

Reduce and reuse - better than recycling

The other three R's

Many Clackamas County school children can tell you about the other three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and why "Reduce" is at the top of the list. Reduce means making the choice to use less material and less energy. For example, it can mean everything from reducing the amount of unwanted mail you receive to getting the most life out of an old item before investing in a new one.



A reusable bag instead of many bags

"Recycling is good for the environment but reduction and reuse are significantly better," says Oregon DEQ's Senior Policy Analyst David Allaway. "When people reduce the amount of stuff they consume, use items again, or buy more efficient, durable ones, we get a bigger benefit for the environment."

There's a widespread belief that recycling prevents the environmental impacts of consumption, but recycling, while important, can't do it all. The "upstream" impacts of mining, manufacturing, packaging, and shipping involved in product creation – even for products that get recycled – deplete natural resources and contribute to greenhouse gases.

Thoughtful consumption

Reducing and reusing honors American values such as thrift and independence. It encourages us to ask questions:

- Do we need it or do we want it?
- Can we afford it without going into debt?
- What are the alternatives?

Start now

Analyze your use of resources. Stick to your shopping list—avoid impulse buying. Buy things in the right size or amount.

Check other things you can do:

- ___ Shift purchases from disposable products to products that are more durable, repairable or reusable.
- ___ Maintain and repair – extend the lifetime of products already in use and delay the purchase of replacement items.
- ___ Purchase used items instead of new items.
- ___ Share, rent or borrow products you don't use frequently.
- ___ Save more and spend less – work for financial security.



A reusable bottle instead of bottled water

More ways to save resources and energy



A mug instead of many cups

- Reduce unwanted mail with the easy steps in "Say No to Junk Mail" available from the Metro Recycling Hotline at 503-234-3000, www.oregonmetro.gov.
- With the holidays coming, consider gift certificates for movies, restaurants, or donate to the recipient's favorite charity instead of buying something.
- Pack a waste-free lunch. See Page 4 for suggestions.
- Unplug appliances and electronics if possible. Many draw power even when not being used.
- Avoid Idling. Idling gets 0 mpg! Idling for more than 10 seconds may use more fuel than restarting your engine.
- Learn more ways to save resources and energy from the Clackamas County Office of Sustainability at www.clackamas.us/transportation/recycling/preventionres.jsp, or 503-557-6363.

You choose—do you want to receive phone books?

The phone book industry has created an official national website to help avoid the delivery of several different phone books to your home. This is a "one-stop" clearinghouse for books by DEX, Yellow Book and Verizon, among others.

It is quick and simple. Register with the website and you will receive a confirmation e-mail that allows you to log in. Then you can select which phone books you would like to receive and which ones you'd like to stop getting. Most of the major phone book publishers are now printing opt-out information on the covers of phone books.

www.yellowpagesoptout.com



Recycle At Work

Certification program available for landscape and automotive companies

Program has been certifying businesses for over 14 years

EcoBiz, short for Eco-Logical Business, is a certification program recognizing businesses that reach high standards in environmental protection. The completely free and voluntary program is designed to prevent and minimize solid waste, air and water pollution.

There are EcoBiz programs for two types of businesses: LANDSCAPE SERVICES and AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES (see details below).



EcoBiz certified companies must use a suite of approved best management practices and meet standards for employee education and training, in addition to passing an on-site visit. Customers benefit from EcoBiz by being able to easily find companies that are using the most environmentally safe and healthy practices.

The EcoBiz certification is developed and administered by the Pollution Prevention Outreach Team (P2O), a group of pollution prevention experts from eight agencies in the Portland metro area: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Cities of Portland and Gresham, Clackamas and Washington Counties, Metro, Clean Water Services and the Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC).

EcoBiz certified businesses benefit by receiving free marketing and advertising and being recognized as leaders in their industry. For more information on how to become EcoBiz certified, call 503-823-7807 or visit www.ecobiz.org for more information.

The **Landscape Services Eco-Logical Business Program**



recognizes landscape design, installation and maintenance service contractors that reach the highest standards in environmental protection. This is the first landscaping services certification program in the nation that addresses air, water and solid waste. This program is sponsored by the Pollution Prevention Outreach Team.

The **Automotive Services Program**



recognizes vehicle service and repair businesses and shops that reach the highest standards in minimizing their environmental impact. The goal of the program is to prevent and minimize pollution generated by small businesses statewide. This is the first automotive services certification program in the nation that addresses air, water and solid waste.

