



Reduce Waste + Recycle More

Fall 2012

www.tricountyrecycle.com

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Program meets challenges with changes

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program provides hazardous waste collection plus recycling education and outreach within Wasco, Sherman and Hood River Counties. We now regularly collect 200,000 pounds of hazardous waste each year, of which 75% gets recycled. Our program has remained affordable thanks to impressive collaboration and cost-sharing by these three counties (and six cities within).

Yet typical of many local government programs these days, we are experiencing funding setbacks. Let's explain our situation. Our money comes exclusively from fees on local garbage. Local garbage (thus our revenue) is declining for essentially two reasons: recession and an increase in recycling and composting. Yet the volume (thus cost) of hazardous waste

we collect has increased.

So we have cut our direct costs as much as possible. We retracted our hazardous waste collection events from monthly to quarterly.

We have suspended our grant programs. Organizations within our community have seen amazing growth and job creation thanks to the support provided by Tri-County's grants program, including research and funding to help start the first commercial composting operation, as well as the first confidential paper shredding business located in the Gorge. Those two projects both provide environmental betterment through local job creations. Our numerous grants to Home-At-Last animal shelter in The Dalles best represent favorable investment of public funds. For each \$5,000 grant we

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Tri-County Program Reduces Frequency of Hazardous Waste Collections

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling joined many homes and organizations this year in slimming down our budget and tightening our program belt. This year we trimmed our program budget by more than \$75,000. As part of those cost saving measures, we rolled back the Hazardous Waste Collection schedule from monthly events in Hood River and The Dalles to quarterly events, one Agricultural Hazardous Waste Collection event in Hood River, The Dalles, and Moro, and one event in each of our lying communities.

The schedule change became effective September 1, 2012. Collections in Hood River and The Dalles have been cancelled for September, October, and December. ** Please see the Hazardous Waste Collection calendar on page 3 for new dates.



Despite the ice storm in February, the Tri-County Program and its partner, PSC, still attempted to hold its Hood River and The Dalles events. Freezing rain and hazardous road conditions eventually forced an early closure in both locations, and resulted in the development of a Hazardous Weather Plan for future events.



Load of old chemicals: A wide variety of chemicals arrive at hazardous waste collection events, some just a couple months old, and some decades old like some of these containers pictured. One of our most interesting loads this year included 2 crystal whiskey decanters full of liquid mercury. Please remember to be careful when transporting your hazardous materials, to protect yourself, the collection workers, and your vehicle. Put leaking containers inside of another container, and keep it separate from all other containers.



Where can I recycle?

Combined (mixed) recyclables can be taken to:

- **The Dalles Disposal Service**
1317 W 1st St, The Dalles
541-298-5149 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
- **Hood River Garbage Service**
3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River
541-386-2272 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
- **Mel's Sanitary Service Inc.**
Transfer Station
57590 Yew Drive, Tygh Valley
541-483-2500 • Mon-Fri 8am-2pm

"24-7" Self-Service Recycling Depots

**Maupin
Mt. Hood**

Sherman County recycling depots: **Grass Valley** (Mon & Tues 1-3 pm)

Moro (2nd Fri & Sat 9 am-4:30 pm)

Wasco (3rd Fri & Sat 9am-4:30pm)

Rufus (4th Fri & Sat 9am-4:30 pm)

Separated (sorted by type) recyclables can be taken to:

A&P Recycling

280 Webber Street, The Dalles
541-993-1813

Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 8-2.

Closed Sunday & holidays

Dufur Lions Recycling Depot

Dufur City Park
Saturday mornings

Newspapers can be taken to:

Lions Club trailers at Safeway and Rosauers parking lots
Hood River

Mid-Columbia Special Olympics bins by Hollywood Video, SaveAlot and The Dalles Middle School
The Dalles

St. Peter's Pack 398 bin at St. Mary's Academy, The Dalles

Bottles and cans with a deposit:

Hood River LEO Club Recycling Program
First Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm
Rosauers parking lot, Hood River

Home At Last Humane Society
200 River Road, The Dalles
(watch for their "Cans for Canines" trailers at area parks and events)

Recycling 101

Learn about recycling, composting and waste reduction in Oregon with Recycling 101(R101) which is a non-credit course offered online by OSU. Eight modules allow easy self-paced learning that will give our citizens the tools they need to improve their use of our precious natural resources whether at work, school or home. The course will be modeled after the highly successful Master Recycler training that itself is available in eight Oregon communities. To date, roughly 2,500 Oregonians have completed a Master Recycler course. They have contributed approximately 42,000 hours educating and motivating others to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost. And they have made significant changes in the way they, and often their employers, use natural resources.

