

Directorate of Public Works- Environmental Division

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Contact: Christine.a.luciano.civ@mail.mil



Commissaries start in-store plastic bag recycling program

By Christine Luciano

After shopping at the commissary, Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Johnson, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, can bring his plastic bags on his next trip to the commissary.



Customers can now recycle plastic bags by simply tossing them into the plastic bag recycling bins at the Clear Creek and Warrior Way commissaries.

“There is a large number of Soldiers and Families here at Fort Hood and we all need to work together to help out the environment,” said Johnson.

The in-store recycling program makes it easy for customers at the commissaries to recycle any plastic bag, not just commissary bags.

“The Defense Commissary Agency has made a commitment to reduce all types of waste and to recycle 80 percent of all recyclable material generated in stores by the end of fiscal 2014,” said Patrice Funderburk, store director, Fort Hood Clear Creek Commissary.



Commissaries already recycle a lot of material generated by store operations.

“In two weeks, we generated 48 bales of cardboard that were 800 pounds each,” said Joseph Chaney, store administrator, Fort Hood Clear Creek Commissary. “This is an enormous amount of materials that is reused and recycled.”

Customers also have the option of using their own reusable bags.

“We encourage our customers to bring their bags,” said Chaney. “Our customers are more attuned to what is going on in the environment and it shows.”

Each time Amy Kinzel, an Army spouse, goes to the commissary, she brings her reusable bags. Kinzel first started using the bags six years ago when she was in Germany.

“It’s getting people to change their habits and treating the environment with respect,” said Kinzel.

Whether you provide your own bags or the DeCA cloth bags, just present them to the bagger immediately before bagging begins.

The in-store plastic bag recycling program and DeCA’s green bags are a part of the commissaries’ ‘Go Green’ initiative.

“This is a collaborative partnership with our customers and the installation for a greener environment,” said Funderburk. “We are dedicated to providing programs and services that support the installation’s Net Zero Waste goals and keeping recyclables out of the landfill.”

Support the plastic initiative by also recycling all plastics 1 through 7, including plastic shopping bags, plastic coat hangers and No. 6 Styrofoam at the recycle center, collection points at both commissaries and blue plastic recycle containers on the installation. However, plastic bags cannot be placed in the 96-gallon recycle containers in housing.

For more information about environmental programs and services, call 287-6499.