PGE offers free energy efficiency consultations to business customers

Portland General Electric is committed to Clackamas County businesses. For more than a century, PGE has helped power the local economy. Today, about 50,000 Oregon businesses rely on PGE for safe, reliable electricity. PGE is committed to helping Clackamas County businesses save energy, thrive and grow.

Free energy-efficiency consultations can help you save

A focus on energy efficiency can help you control energy use, boost your bottom line and reduce your carbon footprint. You'll save money in your operations and help the environment at the same time. PGE offers free, no-obligation energy-efficiency consultations for business customers.

During the consultation, they'll help you identify energy-saving opportunities and prioritize your efforts based on your budget and goals. PGE will also connect you with Energy Trust of Oregon incentives – including special fall bonus incentives – as well as trusted contractors. To request your free consultation, visit PortlandGeneral.com/EnergyExperts or call the Business Services Team at 800-822-1077.

Clackamas County business receives eco-certification, helps homeowners save on water bill

Down to Earth Irrigation, a Clackamas County business for almost 40 years, has received the EcoBiz Landscape Certification by the Pollution Prevention Outreach (P2O) Team.

To become certified, Down to Earth demonstrated its knowledge and use of more than 120 different best environmental business practices in its areas of specialty. These practices relate to all of the ways the business could impact the air, water and soil, and release greenhouse gases and toxic substances. A specialty service of Down to Earth is “smart controllers,” which often cut irrigation bills by 25-30 percent and produce better watering results for yards and gardens. The company also uses drip irrigation and rotary nozzles to reduce water consumption on its customers' properties. According to the U. S. General Accounting Office 50 percent of all irrigation in the Western United States is wasted.

“Homeowners have been surprised about how much we could impact their water bills,” Phil Severson, owner of Down to Earth says. He also notes that since he often works on properties that border the Tualatin River it is important to him to make sure his work has a positive impact on the environment.



Down to Earth Irrigation owner Phil Severson

Supply Our Schools expands to social service agencies



Does your business have spare paper, office supplies, equipment, furniture, clothes or blankets that local schools and social services agencies could use?

With schools and agencies strapped for cash, now is the time to clean out your supply closets and use the newly updated and expanded Supply Our School (SOS) website – www.supplyourschools.com – to donate items. Your cast-offs can make a real difference to teachers, providers, students and families.

Business owners and property managers have been happy with the simplicity of the program, which started in 2002. “This program has been a blessing for us,” said one local property manager. “We’ve had tenants move out and leave everything.”

Many thousands of pounds of materials have bypassed the landfill to reach people who can put them to work. For example, one high school outfitted its career center with donated furniture and supplies.

Donation is easy. Go to www.supplyourschools.com to register and to post your items. Teachers and social service providers can register and sign up for automatic email notifications for frequently needed items. When those emails show up, teachers contact the donors and make pick-up arrangements.

Clackamas County recently finished rebuilding the website and is in the midst of promoting Supply Our Schools. Please be patient if you do not immediately get a request for your item from a school. We are currently focused on business outreach in order to populate the website with reusable items.

Questions? Contact the Clackamas County Office of Sustainability at 503-742-4463 or wasteinfo@co.clackamas.or.us



Recycle At Work

Xerox-Wilsonville honored for variety of sustainable practices

In August, Xerox's Wilsonville campus received a BRAG Award for its many sustainability initiatives. With over 1,700 employees, institutional change does not happen overnight. Fortunately, sustainability is a priority at Xerox, according to CEO Ursula M. Burns, who recently visited the campus.



Xerox Green Team: (From left to right) Front row: Jim Warram, Pam Searle, Rob Buchanan Back row: George Lundbery, Tom Monjay, Marla McCue

"To us, sustainable development is a race with no finish line. It requires leadership that sets high expectations and clear direction, and innovation that constantly pushes the frontier of what is possible," said Burns.

Xerox "walks its talk" when it comes to business practices. Not only does it recycle paper, cardboard, metals, and film, it also recycles more "difficult" items: fluorescent light ballasts, computers and electronics, expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam), solvents, batteries, printer consumables, wood pallets, mercury-containing devices and latex gloves.

Employees collect unwanted cell phones for a women's shelter and eyeglasses for local area nonprofit organizations. Under its green purchasing policy, Xerox buys recycled-content paper, conserving natural resources.

