

*Prince George's County*

DEPARTMENT OF THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**



february 2015

*Green* *Scene*  
n e w s l e t t e r



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



1  
from the director

## The DoE Mission

The Department of the Environment works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

[environment.mypgc.us](http://environment.mypgc.us)

## Dear Friend,

Every little bit matters. That is why DoE would like to thank you for doing your part in the simple act of recycling and making Prince George's County #1 in Maryland for waste diversion (page 3). Whether it's cans, bottles, or paper, every ounce matters. Note that everything that is not recycled is thrown in a big pile known as our landfill. That material may be gone, but it is not forgotten... it has to be managed for leachate (decomposing sludge), emissions (methane) and maintained for 20 or more years. We all pay for this long term maintenance... and get little or nothing back.

However, when we recycle we constantly preserve value, and create new value. We sell metals, paper, and plastic that we get from recycling to buyers throughout the country and overseas. We reduce carbon emissions, preserve forests and minerals, and keep a stream of income for our programs. Note however, that not every material is profitable – but even selling it at a small loss is better than throwing it in the landfill, when we recover no costs whatsoever.

Spring is around the corner when we awake from hibernation and get more stuff done around the house and yard. Be sure to put our environment on your list! If you are landscaping, please use native plants as much as possible (page 13), recycle old electronics (page 15), and adopt or foster an animal from our shelter (page 9). Our Rain Check staff is anxious to help you pay for rain barrels and other projects on your property that reduce stormwater runoff. Call 3-1-1 or check out our website for more information.

## Best regards,

*Adam Ortiz*  
Director



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The Green Scene newsletter is a monthly publication of the Department of the Environment. We welcome story suggestions, photos and special event articles.

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# INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS MAKE COUNTY LEADER IN WASTE DIVERSION AND RECYCLING

It's official, Prince George's County is Maryland's greenest County and now ranks No. 1 in the State for keeping trash out of its landfill and second place for recycling! This is an all-time high for the County and State and a significant step towards its ultimate goal of zero waste.

"We have introduced new programs to efficiently capture and realize the value of many things that we throw away" says Department of the Environment Director Adam Ortiz. "However, the credit goes to our businesses and residents who have been recycling and composting like never before. We also thank the County Council and local activists for their advocacy and support."

According to official figures just released by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the County's 2013 overall waste diversion rate rose to 64.53 percent surpassing its 2012 rate of 54.44 percent. The County also saw an increase in its recycling rate moving to 59.53 percent, up from 54.55 percent in 2012 and slightly behind Washington County.

MDE calculates the rate by adding the disposed trash tonnage and the recycling tonnage to provide a total waste number. The recycling tonnage is then divided by the total waste number (tonnage) to obtain the recycling rate. Because of the efforts residents and businesses have made in eliminating waste before it starts, the County received the maximum Source Reduction Credit of 5 percent from MDE. Examples of source reduction practices include leaving grass trimmings on your lawn to add nutrients back into the soil, using reusable shopping bags and water bottles and selecting products that contain the least amount of packaging.

"We will continue to reach out and educate our residents and businesses to make sure they continue to recycle and compost," said DoE's Recycling Section Manager Marilyn Rybak. "Our initiatives are some of the boldest and most innovative best practices that are in place, not only in the State, but nationwide."

Several recycling initiatives that help the County reduce its carbon footprint include its single-stream recycling program that utilizes a 65-gallon wheeled recycling cart, allowing residents and businesses to recycle more items; a food scrap composting pilot program for residential, commercial and educational institutions; the County's inaugural ban on disposable plastic bags in yard waste collection, cutting down on the amount of waste reaching the landfill and "mining" of materials on the landfill.

Other new initiatives that will help boost the rate include a new County law requiring businesses to incorporate waste reduction and recycling programs in their daily practices, a recycling program geared toward multifamily dwellings (apartments and condominiums), a new recycling partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools and Joint Base Andrews, and continued public outreach and educational programs for residents and businesses.

To view a full copy of the MDE Report, click [here](#).

