



Reduce Waste + Recycle More

Spring 2012

www.tricountyrecycle.com

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Tri-County Program approaches 1-million pound collection marker

It's great to see people taking advantage of a good thing. With the help of our partners at PSC, and the continual involvement of communities in three counties, Tri-County Hazardous

increase in the number of households and businesses coming to our events in 2011, and a 10% increase in hazardous waste collected (by weight). With that increase, you would think the program



Staff from PSC unload and categorize a truck load of orchard chemicals at an Agriculture Producer HHW Collection in Hood River in November. Tri-County staff have noted an increase in participation and tonnage collected at the Ag events in 2011.

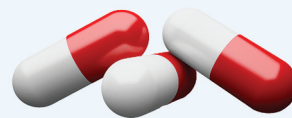
Waste & Recycling collected a whopping 193,240 pounds of hazardous waste in 2011. Hood River County collected 99,275 pounds of chemicals, paint, batteries and other hazardous waste through our monthly events in Hood River. In Wasco County, 61,805 pounds of material were collected through monthly events in The Dalles. Another 18,290 came from nine rural collections throughout our three-county service area, in communities such as Moro, Tygh Valley, Mosier and Parkdale. We expect that our program will surpass one million pounds of hazardous waste collected (lifetime total) by the spring of 2013. That's a lot of dangerous, carcinogenic, poisonous, persistent, toxic stuff that will not be exposed to our families, our communities, or our immediate environment or waterways.

It is exciting to see a four-percent

would be wavering under a significant cost increase. However, Tri-County noted only a very slight 1/2% increase in cost in 2011. With a 10% increase in hazardous waste collected, why did our overall recycling/disposal cost not go up? The statewide Paint Care program (which shifts responsibility away from local governments and onto manufacturers and consumers) diverted 78,400 pounds of paint towards recycling at no cost to our program (a \$27,440 savings!). 1,702 vehicles attended our events this year, including several 'walk-ins', a few bicycles, and a damsel driving a tractor in Dufur!

Favorable Trend: From the outset ten years ago, our community partners determined that a very important pillar of this program would be convenient and affordable collection for orchardists and agricultural folks. (cont. on page 2, collection marker)

Coalition offers four Drug Take Back Events in May



Eleven agencies representing 3 counties have joined together to host a multi-site Drug Take Back Event May 4th and 5th, 2012. Drug Take Back events will take place at the following locations and dates:

- Friday May 4th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 - Moro, Road Dept, 4th & Hood Street
- Saturday, May 5th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 - Cascade Locks, location TBA
 - Hood River, Hood River County Courthouse
 - The Dalles, Mid-Columbia Senior Center

Community members will be able to drop off their expired and /or unwanted medication, both prescription and over the counter varieties. Pet medicines will also be accepted. The event will accept:

- Household prescription medicines
- Over the counter medicines
- Vitamins and nutritional supplements
- Pet medicines

Medicines must be in their original containers for identification purposes. "We are all very concerned about prescription drug abuse that is growing at such an alarming rate across our nation, state and counties," says Maija Yasui, Prevention Coordinator for Hood River County and lead of three drug prevention coalitions under the direction of Hood River County Commission on Children and Families. This is not just a youth or adult problem, it affects all of us in the community." Prescription drug abuse is the most rapidly increasing form of substance abuse today.

(cont. on page 3, drug take back)



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
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)

Become a Master Recycler

Ten new graduates join veteran Master Recyclers

On November 1, nine ladies and one young-lady received their graduation certificates from Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling's Master Recycler course. They join 40 other Master Recyclers who have graduated from the program in the last four years.



Grace Skakel, Lisa Knapp, Michele Dearing, Linda Pearson, Marilyn Richardson, Jaime VanDen Bosch, Kayleen Warner-Arens, Sandy Bisset, Teresa Hepker, and Yvonne Huskey celebrated their graduation from Tri-County's 8 week Master Recycler course in November.

This year's graduates included our first-ever Junior Master Recycler, 10-year-old Grace Skakel from Mosier. These Master Recyclers have already been busy in the community, sharing the education they received, visiting businesses, educating their co-workers, creating a cultural change toward sustainability at work, home and school, and teaching people how to compost.

The Master Recycler Program includes 8 classroom sessions and 2 field trips, with instruction in topics such as waste prevention, recycling processes, alternatives to hazardous household products, composting, deconstruction and green building techniques, and interaction with businesses and nonprofits in The Gorge that promote and/or engage in sustainability, recycling, and waste reduction. Instructors are local experts from the business, government, and non-profit sectors of the solid waste and recycling industry.

