

Take-out containers are a problem in recycling

Mixed recycling collection has brought about many changes in the way we handle, process, and market recyclables collected at home and work. The positive changes include greater efficiencies and reduced worker injuries on collection routes, higher participation and larger volumes of recyclables collected.

Making products from recycled materials typically requires less energy than making products from raw material. Less energy used means less burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

The process of turning recycled materials into new products creates a chain of economic activity that results in business expansion and jobs locally and nationally. Recycling as an industry includes businesses that haul, process and broker recycled material. Purchasing recycled-content products also supports those companies that manufacture and distribute products made with recycled content.

The unintended consequences of mixed recycling collection include higher contamination rates. Contamination affects the recycling industry in many different ways. "When freezer boxes and coffee cups make it to a paper mill, they do not break down in the pulping process which results in added processing and disposal costs," said Shannon Martin, Clackamas County Sustainability Analyst.

Plastic bags and take-out containers cause problems and increase costs for recycling processing centers and for manufacturers who use these materials as feedstocks for new products.

"Plastic bags, take-out containers, freezer boxes and coffee cups are a challenge when educating the public," said Martin. "Public confusion about the numbers with the chasing arrows and the sheer desire to recycle everything increases contamination which reduces the quality of recyclables."

 **NOT recyclable in our program:**



Oregon E-Cycles recycling program shows big gains in 2010

In the second year of the Oregon E-Cycles program residents and businesses brought in 24 million pounds of unwanted computers, laptops, monitors and televisions to be recycled. This was a 27 percent increase from 2009.

"This is exactly what we wanted to see. These figures show the program is working and is effective in handling the vast amount of electronic waste that we all generate and need to dispose of properly," said Kathy Kiwala, E-Cycles Specialist with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Disposal ban

"A variety of factors contributed to Oregon's big gains," Kiwala said. "A ban on disposing computers, TVs and monitors – which went into effect Jan. 1, 2010 – helped spur the public to find recycling sites where they could safely and conveniently dispose of these goods. In addition, consumers' continued interest in buying flat-screen televisions likely led to the need to discard more outdated television models, adding to the potential e-waste supply."

The abundance of approved electronics collection sites undoubtedly added to the success of the program as well. There are currently 250 locations where the public can take up to seven or fewer computers, monitors or televisions at a time.

Get the lead out

Electronics contain hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury. These items also contain valuable materials such as copper, gold and aluminum that can be used in making new products. "The energy saved from mining e-waste as opposed to extracting resources out of the ground is huge," said Kiwala.

Recycling e-waste saves energy and cuts emissions

DEQ has estimated that the amount of electronic waste recycled through the first two years of the Oregon E-Cycles program computes to:

- Statewide energy savings equivalent to the energy content of 7.5 million gallons of gasoline.
- Greenhouse gas reductions of approximately 50,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents – or the tailpipe emissions of 10,000 passenger cars.



oregon
E-CYCLES
oregonecycles.org



FREE RECYCLING for up to seven TVs, computers and monitors at a time. To find a nearby recycling site: visit www.oregonecycles.org or call 1-888-5ECYCLE.



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Prescription Drug
Take-Back
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Recycle At Work

Albertsons stores have plenty to BRAG about

A bit of serendipity brought together a national food store giant and Clackamas County's Recycle at Work team -- resulting in a successful collaboration. This spring, the seven Clackamas County Albertsons stores will receive Business Recycling Awards Group (BRAG) honors (see below) for streamlining their store operations.



Milwaukie manager Jay Feeney and green team members

It all started when Lake Grove Manager Greg Bowen, called his long time Recycle at Work contact Susan Terry to get some free recycling boxes delivered to his store. Terry, a county sustainability analyst, showed up and stayed around to chat. "You seem to be doing some good things around here; I wonder if we could replicate these efforts at all of the Albertsons stores," she said.

Bowen connected Terry with Albertsons' Sustainability Manager Shaun Kochivar in Boise, Idaho, to discuss how Recycle at Work could help every store in the county become more sustainable. "It was a good fit since Albertsons was already involved in sustainability," said Terry. "We supplied the local know-how to help them get the most out of their efforts. Who knew it was such a green place to shop?"