Promoting sustainable commuting with incentives, Xerox-Wilsonville encourages employees to walk, bike, carpool or use public transportation. Since 2002, staff has volunteered to pick up trash on a quarterly basis along Wilsonville Road through the Adopt-a-Road Cleanup Program.

Xerox gained high marks for its consistent practice of purchasing office equipment with the ENERGY STAR® designation for higher efficiency. The company also worked with Energy Trust of Oregon to examine its energy-saving opportunities in its buildings.



This free program recognizes businesses that excel in recycling, reducing waste and purchasing recycled-content products. Clackamas County's Recycle at Work program can provide a free evaluation of your operations in these areas and help your business become more sustainable. Get in touch today!

Clackamas County - Recycle at Work
503-557-6363

www.clackamas.us/transportation/recycling

DaVinci's offers fresh food and sustainable practices

Located just south of Milwaukie's downtown core is DaVinci's Italiano Ristorante, which recently received a BRAG Award for its sustainable actions. Although its current site will be leveled to make way for the Milwaukie MAX line, owners Heather and Felicia Molatore plan to relocate within the city limits to retain the customers that have made DaVinci's a long standing success.

One of the first changes the Molatores made when they purchased DaVinci's in 2009, was to incorporate sustainability into their business operations. "I am so impressed by their level of detail," said Clackamas County Recycle at Work Specialist Rosalynn



DaVinci's chef Heather Molatore

Greene. "From the aquarium water they use to water indoor and outdoor plants, to the excess candle wax they donate to a local pottery shop, Heather and Felicia are doing all they can possibly do to lessen their carbon-footprint."

While maintaining reasonable prices, DaVinci's is committed to offering its customers high quality food made with the fresh ingredients from sources that are as local and sustainable as possible. Their produce is purchased at local farmers markets when available, and the restaurant follows MBA Seafood Watch guidelines. Instead of using artificial plants for center pieces, the owners purchase seasonal local flowers. Similarly, only wine with screw caps or cork stoppers is available in order to avoid synthetic corks.

DaVinci's uses non-toxic cleaning products and avoids waste in creative ways, such as supplying its young guests with non-toxic dry-erase coloring books.

Call the **RECYCLE AT WORK** team today!



Our Recycle at Work team provides free customized assistance to all types of businesses in Clackamas County. Specialists can help you:

- Identify items that can be recycled at work
- Form a "green team" to lead sustainability efforts
- Train your employees and custodial staff
- Analyze your waste and help track progress
- Earn recognition for your recycling successes
- Save money by reducing waste

For assistance, call 503-742-4458
Email wasteinfo@clackamas.us
www.recycleatwork.org

DONATE THE BEST!



Fork It Over! is Metro's food donation program to reduce hunger and waste in the Portland metropolitan area. Join the many area businesses that have committed to reducing waste and fighting hunger.

It is safe to Fork It Over! Donors are protected from liability under Oregon and Federal Good Samaritan laws. Food rescue agencies follow the same safe food handling guidelines as your staff.

503-234-3000 www.forkitover.org

Kids Page

Reduce

Reducing waste is the first of the 3 R's for the environment.

It comes first because it is the most important step we need to take. How can we reduce? Cut back on the amount of "stuff" that could end up as waste. When purchasing, choose items made from sustainable, recycled or reused resources. Choose items with less packaging. Start with lunch!



Like these students at King Elementary in Oregon City, you could choose a waste-free lunch. Instead of buying pre-packaged lunches, you can pack your own - one that tastes better, is more nutritious and is better for the environment. The keys to packing a waste free lunch are:

- Choose a reusable lunch bag or box
- Buy in bulk and send carrots, nuts, cookies, etc., in reusable containers
- Use a reusable beverage container
- Bring a cloth napkin
- Pack your sandwich or leftover pizza in a reusable container
- Use durable silverware
- Take what you will eat; take home what you can't finish for a snack later

In addition, you can save money by not paying for so much packaging. **\$2.65 is the average cost of a waste-free lunch vs. \$4.02 for a typical lunch. Save \$6.85 a week!**



Compare the waste-free lunch on the left with the packaged lunch on the right. How many packaging items are thrown away in the picture on the right? The answer key is below! Which lunch is the better choice? Can you pack a waste-free lunch?

Answers: 8 items: beverage packages, straws, wrapper for straw, pizza sauce packet, candy wrapper, plastic tray, plastic seal for tray, and non-recyclable box

Contact us for a free school DVD of what happens to recyclables after collection and more.



