

# MASTER RECYCLER

Introducing...the Master Recycler Program for residents of Wasco, Sherman and Hood River counties! Just like the local OSU Extension Service "Master Gardener" programs you are familiar with, this fall we will be offering a new Master Recycler Program to train volunteers.

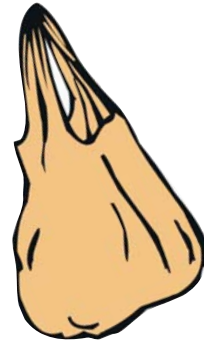
Are you gung-ho about recycling and composting? Do you like to help others reduce waste, reuse and recycle more? Do you wish you could motivate more people to live a "greener" lifestyle? Would you be interested in more formal training to help others?

To learn more, read the Master Recycler section on our website, [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com), and watch for more information in local media.

## Plastic Bags Clog Up Equipment!



- Recycle plastic bags at the grocery store
- Don't put plastic bags in your recycle bin
- They clog up the gears during the recycling sorting process



Plastic bags jammed in recycling equipment

## Too Many Phone Books?

When phone books are delivered, please pick them up from the road or curb (prevent litter) and recycle the old ones. If you don't need them next time, the phone book industry has created a national web site to help consumers opt-out of getting some phone books. Go to [www.yellowpagesoptout.com](http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com), punch in your ZIP code, and the site will list some phone book companies in your area. Follow the directions, using websites and/or 1-800 numbers to get your name off each company's list.

Your local EMBARQ phone book is published by DEX. Whether you would like to select only the books you need, or prefer not to receive printed DEX directories, the choice is yours. Visit [dexknows.com/selectyourdex](http://dexknows.com/selectyourdex) to customize your directory order.



fall 2009

## inside this ISSUE

page 1  
sustainability and recycling

page 2  
composting... nature's way of recycling

page 3  
dealing with home medical waste

page 4  
plastic bags jam recycling equipment



# Reduce Waste + Recycle More

## Sustainability...what does that mean anyway?

To live well without taking more than our planet has to offer...to live "with-in your means" environmentally and have less of an impact on the earth... because future generations are depending on the choices you make today.

What does recycling have to do with sustainability? A big part of sustainability is making our natural resources last as long as possible for this generation...and future generations. If we use something just once, like an aluminum pop can, and then just toss it in the garbage, it's gone. The raw materials and energy used to make that can, plus all the human effort to make it, move it, fill it, and use it....are lost to us, buried in a landfill.

When we recycle something, we give it another life...and sometimes many other lives. That aluminum can be re-made into another can, a baseball bat, a window, or a pie plate...instead of getting



"trashed" and never used again. That saves a lot of energy as well as a lot of raw materials. For example, US recycling activity conserves significant amounts of energy. The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that our current recycling efforts save 1.4 quadrillion BTU, the equivalent to 11.3

billion gallons of gas! This represents 56 power plants that we didn't have to build in the U.S. because of recycling. (From U.S. EPA website: [www.epa.gov/climatechange](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange))

"Recycling makes a real, quantifiable and sustainable impact"

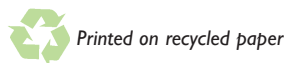
—US Environmental Protection Agency report, *The Economics of Recycling*, (October 2006)

Recycling as an industry also creates jobs and economic activity. In general, it creates six times as many jobs as sending waste to a landfill. Recycling strengthens the economy by creating jobs, using vendors, and manufacturing products. Although the markets for recycled materials have been affected by the global economic downturn, they will come back eventually. In fact, as manufacturers rethink what goods are necessary for the new economy, recycled materials could be more attractive than ever. From *Clackamas County Trash Talk*, Spring 2009 Edition



Check out our website [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

reduce waste + recycle more



Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program  
419 E. Seventh St., The Dalles OR 97058



## Want some ideas and information on composting?

Visit your local compost demonstration site:

Hood River County - OSU Extension Office, 2990 Experiment Station Drive

Wasco County - The Dalles Imagination Garden (under construction), Klindt Drive in the port area.