R101 has the support of the major players in



Leadership students at Westside Elementary in Hood River sort through piles of garbage at a Waste Audit assisted by Tri-County Program staff, Master Recycler Lisa Knapp, and Parent volunteer Theo Parsons in May. The goal of the audit was to sort through one day's garbage from the school, and determine how the students and staff are doing managing their waste. Classrooms came through the Audit and learned about the recyclables they were throwing away, and asked questions about how they could make less waste in their school.

Oregon's solid waste arena. The lead organization in developing the project was the Marion County Environmental Services Office, with Pat Bozanich of Waste Prevention Resources (in Mosier) as the project coordinator. Financial support to start this important program came from The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Marion County, Lane County, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, Solid Waste Association of North America – Beaver Chapter (SWANA), Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR), and our own Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program.

Members of the R101 Steering Committee met with Chris LaBelle, Director Professional & Noncredit Education at OSU, and his staff on July 3. They selected a template that allows online users to take the course on various platforms. This template will sense the platform being used (smart phone, iPad, laptop, or desktop computer) and adapt its on-screen presentation to fit that platform.

OSU and the R101 Steering Committee are working to have the course up and ready by the end of September 2012.

For more information on registration, visit OSU's Professional and Noncredit Education's website or email learn@oregonstate.edu.

Have extra supplies from company inventory, but don't want to throw them away? List them on joeboard, the only business materials exchange in the Gorge.



joeboard.com

DANGER!

DO NOT MIX PRODUCTS.



Do not store together or mix products containing bleach and ammonia.

- Ammonia may be found in some glass and window cleaners, urine, and some interior and exterior paints.
- Bleach is found in bathroom cleaners, floor cleaners, and sink whitening soaps.

Mixed together, bleach and ammonia create toxic gases which can cause:

- coughing,
- shortness of breath,
- chest pain,
- wheezing,
- nausea,
- watery eyes,
- irritation to the throat, nose & eyes,
- pneumonia and fluid in the lungs.



If you experience any symptoms, remove yourself from the area. Call 911 if medical assistance is necessary.

The Future of Garbage

by David Skakel, Program Coordinator

Historically, efforts to reduce negative effects relating to our consumption have focused primarily downstream (recycling). That's changing towards a more holistic life cycle approach coined 'materials management'. As important as recycling is, research tells us that the lion's share of harmful impacts to resources and the environment occurs upstream during extraction and production when making our 'stuff', versus end-of-life impacts. By example if the United States recycled and composted 100% of our generated waste, our greenhouse gas emissions would decrease by just 6%. Don't get me wrong. Recycling is quite important, especially as we move to a future where we can't afford to waste (ex., rare earth metals). Yet by building upon the familiar concept of 'reduce, reuse, recycle', the emerging 'Materials Management' approach systemically seeks to reduce materials use and their related environmental impacts over their entire life cycle of products and packaging, starting with extraction of natural resources and product design and ending with decisions about recycling or disposal. This approach changes how we think about resource protection and recognizes the full impacts of what we consume.

How will change beckon, if the bulk of solutions are upstream and out of reach of our consumer influence? I suggest that the three main upstream drivers for change are: life cycle comparison, policy and innovation.

Life cycle analysis is a technique that assesses environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life from-cradle-to-grave (i.e., from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair, maintenance, and disposal or recycling). Eventually, this analysis may result in labeling on products that goes beyond size, ingredients, and nutritional content to inform consumers about levels of resources, energy and toxicity used in making that product. Currently though, life cycle comparison is most effectively providing brand owners with information that they use to reduce environmental impacts. Recently, large retailers have started using a form of life cycle analysis (environmental scorecards) to compare specific products of competing suppliers. The State of Oregon has also commissioned several life cycle analyses, looking at comparative impacts of e-commerce packaging, drinking water, residential housing, and a "carbon footprint" of all Oregon consumption.