I want to thank all residents, businesses and nonprofits for stepping up to make Prince George's County clean, green and beautiful," says **County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III.** "Everyone has a role in making Prince George's County the best place to live, work and play in the region. Everyday actions like recycling make a difference in putting the County at the top. ”

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY IS #1 IN WASTE DIVERSION**



# SMART ENERGY HONORS

Prince George's County was recently honored by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center for its successful participation in the MEA Maryland Smart Energy Communities program, through which the County received more than \$1 million in grants for environmentally-focused projects that enhance energy efficiency throughout the County.

On behalf of the County, Nicholas A. Majett, Chief Administrative Officer for Prince George's County, Erica Bannerman, Energy Manager for the Prince George's County Office of Central Services, and Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Acting Associate Director for the Prince George's County Department of the Environment accepted the "Smart Energy Community" award that was presented during the Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference in Cambridge, MD.

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment and the Office of Central Services worked together on policy and plan development, and implementation of the projects that increase energy savings and decrease petroleum consumption.

The MEA grants awarded to Prince George's County include \$649,000 that supported the installation of solar panels at the Animal Management Facility in Upper Marlboro, the purchase of six plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, the installation of three dual-head electric vehicle charging stations in Largo and 11 energy-efficient HVAC systems at Rollingcrest Village in Hyattsville. The County is also the recipient of a \$400,000 grant that will assist in conducting energy efficiency upgrades throughout County offices and facilities, achieving climate action planning objectives and clean energy technology goals, and educating residents about energy efficiency.

In addition, Prince George's County, along with other Maryland counties including Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Montgomery and Talbot, were recognized for their participation in the program and work to improve the energy efficiency of their communities.

The Maryland Smart Energy Communities Grant Program is an initiative of the Maryland Energy Administration. The grant program is funded by the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which has committed \$4 million to the development and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy/transportation projects.

For more information about the County's Sustainable Energy Program, contact County Click 3-1-1 or visit [environment.mypgc.us](http://environment.mypgc.us).

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



**Maryland Energy**  
ADMINISTRATION

*Powering Maryland's Future*

**A SMART ENERGY COMMUNITY  
SINCE 2014**

ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES

Michelle W. Russell  
DoE Associate Director

1801 McCormick Drive  
Suite 500  
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# FORTY UNDER 40

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) congratulates Rushane Jones on his selection as a Forty UNDER 40 Prince George's 2015 honoree!

Rushane received the award for his dedication to business as the Budget Manager for DoE and his work in the community as a mentor and rehabilitation coordinator for at-risk youth. Originally from Mount Olive, North Carolina, Rushane has worked in various County government departments and contributed innovative ideas and strategies for accomplishing goals.

The Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund's Forty UNDER 40 awards recognize Prince Georgian's who are positively fostering the growth of the County through their professional and civic activities in the areas of arts and humanities, business, education, health and fitness, science and engineering and public service.

The 4th annual Forty UNDER 40 Prince George's 2015 awards ceremony was held at The Sunset Room at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill.



RUSHANE  
JONES

ANIMAL  
MANAGEMENT

Rodney C. Taylor  
DoE Associate Director

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Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

PAWS  
FOR  
LOVE!



The Department of the Environment's Animal Management Division joined the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus (CAPC) and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for their "Paws for Love" Shelter Animal Day on Capitol Hill. Hosted by the Caucus at the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., this Valentine's Day event featured 50 dogs and cats available for adoption from the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and other D.C. area animal shelter organizations. "Paws for Love" attendees learned about key services provided by local and national animal rescues and shelters, which care for 6-8 million animals per year.

Rodney Taylor, Associate Director of the Animal Management Division, Animal Control Officer Kathy Pacanowski along with senior shelter volunteers Kathy Mock, Pam Marty and Yvonne Curry attended the event to share with members of Congress a few pets from the Facility who are in need of permanent, loving homes.

The Congressional Animal Protection Caucus is a bipartisan organization committed to raising awareness of animal welfare issues in Congress through non-partisan forums and briefings. For more information about "Paws for Love," visit [www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org).