For information, check out [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com), click "Recycle" then "Compost"

email: [info@tricountyrecycle.com](mailto:info@tricountyrecycle.com) or call 541-506-2636

## Mark Your Calendar

## What can you bring?



- **OIL-based paints (not latex, it is not toxic)**
- **Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers**
- **Household cleansers & chemicals**
- **Automotive fluids, (not motor oil) old gas & kerosene**
- **Pool & spa chemicals, hobby chemicals**
- **Propane bottles & tanks**
- **Dry cell & lithium batteries**
- **Fluorescent bulbs & CFL bulbs**
- **Thermostats & thermometers**
- **Fire extinguishers**

## Composting

reduce • reuse • recycle

## Composting... nature's way of recycling



- Save money – reduce your garbage bill
- Save water • Spend less on fertilizers
- Make a great soil amendment

FREE "Home Composting Handbook"

## The Earth Machine

compost bins now \$35 (below cost!)

available at:

Hood River Garbage Service, 3440 Guignard Dr, Hood River

The Dalles Disposal Service, 1317 W First St, The Dalles

541.506.2636 **Tri-County** Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

## Fall Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

### FOR HOUSEHOLDS:

- The Dalles • Saturday, Sept 12 • 9am-2pm • The Dalles Disposal Service, 1317 W 1st St.
- Odell • Saturday, Sept 19 • 10am-2pm • Mid-Valley Market
- Tygh Valley • Saturday, Sept 26 • 10am-2pm • Mel's Transfer Station
- Hood River • Saturday, Oct 3 • 9am-2pm • Hood River Garbage Service, 3440 Guignard Dr.
- Mosier • Saturday, Oct 17 • 10am-2pm • Mosier Community School
- Cascade Locks • Saturday, Oct 31 • 10am-2pm • Wastewater Treatment Plant

### FOR BUSINESSES & AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS:

- The Dalles • Friday, Sept 11 • 9am-2pm • The Dalles Disposal Service, 1317 W 1st St.
- Hood River • Friday, Oct 2 • 9am-2pm • Hood River Garbage Service, 3440 Guignard Dr.

Remember, **mandatory pre-registration is required** to get an appointment for businesses and agricultural producers, please call PSC Environmental Services LLC at 1-800-547-2436. Your load will be hand-checked in and documented for your disposal records.

Watch for this postcard in your mailbox soon!



## Protect Yourself Protect Others Protect the Environment

## Home Medical Waste



### SHARPS (discarded needles, syringes, lancets)

Protect people from getting hurt or cut

- Do not throw these into the trash
  - Use an approved sharps container (no coffee cans or pop bottles)
1. Sharps containers available for purchase at pharmacies and medical supply stores
  2. FREE disposal of filled sharps containers at local transfer stations:

The Dalles Disposal Service 1317 W 1st Street, The Dalles  
Hood River Garbage Service 3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River

### UNUSED MEDICATIONS

Protect young children from accidental poisonings. Prevent intentional misuse of drugs, especially by teenagers and young adults.

- Do not flush medicines down the drain or toilet, this can pollute the water supply
  - Do not burn household waste containing pharmaceuticals
  - Wrap and conceal the products for disposal in the trash
1. Keep medicines in original containers
  2. Remove or conceal any personal information on labels
  3. Mix in a substance such as flour, used coffee grounds, kitty litter or dirt
  4. Tape lid if not child-proof and there are children in the home
  5. Place in plastic, sealable bag and "hide" in another container in the trash



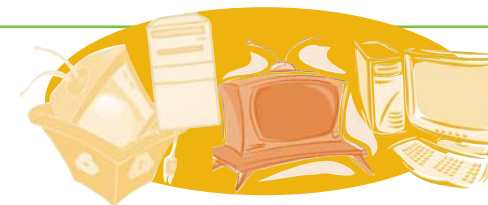
In the future, Oregon hopes to develop a "drug take-back" program for safe and convenient collection and disposal of unused and unwanted medications.

Brought to you by the Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program serving Wasco, Sherman and Hood River counties.

541-506-2636 • [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

## FREE RECYCLING

Remember, you can now take old televisions, computer towers, laptops and monitors for FREE RECYCLING at local Oregon E-Cycles centers



The Oregon E-Cycles program was created by Oregon's Electronics Recycling Law and financed by the electronics manufacturers. It provides FREE recycling of computer towers, laptop computers, monitors and televisions to anyone with seven or fewer items to recycle at one time.

Find out more by visiting [www.oregonecycles.org](http://www.oregonecycles.org)



Your local Oregon E-Cycle collection sites are:

Wasco County: The Dalles Disposal Service 1317 W First St, The Dalles Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Hood River County: Hood River Garbage Service 3440 Guignard Dr, Hood River Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Sherman County: Transfer Station on Welk Rd above Biggs Junction 2nd & 4th Saturdays 12pm-4pm

## Recycle Tips



## BLUE BINS can't recycle these:

- Plastic bags and shrink wrap (film)
- Styrofoam
- Clear "clamshell" packages (for fruit or baked goods)
- Plastic fruit baskets (for berries)
- Blister packaging (for batteries or household items)
- Biodegradable or compostable plastics
- Motor oil bottles

## 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  
Mosier  
Odell  
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)