On the policy side, get acquainted with the terms 'product stewardship' and 'extended producer responsibility'. Product stewardship refers to a broad umbrella of actions where producers minimize harmful impacts across the entire life of their product. Extended producer responsibility is a

specific application of product stewardship, where state or federal laws shift responsibility and/or cost of end-of-life management of goods and hazardous materials away from local governments towards the designers and manufacturers. Here in Oregon, we already enjoy the benefits of extended producer responsibility for deposit containers, paint, and electronics. Yet if we look to trends in other states, Canada and the European Union (E.U.), our future is likely to include end-of-life management plans that aspire to re-loop most all of the remaining 'waste'. By example, Canada is

a unique order to promote 'green chemistry', which strategizes to avoid toxic and poisonous substances from ever getting into our communities, by incentivizing manufacturers to make less harmful chemicals in the first place. Secondly, a company here in Oregon (Agilyx) has developed a process to distill any petroleum-based plastic (#1-7) back into crude petroleum. Agilyx then ships that waste-derived crude to a domestic refinery in Tacoma. They are currently breaking ground on a facility in Portland that will process 40 tons per day of difficult-to-recycle waste plastics (caps, lids,



Hood River Lions Bob Danko and Tom Schaefer and Hood River High School Students (AKA Leos -- part of the Hood River Lions Club) collect redeemable cans and bottles every month at Rosauers in Hood River to support their service in the community. If you've got cans, soda bottles, or glass bottles that are redeemable for a nickel, but you don't want to stand in line at the redemption machine, give them to your community. Don't throw your cans and bottles in the recycling or garbage. Then that money just goes out of our community. Instead, donate your cans and bottles to a local non-profit group and keep that money benefiting our community.

currently implementing an industry-led nationwide extended producer responsibility plan for packaging and printed materials, electronics and electrical products, mercury-containing products (including lighting), household hazardous and special wastes, and automotive products. And by 2017, that plan will include construction and demolition materials, furniture, textiles and carpet, and appliances.

What's left? Looking upstream, other product stewardship initiatives could lead to healthier design and production. And looking at all wastes, the next term to get familiar with is "zero waste". Sounds laughable, except it's already happening elsewhere. An average of 32 countries of the E.U. shows Europe disposes 38 % of its waste in landfills, recycles 24 %, incinerates 20 %, and composts 18 %. A closer look reveals that the poorer countries generate much less waste per person, but tend to recycle less too (Bulgaria landfills 100%). Inversely, six of the richer countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden Austria, and Switzerland) generate more per capita waste, yet they all send less than 1% to landfills. Oregon is right in the middle of that range of possibilities.

On the technology side, here are two local examples: Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber just signed

films, trays and tubs, toys and basically all things plastic...).

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is developing a road map for the future of our 'stuff'. I highly recommend you read the background papers for their 2050 Vision for Materials Management in Oregon, which offers definitions, reports and literature reviews spanning from upstream production to end of life recovery, as well as summarized and detailed versions of what Sustainable Materials Management is and how to get from here to there. This DEQ plan guides the future of policy and programs here in Oregon for materials management (including waste). Check the project web page at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/materialsmgmt-plan.htm>, or click on the green envelope in the upper left corner to sign up for periodic e-mail updates about the Vision project.

Meanwhile, I recommend yet another new term 'conscious consumption' (or 'thoughtful consumption') which describes ethical decision making by shoppers. Conscious consumption challenges us to delve deeper into the meaning of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' by further asking "Where does it come from? How is it used? Where will it end up?

Program Changes

(continued from page 1)

awarded, Home-At-Last increased their own revenue by \$10,000 annually by increasing their ability to collect the nickels from bottles and cans that may have otherwise left our community.

Amidst fifty recently trained Master Recyclers, we reluctantly curtailed our Master Recycler classes, and let our tenacious Master Recycler coordinator Karen Murray go. With that said, our remaining staff is committed to supporting the passionate cadre of Gorge Master Recyclers. And for those who would have wanted to take our Master Recycler class anytime soon, keep your eyes out for Recycling 101. This unique Oregon-specific online class which is due to launch in October, arose out of collaboration between the Association of Oregon Recyclers and Oregon State University with funding support from seven partners (including our own Tri-County).