Our **Kid Stuff** booklet features great information and activities on resource conservation and waste reduction. Available free for classrooms and school events. Targeted to advanced 4th through 7th grades.

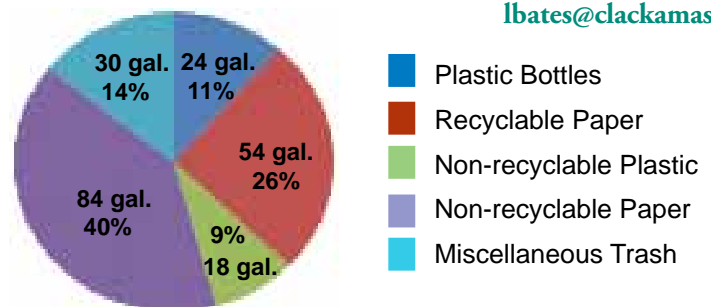


What's in your school's waste?



4/5th Graders track one day of Willamette Primary's garbage to target areas where their school may be able to reduce waste.

Middle schoolers showed their graphing skills by creating this pie chart showing data from auditing their school's classroom waste. They then re-invigorated recycling systems to recover materials that still had value. Need assistance with this step toward becoming an Oregon Green School, or with developing a Green Team? Contact Laurel Bates, 503-742-4454 or lbates@clackamas.us



Need containers or assistance?

After waste reduction and reuse comes recycling. Oregonians saved the equivalent of 216 million gallons of gasoline by recycling in 2009. Schools can contact us for **FREE** clearly-marked recycling containers, signage, education, and assistance. **503-742-4454**, lbates@clackamas.us

For ClearStream bottle/can and event recycling contact: lizabethbra@clackamas.us 503-742-4464



41 qt. bin



Deskside Box Central Collection Box



ClearStream

Grants still available!

Grow those green projects. We still have funding for School Waste Reduction Grants. Prior grants have funded the purchase of rain barrels, durable trays and flatware, related field trips, recycling team vests, and reusable water bottles. They have also helped with the purchase of electric hand dryers, composting systems and many other projects. Grant applications are very simple to complete and pay up to \$300.

For more information on grant eligibility, contact: lbates@clackamas.us or download one at www.clackamas.or.us/transportation/recycling/



Applications are due by December 6, 2011.

School News

New Coordinator begins work with County schools

Clackamas County and your local solid waste collection companies are very pleased to introduce Laurel Bates, their new Waste Reduction Education Coordinator, AKA the "Schools' Person." This position was held for 21 years by Eileen Stapp, who retired in July.



Laurel Bates

Bates comes to the county with an MAT in education. She was a middle school German teacher in Wisconsin, and she recently spent four years as Educational Coordinator for Free Geek, a Portland non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding computers and getting them into the hands of those who need them.

At Free Geek, which is committed to the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, she learned to build a computer and taught many people how to use them. "I like teaching skills people can immediately apply – they learn something and go home with it," she said. "The schools' coordinator job fits my background and values."

Laurel loves living in the Portland Area and is eager to discover Clackamas County – which is home to 147 kindergarten-12th grade schools.


Her immediate goal is to pick Ms. Stapp's encyclopedic mind and start making personal contacts with schools from Wilsonville to Welches. Funded by CCRRA, a consortium of the franchised solid waste companies in the county, and the Clackamas County Office of Sustainability, the Coordinator develops lessons, makes presentations to students and school staff on a range of topics, provides resources, and helps schools become more sustainable. Bates will also be the Oregon Green Schools coordinator for the county. Thanks to Stapp's dedication, there are more certified Oregon Green Schools in Clackamas County than any other county in Oregon.


For school programs, please contact Laurel at lbates@clackamas.us or call her at 503-742-4454.


Learn more


Student and staff participation in waste reduction and recycling improves with more knowledge of our solid waste system; knowing the what, why, and how. Contact us today to jump start your recycling, composting, or Oregon Green School program. We also can schedule an activity or presentation, or lend you materials or kits.