A NEW  
LOOK!

The Department of the Environment's Animal Management Division (AMD) is pleased to present its new logo. The colorful graphic provides instant recognition and promotion of AMD and the services provided at the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro. Created by Kenan Langston, DoE Graphic Artist, the AMD logo represents the wide variety of animals including dogs, cats, equine and even reptiles that are cared for at the Facility while they are waiting to be adopted into their "forever home."

AMD provides a variety of services and programs including spay and neuter surgery, pet licensing, vaccinations and medications, shelter volunteer and pet fostering classes, and special adoption events. For more information about animals available for the adoption and the Animal Management Division, visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com).



Jeffrey M. DeHan  
DoE Associate Director

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# RESTORING COUNTY STREAMS

Streams and waterways serve many purposes, including water supply, wildlife habitat and recreation. A stream is an energetic, ecological system that includes an active channel, the floodplain and any vegetated area along its edges. A natural stream system remains resistant to change of position or condition while conveying a wide range of flows and sediment produced in its watershed. When changes to the channel, floodplain, vegetation, flow, or sediment supply occur due to development within the watershed, the stream could become unstable and start adjusting. This changeover may take a long time and cause huge changes to water quality, habitat and neighboring property.

Stream restoration creates the re-establishment of the general configuration, function and performance of the stream system taking current watershed conditions into account. It is a holistic process with the stream system being greater than the sum of its parts. A proper restoration requires an understanding of all physical and biological components of the stream system and its watershed. Restoration includes a variety of techniques to stabilize channel banks and re-establish habitat and vegetation as well as the associated floodplain.

Stream restoration projects provide abundant benefits to local communities in the form of improved ecosystem services. People benefit from the services that healthy natural habitats provide such as clean water, flood

protection, biodiversity, fisheries production, and educational, aesthetic and recreational opportunities. Together, these services shape a foundation that supports economic prosperity, public health and safety, and a high quality of life for Prince Georgians.

These before and after photos show the recent restoration of a County stream in Mitchellville which involved excavation, grading, bioengineering and stabilization techniques to address erosion and restore the channel to a better condition. By using these methods, stream channels and the vegetated areas along their edges can be restored and reconstructed to improve ecosystems and to stabilize banks against erosion and incision (gouging). The project maximized the pollutant reduction and treatment goals within the Northeast Branch of the Western Branch watershed located in the Patuxent River Basin. Projects such as this allow the County to meet Federal and State requirements to improve water quality and restore impervious areas.

A special thank you is extended to A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Incorporated; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; RK&K; Environmental Quality Resources, LLC; Highway and Safety Services, Incorporated; and, Angler Environmental Services for their design and construction assistance in 22 County stream restoration projects totaling 12,540 linear feet of stream channel.

BEFORE



AFTER

SUSTAINABLE  
INITIATIVES

**Dawn Hawkins-Nixon**  
DoE Acting Associate Director

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15 NATIVE PLANTS  
FOR 2015

During the winter months, plant seeds sleep snug in the soil and gardeners nourish fond hopes for Spring's awakening. As the warmer months of spring and summer approach, consider adding a native plant or two in your garden. Native plants or "natives" naturally occur or exist for many years in an area. They support pollinators, birds and other wildlife, and are great for planting in difficult garden conditions such as heavy clay soils, dry shady areas or steep hillsides. In fact, once established in the right place, most natives will not need to be watered or fertilized. The following list provides an overview of perennial native plants that you can use to create a natural and attractive landscape in your yard or garden. For more information on these and other native plants, visit the Chesapeake Region Native Plant Center ([www.nativeplantcenter.net](http://www.nativeplantcenter.net)) or the Maryland Native Plant Society ([www.mdflora.org](http://www.mdflora.org)).

**ADAM'S NEEDLE**

*Yucca filamentosa*

**Habitat:** Full Sun, Dry to Moist Soil  
Blooms June-September, white, flower stalk can rise 5-10 feet above foliage, evergreen.