Tough times call for innovation. In addition to raw spending cuts, we are looking at ways to avoid the cost of services we provide (rather than dropping those services). For example, we are currently discussing with the State of Oregon and others how we may get other agencies or manufacturers themselves to more fully cover the disposal cost of the paint, and

mercury-containing lighting, and agricultural chemicals we collect.

By all indications so far, the community sees value in the hazardous waste collections, and educational outreach we provide to help folks understand and prepare for the dynamic transition from recycling to materials management. In order to continue what we do, our Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program will need to decouple from our complete reliance on local garbage as a funding source because local garbage will continue to decline (which is a good thing, of course). With the prospect of food waste collection service perhaps in our future, other communities foretell of over 40% reduction in garbage volume after instituting curbside yard waste/food waste collection programs.

In summary, we are simply making due with less. One great way to continue the conversation affordably though is online. Our solid waste specialist Heather Alexander set up a Facebook site for our program. We highly recommend that you go to our completely re-vamped website (thanks to Heather!) and sign up for our regular E-newsletter.

What Do I Do With?



Infant and child car seats and booster seats:

Remove the fabric and metal pieces. Take them to A & P Recycling in The Dalles, 280 Webber Street.

Plastic grocery sacks, bread sacks, plastic shrink wrap:

Take to your local grocery store, or bundle and take to A & P Recycling.



Clear, thin hard plastic "clamshell" containers:

Sorry, not recyclable in your blue curbside bin. Although A & P might take them from time to time if he has a buyer. Try not to buy products packaged in this material, as it really is just a waste product. If you do buy something in this packaging, keep a box in your garage and put these "clamshell" plastics in it. Next time you go to Portland, drop it off at Far West Fibers (www.farwestfibers.com).

To go coffee cups (plastic or paper)

Sorry, but they are not recyclable in your blue curbside bin. They have to be thrown away. Instead, bring a reusable aluminum or plastic travel cup when you go to grab coffee or a soda. The eatery might just give you money off your order for bringing in your own CLEAN cup!

Like us,
Tweet us,
and
check us out
online!

The Tri-County Program is fully online, digital, and connected.

Get current tips, updates and event information. Join the conversation and Like Us on Facebook.

Check out our new, totally revamped website, with new information and easy links to help you manage your business and household materials.

Interested in receiving information and updates via email? Sign up for email newsletters and information.

Check out our Tri-County EcoSmart blog for helpful information and tips for your home, school, business, recreation, and social life!



www.tricountyrecycle.com

Local business. Local jobs. Good for the environment



Dirt Hugger

DirtHugger compost is certified organic, created from yard debris, food waste, and organic waste from the Gorge.

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541-490-7078

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**NEW UPDATED
2012-2013
Schedule**

FREE!

Hazardous Waste Collection Events

GET RID OF UNWANTED DANGEROUS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Oil & latex paints • Yard & garden products • Household cleaners & chemicals • Automotive fluids
- Old gas & kerosene • Pool & spa chemicals • Hobby solvents & glues • Propane bottles & tanks
- Lithium, ni-cad, alkaline and rechargeable batteries • Old ballasts, fluorescent tubes & CFL bulbs
- Thermostats & thermometers • Fire extinguishers

A lot of materials in our homes and businesses are hazardous. Don't throw them in the garbage. Bring them to one of our FREE events.

**NO EVENTS in
September or
October
in Hood River
or The Dalles**

Hood River Garbage Service 3440 Guignard Dr.

November 16, 2012	Friday	9am-2pm
February 15, 2013	Friday	9am-2pm
May 17, 2013	Friday	9am-2pm
August 16, 2013	Friday	9am-2pm
November 15, 2013	Friday	10am-2pm

The Dalles Disposal 1317 W First St.