Classroom presentations and loaner kits:

 **From Earth to Landfill:** An overview of where our garbage comes from and where it goes. Emphasis on reduction, reuse, recycling, and steps toward sustainability. Grades 2-12, grade appropriate

 **Worming Through Waste:** Explore composting with worms and the entire worm bin ecosystem. Grades 2-12

 **Stuff:** Examine the lifecycle of a pop can, newspaper, hamburger, athletic shoes, computer, etc., and its environmental impacts. Grades 7-12

 **Papermaking:** Make art paper from classroom scraps. Includes history and benefits of paper waste reduction. Requires volunteer assistance. Grades K-12

 **Waste Sort:** See what's in your school's trash and what can be done to reduce waste (a step to becoming an Oregon Green School). Kit includes scale, buckets, signage, forms, clipboards, gloves & drop cloth. Grades 2-12

Teacher wins national Outstanding Young Educator honor

Gladstone High School Spanish teacher Brad Kuntz is a man with a mission. On top of his regular teaching duties, he oversaw the creation of the school's Green School Club about four years ago, followed by an environmental leadership class.

Under Kuntz, students developed composting and rain water harvesting systems and provided assistance to other schools. They also built a cob bench and gazebo with a living roof.

Gladstone High first became an Oregon Green School, then advanced to Merit Level and is currently working to reach Premier Oregon Green School status. "Brad has let his students know that they have the power to make a positive impact on the community," said former Clackamas County Green Schools Coordinator Eileen Stapp. "He is an inspiration to students and other teachers."

In addition, Kuntz has been a driving force in Gladstone School District's sustainability efforts. He will be offering teacher sustainability workshops in the near future and is writing a book on sustainability for schools.



Oregon Green Schools



Congratulations to our **Oregon Green Schools!**
Clackamas County OGS list as of September 2011:

OGS PREMIER LEVEL

Deep Creek Elementary, Damascus
Hallinan Elementary, Lake Oswego
Stafford Primary, Stafford
Sunset Primary, West Linn



OGS MERIT LEVEL

Carus Elementary, Carus*
Cedar oak Park Primary, West Linn
Gladstone High School, Gladstone
Kelso Elementary, Boring
King Elementary, Oregon City
Lake Oswego Junior High, Lake Oswego
Oak Creek Elementary, Lake Oswego
Uplands Elementary, Lake Oswego

ENTRY LEVEL OREGON GREEN SCHOOL

Athey Creek Middle, West Linn
Baker Prairie Middle, Canby
Boeckman Creek Primary, Wilsonville*
Bolton Primary, West Linn
Boones Ferry Primary, Wilsonville
Bryant Elementary, Lake Oswego
Candy Lane Elementary, Milwaukie
Colton Middle, Colton
Damascus Middle, Damascus*
Eagle Creek Elementary, Eagle Creek
Firwood Elementary, Sandy
Forest Hills Elementary, Lake Oswego
Gardiner Middle, Oregon City
Happy Valley Elementary, Happy Valley
Happy Valley Middle, Happy Valley
Hoodview Junior Academy, Boring
Jennings Lodge Elementary, Milwaukie
Knight Elementary, Canby
Lake Grove Elementary, Lake Oswego
Lake Oswego High, Lake Oswego
Lakeridge High, Lake Oswego
La Salle College Prep, Milwaukie
Molalla Elementary, Molalla
Mount Pleasant Elementary, Oregon City
North Clackamas Christian, Oregon City
Oregon Trail Elementary, Happy Valley
Redland Elementary, Redland
Rex Putnam High, Milwaukie
River Grove Elementary, Lake Oswego
Rock Creek Middle, Happy Valley
Sandy Grade, Sandy
Springwater Environmental Science, Oregon City*
Waluga Jr. High, Lake Oswego
West Linn High, West Linn
Westridge Elementary, Lake Oswego
Willamette Primary, West Linn
Wilsonville High, Wilsonville
Wood Middle, Wilsonville



Add your school's name to this list!

Contact: lbates@co.clackamas.or.us
Online applications and samples available at:
www.oregongreenschools.org

* It's time to renew your OGS certification.
Please contact Laurel Bates,
lbates@clackamas.us

Recycling Depots in Clackamas County

1= Fee for appliances with refrigerant
2= Call for recycling information
E= Oregon E-Cycles location