**CARDINAL FLOWER**

*Lobelia cardinalis*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Part Shade, Moist to Wet Soil  
Blooms July-October, scarlet. Attracts hummingbirds. Keep leaves clear in winter.

**BLUE FALSE INDIGO**

*Baptisia australis*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Part Shade, Dry to Moist Soil  
Blooms May-June, blue-purple, blue-black seed pods.

**CHRISTMAS FERN**

*Polystichum acrostichoides*

**Habitat:** Part Sun to Full Shade, Moist soil  
Evergreen. Good clumping ground cover, or for rock gardens.

**COLUMBINE**

*Aquilegia canadensis*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Part Shade, Dry to Moist Soil  
Blooms April-July, red and yellow. Attracts hummingbirds. Burgundy leaves in fall.

**GREEN AND GOLD**

*Chrysogonum virginianum var. austral*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Full Shade, Dry to Moist Soil  
Blooms March-June, yellow, good spreading ground cover for shade.

**MOSS PHLOX**

*Phlox subulata*

**Habitat:** Full Sun, Dry to Moist Soil  
Blooms April-June, rose, pink, white. Evergreen, good ground cover, butterflies.

**ROSE MALLOW**

*Hibiscus moscheutos*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Part Shade, Moist to Flooded Soil  
Blooms July-September, cream, rosy pink. Attractive seed capsules, hummingbirds.

**VIRGINIA SPIDERWORT**

*Tradescantia virginiana*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Full Shade, Moist Soil  
Blooms April-July, deep blue-purple. Dies back mid-July-August, new foliage in fall.

**WILD GERANIUM**

*Geranium maculatum*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Part Shade  
Blooms April-July, lavender-blue. Good ground cover. Attracts butterflies, leaves red in fall.

**GOLDEN RAGWORT**

*Packera aurea*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Full Shade, Moist to Wet Soil  
Blooms April-August, yellow, good spreading ground cover in wet soils. Attracts butterflies.

**JOE-PYE WEED**

*Eupatorium dubium*

**Habitat:** Full to Part Sun, Moist to Wet Soil  
Blooms July to October, purple, attracts butterflies and song birds.

**NEW YORK IRONWEED**

*Vernonia novaboracensis*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Part Shade, Moist to Wet Soil  
Blooms August to October, bright purple. In fall, attractive dried flower heads. Tall stems stay upright, spreads. Attracts butterflies.

**SNEEZEWEED**

*Helenium autumnale*

**Habitat:** Full Sun to Full Shade, Moist Soil  
Blooms July-November, yellow. Attracts butterflies, was used for snuff.

**WHITE WOOD ASTER**

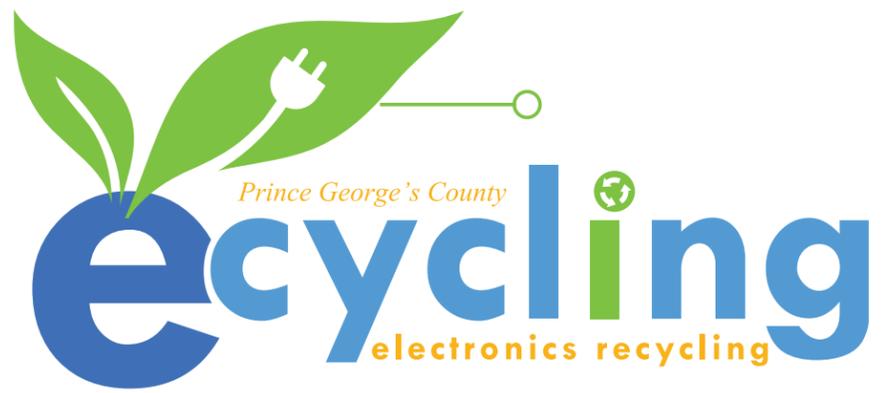
*Eurybia divaricata*

**Habitat:** Partial Sun to Shade, Dry to Moist Soil  
Blooms July-October, white with yellow or red centers, good ground cover. Attracts butterflies.

