaque, and a rock and mineral kit. The top three winners in each category will be displayed at the Dunn-Seiler Earth Day booth at MSU’s Earth Day celebration!

Dunn-Seiler Museum

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