	Paper, cardboard, metal	Plastic bottles & tubs	Glass bottles & jars	Nursery pots (no dirt)	Scrap metal	Appliances	Plastic bags & plastic film	Other non-curb-side plastics	Motor oil	Tires - Fee	Computers, TVs
Clackamas County Transfer Station (1.5 miles east of Sandy off Hwy 26) 503-668-8885	●	●	●	●	●	1			●	2	E
City of Estacada Recycling Depot 200 NW Evergreen Way, Estacada 503-630-8286	●	●	●	●							
Far West Fibers www.farwestfibers.com 341 Foothills Rd., Lake Oswego 503-228-5375	●	●	●	●	2	2	●	●	●		E
K.B. Recycling - Clackamas 9602 SE Clackamas Rd., Clackamas 503-659-7004	●	●	●	●	2	1					E
K.B. Recycling - Canby 1600 SE 4th, Canby 503-266-7903	●	●	●	●	2	1			●	2	E
Metro South Transfer Station www.oregonmetro.gov 2001 Washington St., Oregon City 503-234-3000	●	●	●		●	1	●	●	●	2	E
R.S. Davis Recycling, Inc. www.portlandrecycling.com 10105 SE Mather Rd., Clackamas 503-655-5433					●	1					E
Willamette Resources, Inc. 10295 SW Ridder Rd., Wilsonville 503-570-0626	●	●	●	2	●	1	2	2			E



Q: Why is the picture of that old couch in Trash Talk yet again?

A: It's a reminder that bulky waste collection is a service provided by your garbage company.

Even if you aren't a regular customer, you can call the company serving your area to pick up the old couch, tires, refrigerator, recliner, and other large items that aren't in good enough condition to donate.

Temporary containers for cleanup projects are available also. Call your company for a quote and to arrange a pick up.

Yard debris only

No food scraps please

Do not put food scraps in your yard debris cart. Currently, only residents who live inside Portland city limits can put kitchen scraps in their curbside yard debris. If you live in Clackamas County you probably are not inside Portland city limits, even if you have a Portland zip code.

Why not?

There are only a few locations authorized to accept yard debris with food scraps in it, none convenient to Clackamas County. We continue to monitor locations that may be approved for either transfer or composting food scraps and are conveniently located for local garbage companies. Once these sites are identified, the County will consider a residential food scrap composting program.

For questions about the yard debris program, contact Clackamas County at 503-742-4463 or wasteinfo@co.clackamas.or.us.

YES in yard debris carts:

Weeds, grass clippings, leaves, flowers, shrub and tree prunings - under 4" in diameter and 36" in length.

NOT yard debris, dispose of properly:

- Flower pots - rigid plastic 4" across and larger can go in your recycling, no dirt please. Other types and sizes - find them a new home or find a recycling depot.
- Wood, lumber, sod, stumps, logs, concrete, rocks, dirt - see Find a Recycler on page 7.
- Animal waste and cat litter go in the garbage.
- Fruit and vegetable scraps can be composted at home. Other food waste goes in the garbage.



Bad weather may cause postponed service

Even though winter is not here yet, it's good to know what to expect when it does arrive. When there is bad weather, check with your garbage company to see if service is affected in your area. Routes cover a lot of territory and changing conditions anywhere along a route may make it impossible to safely finish that route. Even if your street or road isn't affected by the weather, the location where the trucks are parked may be.



Safety is the first concern whenever there are hazardous road conditions.

When service must be postponed, garbage will be the first priority when collection resumes.

Garbage: Postponed collections will be picked up as road conditions permit. Leave your container in the usual pick up location. If collection must be postponed to next week(s), the cumulative amount of your current service will be picked up. Put additional garbage out in plastic bags.

Recycling: Postponed to next week(s). Will resume as road conditions permit. May be postponed past the following week if available trucks are needed to catch up on garbage pick up. If possible, hold extra recycling until collection is back on a regular schedule. Do not put recycling out in plastic bags.

Yard Debris: Postponed to next week(s) and will resume as road conditions permit. May be postponed past the following week if available trucks are needed to catch up on garbage and recycling. When collection resumes the cumulative amount of your current service will be picked up. If your cart is full, put additional yard debris in paper lawn and leaf bags, or a 32-gallon can labeled yard debris.

Postponed collections are not considered missed pickups because the service is provided in due course. Credits are not available for postponed collections due to inclement weather. For questions, call Clackamas County at 503-742-4463.

YES, Recycle Together:



- 🌍 **PAPER:** Cardboard, junk mail, office paper, scrap paper
Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books (no plastic bags)
Cereal, cracker, shoe-type boxes (no liners)
Shredded paper (place in paper bag)
Milk, juice, soup cartons (rinsed & drained)
- 🌍 **METALS:** Cans (no need to flatten), foil, pie plates, trays
Empty spray cans, other scrap metal (30 lb. max., no longer than 30 in.)
- 🌍 **PLASTICS:** Bottles and tubs, 6 oz. and larger (no lids)
Buckets, no larger than 5 gallons
Rigid nursery pots, 4 inches across and larger (no dirt)

Recycle Glass on the side:



Clean glass bottles and jars go in a **SEPARATE** recycling container.