November 17, 2012	Saturday	9am-2pm
February 16, 2013	Saturday	9am-2pm
May 18, 2013	Saturday	9am-2pm
August 17, 2013	Saturday	9am-2pm
November 16, 2013	Saturday	10am-2pm

Questions?
Call the
**Tri-County
program at
541-506-2636
or visit our
web site**

AG PRODUCERS & small businesses ONLY* 10am-2pm must pre-register

November 7, 2012	Wednesday	Hood River Garbage Service
November 8, 2012	Thursday	The Dalles Disposal Service
May 3, 2013	Friday	Moro, Road Dept., 4th & Hood Street
November 6, 2013	Wednesday	Hood River Garbage Service
November 7, 2013	Thursday	The Dalles Disposal Service

RURAL households & small businesses*

Cascade Locks - Wastewater Plant, 105 Herman Creek Ln.	September 22, 2012	Saturday 10am-2pm
Mosier - Mosier School, 1204 First Ave.	October 27, 2012	Saturday 10am-2pm
Maupin - Public Works, 390 3rd St.	April 27, 2013	Saturday 10am-2pm
Moro - Road Dept, 4th & Hood St.	May 3, 2013	Friday 1pm-3pm
Dufur - City Park, South Aikin & 1st St.	May 4, 2013	Saturday 10am-2pm
Tygh Valley - Mel's Sanitary Service Inc, 57590 Yew Dr.	June 22, 2013	Saturday 10am-2pm
Odell - Mid-Valley Market, 3380 Odell Hwy	September 7, 2013	Saturday 10am-2pm
Cascade Locks - Wastewater Plant, 105 Herman Creek Ln.	September 21, 2013	Saturday 10am-2pm
Mosier - Mosier School, 1204 First Ave.	October 26, 2013	Saturday 10am-2pm

**Businesses and agricultural producers: Mandatory pre-registration is required to get an appointment. Please call our contractor, PSC Environmental Services 1-800-547-2436. This ensures that proper supplies are ready for your load.*

www.tricountyrecycle.com

Saga of a milk carton

To recycle, or not to recycle (milk cartons and aseptic containers). That is the question.

And unfortunately, the answer right now is NOT to recycle.

“But my kids have been collecting those at school for years.” That is true. Many of the schools in our region have really trained their students well over the years to rinse and recycle their milk cartons. The Dalles Disposal and Hood River Garbage Service have, until recently, collected milk cartons from schools, businesses and homes for quite some time. But, there is currently no end-market – no place to sell the cartons where they can be made into another product.

Milk cartons are made from stout virgin fiber paper which has great recycle value. The same goes for aseptic containers (Tetra Paks) which are those shelf-stable paper boxes that hold unrefrigerated soups, milks and juices. The problem is that the few remaining paper mills in the Northwest are designed to pulp recyclable paper rapidly into newsprint. That process is just too quick for milk cartons. The plastic coatings and other leak-resistant layers found in milk cartons and aseptic containers turn that newsprint

‘pulp’ into unusable ‘gum’. That’s a problem.

The good news is that the manufacturers of milk cartons and aseptic containers have formed the Carton Council of America for the sole

purpose of improving the world-wide opportunities to recycle these cartons they make. The Carton Council is working diligently with Material Recovery Facilities (the companies that accept, sort, and sell recyclable goods to manufacturing mar-

kets) across the nation to educate and support equipment upgrades that would allow

cartons to be separated out from other paper goods, and saved aside for developing product markets.

They are working region by region to help with technology and funding issues.

Will we eventually be able to recycle our cartons?



Time will tell. If you would like more information about this issue, and how you might be able to help, check out the Carton Council's website at www.Carton-Council.org.

What can you do in the mean time? If you have the option, don't buy your milk, juice, or other products packaged in a wax carton. Purchase containers that are recyclable now, such as plastic jugs and tin

cans. You will reduce the amount of waste you are producing for our local landfill.

So, what CAN you do with those milk cartons?

If you've got kids, there are a variety of craft projects you can make. Or, cut the tops off and use them to start your garden seeds for the summer.

reduce waste + recycle more
www.tricountyrecycle.com

Tri-County
Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program



419 E. Seventh St., The Dalles OR 97058

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part of the North Central Public Health District



Printed on 55% recycled paper, Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certified.
Resources saved by the use of this paper product, based on 25000 copies:
Water Savings: 2410 gallons
Wood Savings: 1625 pounds
Reduces CO2 Gases by: 605 pounds
Reduces waste by: 303 pounds
Energy Savings: 4,675,000 BTUs