



December 2012



Greetings!

Happy holidays! I hope this holiday season finds you looking forward to some wonderful times with friends and family. And, I also hope that you are being purposeful and creative about eliminating waste from your holiday celebrations.

Enclosed you will find some ideas, instructions you can share, and news to keep you up to date on issues in materials management.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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The beautiful simplicity of a RePurposed Christmas

In an effort to help inspire our community about the creativity in repurposing, TriCounty HWR sponsored a Christmas tree with a "Repurposing" theme at the 2012

In This Issue


[Shopping with creativity and sustainability in mind](#)

[January Extension Training opportunity](#)

[DEQ adopts new materials management plan](#)

[Tip of the month](#)

[I can recycle that?](#)

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[TriCounty EcoConsumer Blog](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

Tip of the Month

Share your tips and tricks with us! Email them to us. Post them on our Facebook page. Tweet us. Or pick up the phone and call us.

Want to really decrease the pile of garbage from the holidays? Avoid wrapping paper! Many wrapping papers are not recyclable,

Festival of the Trees. Every element of the tree, except some ribbon and one strand of lights, was repurposed and/or purchased second hand. The tree itself was purchased at St. Vincent DePaul (at half the price of a brand new one, I checked!). Gifts under the tree included a fruit box converted to a tea tray, elegant glasses filled with beads (from broken necklaces), two Christmas pillows made from a partial set of old placemats, and stockings made from old sweaters.

Thank you to Karen Murray and Carissa Alexander for all of their help with decorations and decorating!

The tree was purchased for \$200 by Bob Stone Automotive. All funds raised from the event go to support health services in our community, through MidColumbia Health Foundation.



This tree topper was made from a beat-up plastic star found at a second hand store. We covered it with old sheet music and adorned it with a sheer bow. Simply beauty created from someone's "trash."

because they have already been made from recycled paper. By this point, the fibers are so short and rough, they are too poor quality for recycling again.

Make your own fabric gift bags, wrap with brown shipping paper, or use comics, newspaper, or large fabric squares, napkins, or dishcloths.

For creative waste-free gift wrapping ideas, check out these links:

[Handmade Paper Bow Tutorial](#)

[Fabric Gift Bags](#)

[Furoshiki - the art of wrapping with fabric](#)



I can recycle that?

There are so many items we don't think of as recyclable, so we just throw them away. Check out our Facebook page



Master Recycler Karen Murray helped decorate TriCounty HWR's "RePurposed" Christmas Tree for the Festival of the Trees at the Civic Auditorium in The Dalles.



Last minute holiday gift giving and celebration tips:

Shopping with creativity and sustainability in mind?

Each of these businesses had a booth at the Rural Craft Revival at Springhouse Cellar early this month. Some simply beautiful gifts.

R.U.S.T. (Reclaimed Unique Salvaged Trinkets) by Tracy Klas.
tracyklas@msn.com

and this sidebar for information on "odd" recyclables.



Old cell phones?

Yes! Opportunity Connections will take your old cell phone. Call for the location nearest you.
541.386.3520



BeadforLife - BeadforLife is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization and member of the Fair Trade Federation that works to eradicate extreme poverty by creating bridges of understanding between impoverished Africans and concerned world citizens. Ugandan women turn colorful recycled paper into beautiful beads and communities in northern Uganda gather shea nuts and press them into shea butter for cosmetics and soaps.



Musana necklace
BeadforLife

<http://beadforlifestore.org/>

BFF Therapy Pillows by Kristie Carter. Hand-made flax-seed therapy pillows for relaxation and injury treatment. Find Kristie's creations on Etsy at Bff therapy pillows.

Skonez Designs: Vintage and Re-Purposed Accessories by July Maus of Hood River. Find her on Etsy.

Other ideas:

The Dwelling Station, located in Mosier, OR: Gently Loved and Gently Priced home furnishing resale. www.thedwellingstation.com

Savvy Seconds: "Like New" women's clothing and consignment boutique, 113 E. 2nd Street, The Dalles.

And make sure to check out the second hand stores in your neighborhood. You'll find a great selection of gently used books, home decor, and more!

Recycled Products Holiday Buyers' Guide from Resource Recycling

Of course, buying local is always best, both to support local small businesses, and also to reduce shipping impacts. However, if you are looking for some creative gifts made from recycled products, check out this resource from "Resource Recycling."

[Recycled Product Gift Buyers Guide](#)

Free Classes: Dealing with Higher Grocery Prices

Have you noticed that you're spending more at the grocery store? Have you noticed that "sale prices" are what used to be "regular prices"? Is your grocery budget starting to concern you?

In January, get help and ideas for dealing with higher grocery prices. OSU Sherman County Extension will be offering several free classes throughout the county. Two are already scheduled:
Tuesday, January 15 at 6:00pm at the Rufus Community Center and
Wednesday, January 16 at 9:00am at the Gift Horse in Wasco.

Stay tuned for details.

~ Cindy Brown

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State Environmental Panel Adopts Long-Term Vision and Plan for Materials Management in Oregon

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission voted unanimously Dec. 6 to adopt a plan that will help guide the state's management of materials and waste for decades to come. The document, Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action, updates Oregon's solid waste management plan, taking a more holistic, sustainable approach to managing materials that humans consume, recycle and discard.

The full Vision and Framework report is available on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality website at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/materialsmgmtplan.htm>

"Shifting from managing wastes to managing materials through the full life cycle of design, production and use is essential to achieving the 2050 Vision," said Abby Boudouris, the DEQ policy analyst who coordinated the agency's effort to produce the document along with a work group represented by businesses, local governments, solid waste management specialists, non-governmental organizations and others.

The "vision" part of the document describes "a future where Oregonians produce and use materials responsibly - conserving resources, protecting the environment and living well," Boudouris added.

The "framework" section includes a variety of actions Oregon could take to engage designers, producers and consumers and will help DEQ effectively shape state policies and programs to address the plan's goals.

DEQ will work with interested parties across the full life cycle of materials - including but beyond traditional solid waste circles - to implement actions toward achieving the plan's vision. "Developing the partnerships and competencies necessary for success will take time and will require engaging persons not traditionally involved in DEQ's work," Boudouris said.

Thank you for all you do to help educate your family, friends, co-workers, and community about sustainable and healthy living.

Sincerely,

Heather Alexander
Solid Waste Specialist
TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program



TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling is part of North Central Public Health District.



Try it FREE today.