Motor oil on the side, too. Recycle in a marked, unbreakable container, no larger than two gallons, with a screw top lid. (Residential only.)

CLEAN recyclables only!

If not clean, they go in the garbage.

When in doubt, keep it out!

If you are not sure if it goes in your recycling, keep it out! Putting an item in because it makes you feel better can cause more harm than throwing it into the garbage.

What's the deal? Isn't everything recyclable? Why is there a YES and NO list?

Sorry, not everything is recyclable. To be recyclable, a material must be wanted by a company for use in their manufacturing process. Some materials – many of them plastics – are not in demand by manufacturers, so they are NOT recyclable.

If you have regular garbage service, recycling collection is part of that service. The materials on the **Yes, Recycle** list are included in your recycling collection because there are steady, reliable markets for these materials. In other words, manufacturers want to use these materials to make new products.

Materials on the **Not Recyclable in our Program** list have limited markets, or they cause problems in the recycling sorting process. Some of them may be recyclable at drop-off depots.



But what about the numbers on plastics? Don't they mean that item is recyclable? No, it's not that easy. The numbers are codes required by Oregon law to identify the resin. If manufacturers do not want a type of plastic resin to make a new product, then the item isn't recyclable. Only plastics with steady, reliable markets are included on our **Yes, Recycle** list.

What about plastic bags? Why are they a problem for recycling collection? Rick Winterhalter, Sr. Sustainability Analyst with Clackamas County says it best, "They cause problems all through the recycling process."

Recycling facilities estimate that 20-30 percent of labor costs are spent dealing with plastic bags. Workers have to stop the machinery many times a day and pull thousands of bags out by hand. Please reuse them or take them to a recycling depot.

For questions or a smaller version of the YES and NOs: Contact Clackamas County Office of Sustainability at 503-742-4463 or www.clackamas.us/transportation/recycling/



Find a Recycler - to see if there is a recycler for materials not included in our program:
Metro Recycling Hotline, 503-234-3000
www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler

NO, Not Recyclable in our Program:



If a plastic item is not on the Recycle Together list, do not include it in your recycling.

Do not include the following plastics:

- ⊗ Plastic bags and film
- ⊗ Foam packaging, peanuts, trays, take-out containers
- ⊗ Any plastic bottle or tub smaller than 6 oz.
- ⊗ Clear "clamshells," bakery containers
- ⊗ Cups, lids, trays, plates, silverware
- ⊗ Blister-pack (*tough, clear, product-shaped packaging*)
- ⊗ Toys, large plastic items
- ⊗ Biodegradable plastics
- ⊗ Plastics with food on them
- ⊗ Hazardous material and motor oil bottles
- ⊗ Any plastic not on the **RECYCLE TOGETHER** list

Do not include paper:

- ⊗ With food on it (*pizza boxes, etc.*)
- ⊗ With a wax, plastic or foil-coating
- ⊗ With "wet strength" in it (*frozen food boxes, paper cups, paper plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues, pet food bags*)

"Wet strength" is an additive that keeps a paper product together when it gets wet; this means it doesn't break down in the papermaking process.

Do not include any glass item that isn't a bottle or jar:

- ⊗ Plates, glassware, cookware, ceramics, vases, mirrors, picture frame & window glass, light bulbs

Not recyclable with glass bottles due to different ingredients and melting points. Fluorescent bulbs and tubes contain mercury. See page 8 for safe disposal information.

Reduce household toxic trash - try safer alternatives

Think twice – or maybe three times – before purchasing cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, solvents and the like. Just because these products appear on store shelves doesn't mean they are safe – or even the least expensive way to tackle your problem.

Not only are these products often “overkill” for a household problem, they can contribute to air pollution, according to the EPA. Also, if these toxic substances get into storm drains they challenge our system's ability to keep drinking water clean, and to protect fish and wildlife.

County Sustainability Analyst Sherri Dow gets dozens of calls a year about how to dispose of old paint and household chemicals. “We do have the Metro Hazardous Waste Facility in Oregon City – but it would be a lot better if people purchased fewer hazardous products in the first place,” she said.

What can you do?

“The first thing to do is to look for alternatives,” said Dow. “Before you buy the product – and then end up wanting to dispose of the rest of it – think about what you really need.”