WASTE  
MANAGEMENT

Roger E. Merritt, Jr.  
DoE Associate Director

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Repurpose and remarket your old electronics by recycling

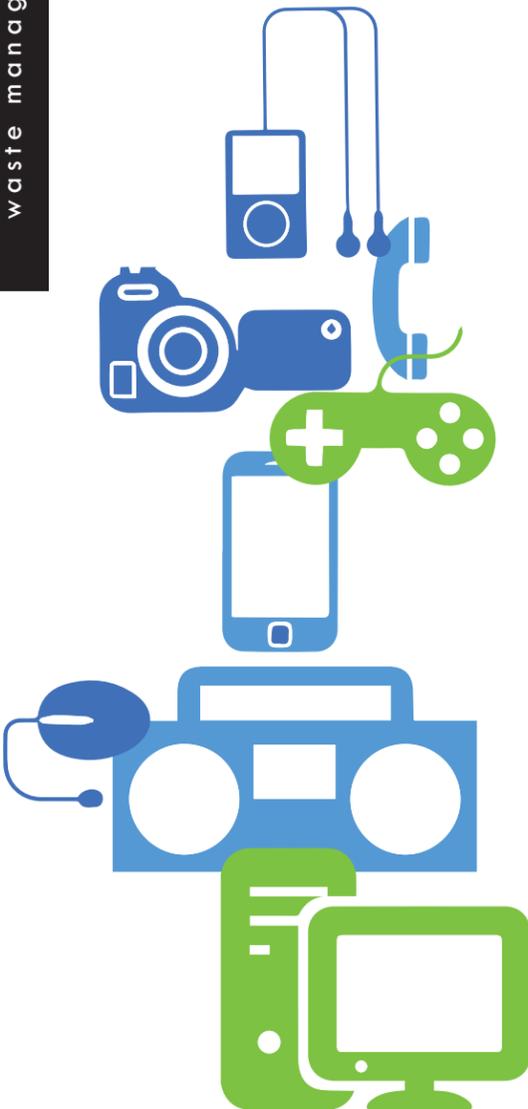
Hundreds of people gathered their old eight track players, turntables, cathode ray tube televisions to recycle at the County's e-Cycling events held on Saturday, February 28 at Bladensburg High School in Bladensburg and Saturday, March 7 at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Beltsville. Both events were free and open to all Prince George's County residents.

If you were unable to attend, electronic items may also be recycled at the County's Electronics Recycling Acceptance Site located at 11611 White House Road in Upper Marlboro. The Site is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Following is a list of items that were accepted during the eCycling events and can be brought to the Electronics Recycling Acceptance Site during operating hours. For more information, contact CountyClick 3-1-1.

**Electronic items accepted:**

- Monitors/television (maximum of five (5) per resident)
- CPUs
- Circuit boards
- Mice
- Keyboards
- Computer speakers
- Laptop computers
- Printers
- Fax machines
- Telephone system
- Copiers
- Scanners
- Main frames
- Pagers
- Cell phones
- Any individual PC CPU component parts
- Ink jet and toner cartridges (from printers and fax machines)
- CD players
- Radios/stereos
- VCRs
- Wire
- Cable
- Surge protectors



# THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST HONORS LARRY S. COFFMAN

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) congratulates Larry S. Coffman, former DoE Deputy Director, for receiving The Chesapeake Bay Trust's 2015 Ellen Fraites Wagner Award. The Trust recognized Larry for his outstanding 40 year career dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Launched in 1998, the Trust's Annual Awards Program recognizes seven awardees each year for a variety of environmental leadership roles and achievements. The Ellen Fraites Wagner Award, was established in 1998 to honor Ellen Fraites Wagner who was an aide to former Governor Hughes and a tireless advocate for the Chesapeake Bay and the environment.

Larry, who retired in 2014 after 40 years of service, oversaw the development of DoE's innovative urban stormwater management programs and is a nationally recognized expert on stormwater and bay-friendly urban development. His work in comprehensive watershed planning and restoration, flood control regulation and remediation, water and sewer programs, education, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance has been recognized by numerous Federal agencies, organizations and universities.

