

The average U.S. Peace Corps volunteer spends about 800 days serving in a foreign country.

News and perspectives of Rîșcani and the Republic of Moldova • Mark Gilchrist, U.S. Peace Corps volunteer

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Moldovans are some of the cleanest people on Earth!

Enjoying a simpler lifestyle with traditional values and methods, Moldovans consume far fewer natural resources and create only about one-twelfth the pollution that Americans do.

A single load of laundry dried in an electric clothes dryer causes **1.7 kg of carbon** to be released in the atmosphere. At one load per week per person, every 1 million Moldovans who air-dry their clothes avoid polluting our atmosphere with 88 million kg of carbon each year.

Another obvious aspect of a cleaner life is grass. Americans are crazy about mowing lawns, and rare is the sight of a yard without trimmed grass. But Moldovans and most Europeans don't have "lawns;" they call them "gardens" and for a good reason.

Yards around homes here are filled with growing vegetables, flowers or xeriscaping, and I have seen very little manicured grass in Moldova.

For every 1 million gardens, Moldovans avoid polluting our atmosphere with **40 million kg of carbon and 15-million kg of**

other pollutants every year.

Then, look at the cars! For every 10 people, only about **1.5 Moldovans** own a car, compared to about **8 Americans**. Americans also drive **15,000 miles a year**, certainly far more than the average Moldovan.

For these reasons and much more, Americans pollute far more than Moldovans, releasing an average of **16.4 metric tons of carbon dioxide** into the air, compared to only 1.4 metric tons per Moldovan.

This is all the cost of technological progress, and the U.S. is far ahead of many countries in both good and bad ways. But, Moldova is catching up, and it is hoped that Moldovans will study what is done wrong and right in other countries, learn from other's mistakes and keep their home beautiful.



Moldovans who clean rugs by hand save electricity used by millions of vacuum cleaners.



This is the only gas lawnmower I have seen in Moldova.

"We did not inherit this earth from our parents, we are borrowing it from our children."
Anonymous



I have posted photos of the villages of Pascauti and Proscureni.

I need to buy a bicycle to complete this project, so please contact me if you know of one for sale!

Photos: [Click](#)



Tree blossoms in Rîșcani in the spring. The reward for enduring another long, Moldovan winter is to be greeted by the beautiful flowers and emerging life all around us.

Students in Rîșcani urge residents to help recycle

The City of Rîșcani is cleaner, and a healthier place to live as hundreds of students recycle plastic and paper at six schools, redirecting tons of trash away from landfills to create new products.

The amount of energy needed to recycle items is far less than that to make them from raw materials. Also, as the program grows and more people see the value of recycling, residents should see far less litter in their city.

Participating schools are the Constantin Popovici, Damian, and Cantemir grade schools, Gheorghe Rîșcanu Middle School, and the professional and agro-industrial vocational schools.

Launched in November by the youth-led ecological organization **Țara Verde**, nearly 10 tons of paper and half ton of plastic have been collected.

Plastic bottles are stored in metal cages outside each school. Bins for collecting paper, and materials for the cages were provided by a Let Girls Learn grant through the U.S. Peace Corps. Students in the Professional School of Rîșcani welding classes built the cages.



Volunteers load nearly a ton of paper onto a van for recycling at Gheorge Rîșcanu Middle School.

Rîșcani residents are encouraged to support the community by recycling plastic and paper at their nearest school.

Recycling companies will pay schools for the items, but the real reward for the students comes from knowing that they are helping their communities.

Transportation is the greatest challenge, and if organizers can make the process more efficient, they may consider expanding the program to villages throughout the district. Efforts are underway to help schools around Moldova launch similar programs.

12 months!

This is the 12th edition of "800 Days in Moldova," marking a full year of publication. With only four editions left, I hope you will share this newsletter with your friends before it is too late! [Read back issues here.](#)

100 People



I asked 100 Moldovans how much trash they throw away each week. About one-fifth throw away less than 1 kg, while more than half discard 1-5 kg. 17 people said they toss 5-10 kg, and only 5 have more than 10 kg of garbage. Americans throw away **10 kg each week**, about half of which is recycled.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A joke for the garden

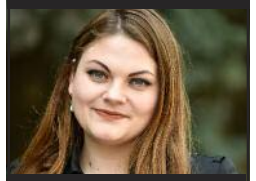
Question: What gets bigger as you take away from it?

Answer: A hole.

Several new wind turbines in the Edineți District generate millions of watts of electricity for industry, helping to reduce Moldova's dependence on foreign suppliers, with very little pollution.



MOLDOVAN OF THE MONTH



LOREANA SACARA

L.T. "Damian" senior Loreana Sacara is an enthusiastic leader, and a "go-to" person at critical times when projects and organizations need help.

"I want to change the world in a good way," Sacara said, "and involve youths to do something good for Rîșcani and for Moldova."

April

	1st	31st
Day length	12:50 hrs.	14:23 hrs
Sunrise	6:43 am	5:50 am
Sunset	19:33 pm	20:13 pm
Full Moon		11th
Avg. Temp.		50°F
Rainfall		3.1 inches

Holidays

- 14 - Good Friday
- 15 - Holy Saturday
- 16 - Easter Sunday
- 17 - Easter Monday
- 24 - Memorial Day / Parents Day
- 27 - Flag Day



President Igor Dodon, right, with Rîșcani Council President Iurie Urzică, visited Rîșcani April 7, speaking to the council and then to about 1,000 people at the city's PAC. The last president to visit the district was Mihai Ghimpu in 2010. [Click for photos.](#)

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