Recycle at Work staff set up site visits at each store and provided free recycling containers, signage, education and recognition for becoming BRAG certified. Now that all the stores in Clackamas County are set up, Albertsons is expanding their efforts to Portland, Washington County and Gresham. "We hope Albertsons can lead the way and be a model for businesses with multiple stores in the region," said Terry.



Clackamas County - Recycle at Work
503-557-6363

www.clackamas.us/transportation/recycling

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 take the next step.



A few of Albertsons accomplishments

Recycling

- Paper, metal, glass and plastics
- Corrugated cardboard
- Wooden pallets
- Cooking oil
- Meat and bone scraps
- Plastic bag recycling centers are provided for customers

Waste Reduction and Sustainable Packaging

- Works with vendors and packaging suppliers to support the development and use of recyclable packaging
- Reducing the use of wax-coated containers
- Other future sustainable packaging improvements are being developed

Food Donation

- Food goes to local charities

Energy Conservation

- Installed high-efficiency lighting systems
- Computer control hardware and software is used to maximize efficiency of refrigeration, air conditioning, and electrical systems
- Motion sensors were installed to allow vending machines and food "wrapper" heaters to operate only when necessary

Creativity and sustainability go hand-in-hand

Tucked away in a small industrial park off McLoughlin Blvd. is Iridio Portland, a commercial photography studio. Despite the plain appearance of the building, touring the photo sets inside is like being transported into a different world. The company provides a fully integrated suite of creative services for marketing, publishing and printing. Iridio is just as committed to sustainability as it is to the art of producing outstanding imagery.

Ari Grey has championed the company's waste reduction efforts, "In an industry fraught with waste we look to acquire less, purchase recycled-content products, fix the broken, repurpose the used and donate food and products whenever we can." Once a year he schedules a lunch-time recycling presentation for employees. The education is paying off. During a recent waste audit, only a miniscule amount of recycling was found in the trash.

In addition to its recycling efforts, Iridio purchases recycled printer paper and janitorial supplies. The company also tries to reduce waste wherever possible. One goal for this year is to perform a cost analysis of batteries purchased. Construction supplies for sets, including wood and paint, are reused or donated whenever possible. Since lighting is a huge expense for the company, Iridio Portland worked with Energy Trust of Oregon to lower usage and upgrade the heating and cooling system.

Iridio is just as committed to the social side of sustainability. Employees have organized donation programs for Alzheimer's research, the Race for the Cure and the Food Bank of Oregon. Each year they donate a full semi-truck of items to the Boys and Girls Club and used photo equipment is given to local schools for art programs. To support employees, Iridio has a vacation donation policy to help co-workers in need.



Photographer John Bennet and Set Designer Ari Grey get ready for a photo shoot.

Recycle At Work

Take a look at your janitorial contract

Janitorial companies can be a valuable partner when it comes to greening your business. Frequently the contracts already in place get overlooked as an effective tool to make a workplace more sustainable. Your company may be able to boost your recycling rate and create a healthier, more productive work place.

Is recycling mentioned in your janitorial contract? How is recycling collected? These are questions to consider when it comes to maximizing your waste reduction program. To ensure you divert the most material possible, make sure your recycling is identifiable. Consider having your tenants and employees empty their own garbage and recycling receptacles into centralized containers so janitorial staff is only responsible for emptying the larger bins. By doing this, companies and local governments have been able to negotiate other sustainable services, such as dishwashing, at no additional cost.

To minimize energy costs, look for janitorial companies that offer “daylight” cleaning where services are provided during business hours rather than at night. Does the company you use offer Green Seal certified cleaners? Studies have shown building owners and janitorial companies that improve indoor air quality by using less toxic chemicals have a significant impact on employee health, productivity and retention.



Don't let your efforts go to waste!

If the recycling in your building is consolidated and carried out in plastic bags, make sure they are clear, see-through plastic bags. At the material recovery facilities, where our recycling is sorted, employees are told not to break open bags they cannot see through, due to safety concerns.

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@co.clackamas.or.us
www.recycleatwork.org



Green Cleaning 101

What is Green Cleaning?