Larry's most notable accomplishment is the development of the Clean Water Partnerships (CWP) initiative. A first-of-its-kind program, it maximizes the strengths of the public and private sectors to treat polluted runoff from existing impervious surfaces. The program links County businesses with training and education programs at Prince George's Community College, local organizations and existing government programs to build a stormwater management workforce and mentor-protégé networks within the County.

For more information about The Chesapeake Bay Trust and their Annual Awards Program, visit [www.cbtrust.org](http://www.cbtrust.org).



# GREEN BULLETIN



To raise awareness of the perils of global climate change, activist organization The Hip Hop Caucus has released HOME. The title which stands for Healing Our Mother Earth includes a mixture of 11 original and cover songs. The compilation features artists such as Common, Ne-Yo, Karmin and poet Malik Yusef.

**WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2015**  
9am – 11am **SPRING**  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS' MEETING

**WHERE:**  
Department of Public Works and Transportation's (DPW&T) Maintenance Operations Center (MOC)  
8400 D'Arcy Road, Forestville

Join us at the next community partners' meeting where we will highlight **County Earth Month activities, litter control and animal adoption.**

**RSVP:**  
Barbara Cissel  
(301) 883-5970  
[bccissel@co.pg.md.us](mailto:bccissel@co.pg.md.us)  
No later than WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY | DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT | ANIMAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

**“The Great CATbury Egg Hunt”**  
monday **MARCH 30** through saturday **APRIL 11**



**H**ave you ever noticed how much work you get accomplished in the days leading up to a vacation? Apply that same mindset to your daily work routine by using these five tips to increase productivity.

### **FOCUS ON PRIORITIES**

Just before vacation, we seem to develop amazing clarity about what is important and needs to be done and what is not. We're able to pare our to-do lists down to the absolute essentials. View your daily to-do list through vacation-colored glasses and increase your productivity at work. Ask yourself, "If I were leaving for vacation tomorrow, what are the three most important things I should accomplish today?" Then do those three things before you do anything else. Apply this technique consistently and you'll be amazed at how productive you'll become.

### **LIMIT INTERRUPTIONS**

When we're about to be out of the office for an extended period of time, we tend to have a low tolerance for people who drop by our offices simply to chat or for phone calls that lack a purpose. We might even say, "I'd love to chat, but, I'm trying to get a few priorities completed before being on vacation next week." Limit those same interruptions during normal work weeks and watch your productivity soar. Get in the habit of telling co-workers, "I'd love to chat, but I'm under some deadline pressures and really need to stay focused."

### **LIMIT MEETINGS**

Perhaps you've heard people say, "I could get more done if I didn't have so many meetings." You might have said that yourself recently. The reality is that many meetings are necessary but sometimes last far too long or occur too frequently. If a meeting can be canceled without any negative consequences, perhaps it shouldn't have been scheduled in the first place? Ask yourself: "What's the worst thing that could happen if the meeting is canceled or rescheduled?" Schedule a conference call instead, even if everyone is physically in the office that day. Conference calls tend to be shorter, more to the point and more efficient than meetings.

### **ASK FOR HELP**

For some reason, asking for help is difficult for many of us. As you start each task, ask yourself, "Is there anyone else who could partner with me to get the task accomplished?" If the answer is yes, discuss your idea about having other co-workers work on the task.

### **CHANGE EMAIL SETTINGS AND YOUR VOICE MAIL MESSAGE**

Many of us change our voice mail message and create an email responder to notify others that we are out of the office and unable to access emails and voice mails. The messages typically indicate how long we'll be out of the office and when the person should anticipate getting a response from us.

Consider doing something similar when you have a lot you're trying to get accomplished. Change your messages to say, "Please note that I will have limited access to email and voice mail today. I will respond to your message no later than the end of the day tomorrow." Since no one will be expecting to hear from you today, you can use the day to focus on a special project or other important tasks. Apply one or more of these five suggestions and get more done.