Upon graduating from the course, Master Recyclers volunteer a minimum of 30 hours in the community to staff information booths at events and fairs, provide presentations to community groups, give hands-on help to their schools and businesses, and work on special projects.

"Master Recyclers are an invaluable part of our program and mission," says Heather Alexander, Solid Waste Specialist for Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling. "Through their volunteer efforts, they help us educate and inform our communities about how they can reduce waste, recycle more, and keep the Gorge a beautiful and thriving community for generations."

The next Master Recycler course will be offered beginning in September 2012. If you are interested in learning more about this program, or signing up, visit our website at tricityrecycle.com and click on the Master Recycler link, email info@tricityrecycle.com, or call us at 541-506-2636.

(cont. from page 1, collection marker)

Their pesticides and herbicides tend to account for the bulk of the 25% of our program volumes that need to be incinerated (especially the 'legacy' pesticides like DDT). We experienced a 45% increase in participation by farmers this year. Wow! Forty-five farmers took advantage of our five free collection events in Hood River, The Dalles and Moro, versus 31 farmers in 2010. Likewise 13,870 pounds of agricultural chemicals were collected this year, compared to 9,459 pounds last year.

Where does our hazardous waste go? 75% of the hazardous waste (that we don't incinerate) is recycled in one way or another. For example, the alkaline batteries we now collect get pitched into a metal foundry near Seattle, where they contribute to making rebar for construction. All the rechargeable batteries are handled

by a national battery recycling program (RBRC), whereby precious metals recovered are used to create new batteries and stainless steel products. Latex paint is re-processed back into Metro-brand latex paint. Any oil-based paints or stains are blended with other 'flammables' and then used as fuel at a concrete kiln plant near Seattle. Liquid propane is extracted from "LP" cans for reuse, and the metal propane containers are recycled. Mercury, glass and metal are all separated when recycling fluorescent bulbs.

Since our program facilities don't have regular hours, we are not currently offering a 'reuse' component at our collections. But when perfectly good (reusable) product comes into our events, we do try to steer it to a reuse store, such as Gorge Rebuild-it Center or Habitat for Humanity.

A greener way to clean

If your kitchen sink is anything like mine, you have a mish-mash collection of household cleaners. Some bottles almost empty, some half full....Some you purchased because you forgot you already had some, some you purchased because the advertisement said this cleaner would work better than your others.

Many of the cleaners I have tried, particularly for my bathroom, just about make me keel over with their fumes. If my eyes are watering and my nostrils and throat burn from being in the room, that's a sign that this is some nasty stuff.

We need to be careful about what we use in our homes, and how we store them. After all, our family's health is important. You can keep your home clean, and your family healthy, all at the same time with some simple and affordable green cleaners.

You'll will be amazed at how many bottles of cleaner you can get out of a few simple ingredients, spending much less over the course of the year than you would buying multiple new bottles of chemical cleaners.



All Purpose Cleaner

In a spray bottle, mix:

2 Tablespoons vinegar

1 teaspoon washing soda

(found in the laundry aisle at the store, made by Arm & Hamer)

2 Cups hot water

¼ Cup liquid vegetable-oil soap (also known as castile soap), such as Dr. Bonner's (found in most health food stores/ sections)



Tub, Sink & Toilet Cleaner

Sprinkle baking soda on surface, rub with a wet rag. Add a few drops of liquid oil soap (castile soap) for more cleaning power, rinse well.

Disinfectant

Use a spray of distilled white vinegar followed by a 3% hydrogen peroxide spray, wipe clean.

(cont. from page 1, drug take back)

- Every day, more than 4,000 children and teens begin experimenting with prescription drugs.
- 70% of people ages 12 and older who abuse prescription drugs get them from family or friends.
- Oregon ranks among the top ten states for abuse of prescription drugs, at all ages.

Drug overdose deaths now exceed those attributable to firearms, homicides or HIV/AIDS. A recent report released by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention finds that more people die in America every year from prescription drug abuse than die from heroin and cocaine combined.

"The abuse of prescription medications is an issue of great concern for each one of our coalition partners," shares Heather Alexander, Solid Waste Specialist for Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling. Conversations about a multi-site Spring Drug Take Back event began last fall, following the event held in The Dalles. Multiple partners in other areas expressed an interest in making this service available in their communities, as well.



"On the environmental side, we know that when people dispose of their medications improperly by flushing them down their toilets or washing them down the sink, those medications and chemicals end up in our streams and waterways, and thus eventually in our drinking water," Alexander shares, explaining Tri-County's involvement in the Coalition. Promotion for the event will include expanded education about proper safe-storage and disposal of medications.