Fortunately, alternatives are readily available. It's easy to make safe and effective cleaners with low-cost ingredients such as vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice, hydrogen peroxide, and vegetable-based soaps and detergents. Less toxic alternatives are available for yards and gardens, too.

Where to find alternatives

For information on healthier homes and green cleaners, get the **FREE** publications below or visit www.oregonmetro.gov/greencleaners.

“**Green Cleaners - simple cleaning recipes for a safer home**” - a recipe book for cleaners made from common household products.

Visit: http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/green_cleaners.pdf

“**Hazardous Home Handbook**” - an alphabetical reference guide of common hazardous products and less toxic alternatives.

Visit: http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/hazardless_home_handbook_2006.pdf

Yard and garden alternatives from Metro:

Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/gardening

Has a wealth of information on natural

gardening – how to garden without using toxics. Includes seasonal garden tips, videos, shopping guides, demonstration garden locations, upcoming workshops and free publications.

For a copy of these free local publications, www.clackamas.us/transportation/recycling/brochures.htm, Clackamas County at 503-557-6363 or Metro Recycling Hotline at 503-234-3000.



Hopefully you don't have a place at home that looks like this, but if you do, dispose of these items safely at Metro.

Safely dispose of toxic trash

Metro South Transfer Station, 2001 Washington St, Oregon City accepts hazardous products Mon. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. There is now a \$5 fee for residential amounts up to 35 gallons. Look to the right when you go in the main gate for signs directing you to the hazardous waste drop-off.

Typical hazardous materials accepted:

Paint, batteries, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, stains, thinners, solvents, cleaners, automotive fluids, spa and pool chemicals, hobby and art chemicals, propane tanks, unwanted medication, sharps (lancets, syringes, needles) and mercury-containing products such as fluorescent light bulbs and tubes and old thermometers.

\$5 fee reinstated

Metro recently reinstated a \$5 fee per average load to help pay for the high cost of running the program. It actually costs Metro about \$54 to properly dispose of an average load.

Contact Metro with questions or if you have non-residential hazardous materials, 503-234-3000 or www.oregonmetro.gov/hhw.

Oregon PaintCare program

No fee is charged for paint waste covered under the Oregon PaintCare program, a stewardship program for paint recycling, www.paintcare.org.

Legislature expands bottle bill and Oregon E-Cycles

In the 2011 session, Oregon legislators gave their approval to the Department of Environmental Quality-related bills.

Modernized Oregon bottle bill

In 2009 water bottles were included in the Bottle Bill and can be returned for a nickel refund.

The 2011 bill eventually expands the types of containers eligible for a refund to include juices, teas, coffees and sports drinks. These added beverages will become refund-eligible by Jan. 1, 2018.

In addition, the bill encourages development of additional redemption centers to provide a convenient place to return containers besides grocery stores. The bill includes a pilot project for a larger redemption center than the two existing BottleDrop locations in Oregon City and Wood Village. If the pilot is successful, more redemption centers will be built.

More details on the new law: www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/bottlebill/index.htm

BottleDrop centers: www.bottledropcenters.com, 1-800-460-6128

E-waste bill

SB 82 expands the three-year-old Oregon E-Cycles program by adding computer peripherals and printers by Jan. 1, 2015. Find out where to recycle the TVs, computers, monitors, and laptops covered under the current law: www.oregoncycles.org or 1-888-5ECYCLE.



Truck Idling

HB 2081 restricts commercial vehicle idling to a maximum of five minutes in a 60-minute period, exempting emergency vehicles, and loading and unloading. The Oregon Trucking Association and the Oregon Environmental Council have agreed to work together on legislation to reduce idling near schools and to discuss ways to reduce idling as a part of a statewide strategy for greenhouse gas reductions.

Invasive species bill

SB 81 directs DEQ to collect a fee from vessels regulated under new state water ballast statutes, effective Jan. 1, 2012. The money will help protect Oregon waterways from invasive species.

Going Beyond Green and **Trash Talk** are created by the Clackamas County Recycling Partnership, a cooperative of Clackamas County, the cities of Barlow, Canby, Damascus, Estacada, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Molalla, Oregon City, Sandy, West Linn and Wilsonville, and local garbage and recycling companies.

Printed with soy-based inks
on 25% post consumer recycled content paper
made at Inland Empire Paper Company, Spokane, WA

Clackamas County Office of Sustainability
503-557-6363, Sustainability@clackamas.us
www.clackamas.us/sustainability