

## Going Green in Londonderry

### **Green Beer on St. Patrick's Day and Beyond**

The month of leprechauns, shamrocks and green beer is upon us. How fitting that this holiday celebration coincides with the return of spring! Here are a few suggestions on how to lessen your impact on the environment while making "green beer."

**Support Local Breweries** – Not only are you supporting a local business, you are cutting down on the transportation impact of a bottle of brew from a distant land. Many breweries offer "take home" glass jugs called "growlers" filled with your favorite brew and, when the empty container is returned, give a discount on your next purchase.

**Choose Draft Beer** – When dining out or visiting your favorite watering hole, order up a beer on tap. Hundreds of bottles are eliminated from the waste stream when brews are served from a keg in a reusable glass.

**Switch from Glass to Aluminum** – Beer in a can is better for the environment than bottled beer. Aluminum is more easily recycled than glass. Aluminum cans are unique in that a can be recycled, turned into a new can, filled and back on store shelves in 60 days. Freight impacts are reduced because aluminum is lighter than glass.

Despite the negative stereotype that sometimes comes with can beer, many craft brewers are turning to aluminum to contain their brew. Craft beers generally are made in small batches by small breweries and are typically more complex in taste than mainstream beers. Some brewers feel that cans improve quality because the beer isn't tainted by light and is exposed to less oxygen than bottled varieties. Look for more offerings to appear in cans as this trend grows.

*~ Courtesy of the Solid Waste and Environment Committee and NH DES ~*