In the not-too-distant future, some event partners hope to see permanent drug collection sites available in Gorge area communities. However, they are awaiting a potential change in federal policy which would enable collections to occur without the involvement of law enforcement. Currently, federal law requires law enforcement to be involved in the monitoring of pharmaceutical collections, which can be a challenge in the current staffing constraints that many law enforcement agencies face.

"Several other communities throughout Oregon and the U.S. have permanent collection sites available 7 days a week at Police Stations," explains Alexander. "The Tri-County HWR program has been in contact with these agencies, and is developing plans for the possibility of these services in our area in the future."

If you would like more information on the Drug Take Back Events May 4th and 5th, please contact Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling at 541-506-2636 or email HeatherA@co.wasco.or.us

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling, Hood River County Commission on Children and Families, Faith Connections Coalition, Hood River County Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Coalition, YouthThink, Wasco County Commission on Children and Families, MidColumbia Medical Center, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital and Health Services, Sherman County Commission on Children and Families, Sherman County Prevention Coalition, Eastern Region Oregon DEQ, Hood River City Police Department, Hood River County Sheriff's Office, Sherman County Sheriff's Office, The Dalles City Police, and Wasco County Sheriff's Office.

Community

Miles steps down from Steering Committee

This Spring, the Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program is losing a valuable steering committee member, Mike Miles. Mike has faithfully represented the City of Maupin over the past ten years in a program that has strived to better the environment for the health and safety of its citizens.

Mike gave valuable input throughout all phases of the program, including: the Household Hazardous Waste Planning Committee, Intergovernmental Agreement Planning Committee, and the formal Steering Committee. Mike is truly a community minded citizen and served Maupin and the entire Tri-County region well. We wish Mike the very best in all his future endeavors.

Worm Bins bring waste management and life-science lessons to area classrooms

On a cold day in January, squeals of “Ewww, gross!” and amazed exclamations of “Cool!” combined as Junior Master Recycler Grace Skakel showed students at Mosier Community School the worm composting bin her family uses at home. Ms. Greer’s second grade class immediately asked for the chance to have a Worm Bin in her classroom, so her very excited class received a bin from Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling.

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling has begun providing Worm Composting Bins, which cost about \$40 each, to schools in Sherman, Wasco and Hood River counties. The Worm Bin Project is part of Tri-County’s Small Grant program. Funding for this program will allow for approximately 25 classrooms to receive worm bins between now and the end of the school year. Each class receives a 25-gallon rubber tote, complete with peat moss, shredded newspaper, instructions, and, of course, a container of red wigglers (*Eisenia Fetida*), also known as red worms or tiger worms. Tri-County staff members deliver each bin, provide a lesson to the class on composting and worms, and teach them how to set up and maintain the worm bin.

Some of the schools that have received Worm Bins to date include: Mosier Community School, MidValley Elementary, WyEast Middle School, and Chenoweth Elementary.

“Our worm bins are easy to manage, and scaled to fit in a single classroom,” encourages David Skakel, Program Coordinator for Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling. “It really is simple. As long as the students feed the worms the right food and only feed them once per week (“Monday is feed the worms’ day!”), success is guaranteed!”

If classes have problems with the healthy balance of the worm bins, Tri-County offers “trouble shooting” assistance. Likewise, the bins can be removed from the classroom, at no extra cost, though that has not happened yet.

“How we manage food waste at school shows our kids how, or how not, to manage materials overall,” says Skakel. Food waste management provides one of the most fascinating and teachable opportunities on any campus. The Tri-County program has helped some local schools with comprehensive food-waste recycling. But for some, school-wide composting programs may be a risky and daunting starting point. With most public school classrooms serving breakfast to students each day, there is a built-in source of food for the worms. When those leftovers go into the worm bin, there is less waste and less odor. Deanne Converse, co-owner of Fresh from the Farm in Stevenson, Washington, is an avid worm composter, and retailer of red wiggler worms and composting kits. Converse refers to Red Worm Composting as the “easy” way to compost, explaining that it is much faster than the traditional way of composting by piling food scraps and yard debris in a pile and waiting for it to break down. The castings that come from the Red Worms eating the food scraps placed in the bin results in a mineral, vitamin, and water rich soil amendment for your garden.

“Red Wigglers are so cool for classrooms,” says Karen Murray, Solid Waste Specialist for Tri-County, and former middle school science teacher. “The kids participate in a natural process of recycling materials right in the classroom. That’s very valuable”. And the end product offers the next lesson plan... “What to do with our worm compost.”

“Really, we hope there is a ‘transfer’ effect from the Worm Bin Project,” explains Murray. “If students get excited about red worms at school, they might want to have a project at home with red wigglers. It could get composting going at home and save families money on that garbage bill, and get some good soil going for that home garden.”

If you are interested in receiving a Red Worm Bin for your classroom, please contact Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling at 541-506-2632, or email davids@co.wasco.or.us.



Students at Mid-Valley Elementary School help set up their classroom Worm Bin.

Small Grants Invitation



DID YOU KNOW that Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling has a small grants program? Grant applications can be submitted in any amount from \$50 up to \$5000, supporting projects that promote recycling, sustainability, and waste reduction in Hood River, Sherman, and/or Wasco counties. Be creative!

For more information, visit http://www.tricountyrecycle.com/Grants_HowToApply.asp or call David Skakel, Program Coordinator, at 541-506-2632.



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Public Health
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**2012
Schedule**

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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.

Hood River Garbage Service 3440 Guignard Dr.

**collections
every month
of the year!**

**MONTHLY
for
households
and
small
businesses***
(3rd full
Friday-Saturday
weekend of
each month)

January 20	Friday	9am-2pm
February 17	Friday	9am-2pm
March 16	Friday	9am-2pm
April 20	Friday	9am-2pm
May 18	Friday	9am-2pm
June 20	Friday	9am-2pm
July 20	Friday	9am-2pm
August 17	Friday	9am-2pm
September 14	Friday	9am-2pm
October 19	Friday	9am-2pm
November 16	Friday	9am-2pm
December 14	Friday	9am-2pm

The Dalles Disposal 1317 W First St.

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

January 21	Saturday	9am-2pm
February 18	Saturday	9am-2pm
March 17	Saturday	9am-2pm
April 21	Saturday	9am-2pm
May 19	Saturday	9am-2pm
June 16	Saturday	9am-2pm
July 21	Saturday	9am-2pm
August 18	Saturday	9am-2pm
September 15	Saturday	9am-2pm
October 20	Saturday	9am-2pm
November 17	Saturday	9am-2pm
December 15	Saturday	9am-2pm

RURAL households & small businesses*

Parkdale - Fire District, 4895 Baseline Dr.
April 7 Saturday 10am-2pm

Maupin - Public Works, 390 3rd St.
April 28 Saturday 10am-2pm

Moro - Road Dept, 4th & Hood St.
May 4 Friday 1pm-3pm

Dufur - City Park, South Aikin & 1st St.
May 5 Saturday 10am-2pm

Tygh Valley - Mel's Sanitary Service Inc, 57590 Yew Dr.
June 23 Saturday 10am-2pm

Odell - Mid-Valley Market, 3380 Odell Hwy
September 8 Saturday 10am-2pm

Cascade Locks - Wastewater Plant, 105 Herman Creek Ln.
September 22 Saturday 10am-2pm

Tygh Valley - Mel's Sanitary Service Inc, 57590 Yew Dr.
October 6 Saturday 10am-2pm

Mosier - Mosier School, 1204 First Ave.
October 27 Saturday 10am-2pm

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

February 23 Thursday
Hood River Garbage Service

February 24 Friday
The Dalles Disposal Service

May 4 Friday
Moro, Road Dept 4th & Hood St

November 7 Wednesday
Hood River Garbage Service

November 8 Thursday
The Dalles Disposal Service

**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

Tri-County

Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program



TOP LOCAL GREEN PICKS 2012



joeboard.com

WHY?

Joeboard is the **only** business-specific materials exchange for the Gorge. It's free, unrestricted, and easy to use, and provides a lot of information about products. **Joe-pass** is free to Gorge Owned Business Network members.

So, next time your business has some left-over this, or extra that, or is phasing out your whatcha-ma-callits, don't throw them away. Post them on Joeboard. One person's trash is another's treasure!

joeboard.com



Dirt Hugger

WHY?

Dirt Hugger is the **only** commercial composting business in the Gorge. They are passionate about their work. Visit their blog at www.dirthugger.com to find out more about them.

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

DirtHugger is creating jobs and fantastic topsoil!

541-946-3478



WHY?

Gorge Security Shred is the **only** document destruction business located in the Gorge, providing good jobs for local folks with disabilities.

Affordable. Secure. And very friendly.

Gorge Security Shred is a member of NAID, the National Association for Information Destruction.

All materials are recycled.

541-490-7078

reduce waste + recycle more
www.tricountyrecycle.com

Tri-County

Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program



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