Green cleaning is a new approach to janitorial services. It offers better environmental performance and improved worker health and safety, while retaining the same sanitation quality as traditional, more chemical-intensive methods. When green cleaning practices are correctly employed, no “cleaning power” is sacrificed.

Why is it preferable?

Many cleaning products contain harmful chemicals that can have serious adverse effects on janitorial staff, building occupants, and the environment.

Janitorial products can cause harm to people and the environment if poured down drains, circulated through building ventilation systems, or disposed of outdoors. Damage can also occur during the development, manufacture, and transport of these products. Possible consequences include:

- Air pollution
- Bioaccumulation of toxic substances in plants and animals
- Endocrine disruption in people and animals, which affects reproductive ability
- Ozone depletion
- Water pollution



How can I get information on less toxic cleaning products?

Green Seal is a non-profit organization that offers third party certification for products and services that have less harmful impacts on human health and the environment.

Certification ensures that a product meets rigorous, science-based standards that are evaluated through in-depth reporting. Household and commercial cleaning supplies, paints, food packaging and paper products are just some of products certified by Green Seal. For more information, visit www.greenseal.org.



Kids Page

Oregon's Energy Sources:

Where does the energy Oregon uses come from?

Hydroelectric Power:



42.0%

Coal-fired:



33.7%

Natural Gas:



14.0%

Solar:



1.0%

Wind:



3.2%

Geothermal:



.1%

Waste to Energy:



.3%

Cogeneration:



3.0%

Biomass:



.5%

Nuclear:

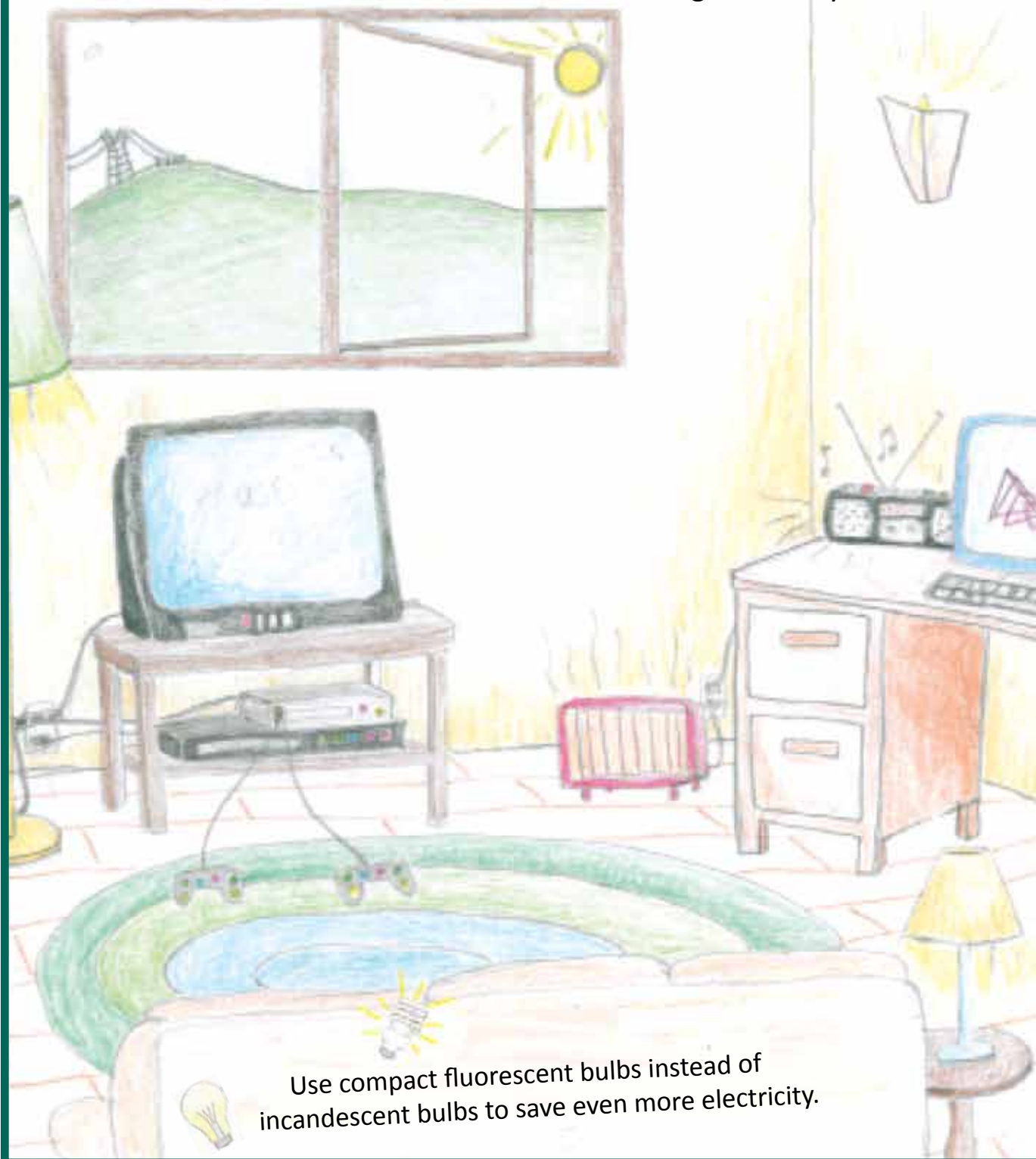


2.2%

ENERGY

When you conserve energy you save our limited stores of coal, natural gas and oil. This helps keep our air clean by reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

Does this look like your house when no one is home? Circle the items that are wasting electricity.



Use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs to save even more electricity.

Source: 2009 OR PUC Report on Oregon energy usage. Does not reflect energy produced in Oregon but used elsewhere.

Which sources of the energy used in Oregon are renewable? Hint...there are five listed.

Need Containers or Assistance?

Recycling and waste prevention are great ways to save energy. Recycling in Oregon in 2009 saved the equivalent of 216 million gallons of gasoline. Schools can contact us for **FREE** clearly-marked recycling containers, signage, education, and assistance. **503-557-6363**, eileens@co.clackamas.or.us After Aug. 1, email: wasteinfo@co.clackamas.or.us

For ClearStream bottle/can and event recycling contact: lizabethbra@co.clackamas.or.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 \$500.

For more information on grant eligibility, contact: eileens@co.clackamas.or.us or go to www.clackamas.or.us/transportation/recycling/ for a grant application.



Applications are due by May 12, 2011.

School News

Lake Oswego First Oregon Green School District

With every Lake Oswego school certified as an Oregon Green School, the district is the first in the state to earn the new OGS District award. Congratulations, LOSD!

Hallinan goes Premier

It takes passion to start a Green School – but once it gets going, the excitement is contagious. Students, teachers, parents, custodians, cooks and administrators at Hallinan Elementary have stepped up efforts on many green projects since the school became an Oregon Green School (OGS) in 2009. This year, Hallinan “went for the gold” completing the requirements to become a Premier level OGS.



Principal Mauritz, parents and avid student gardeners pause during winterizing their garden plots.

“Of all the projects I’ve had, this one has received the most attention and people have related to it the most,” said Principal Steve Mauritz, who also is the elementary science coordinator. “I motivate and ‘grease the skids,’ other people take over, and it runs.”

Hallinan students soon will be taking their multi-media show on the road to the OGS Summit, the school board and a Lake Oswego City Council meeting.

The following efforts are part of what makes Hallinan Premier-worthy:

- Cafeteria “No Thank You” bin is available next to the lunchtime garbage so that unopened, non-perishable food can be saved and donated to the food bank.
- Principal, teachers, building engineer, and two parents meet monthly as the Green Team to develop and lead Green Team initiatives.
- “Energy Kiosk” monitors real-time energy use. 5/6 graders share results.
- Veggies grown in Hallinan garden raised beds, two per classroom, become part of the school lunch program.
- Students teach others about composting, rain barrels and gardening projects.
- The school year starts with Mauritz’ Power Point presentation to update staff, making sure that resource efficiency and correct recycling become a habit.
- Recycling, composting and waste reduction reduced Hallinan’s garbage by 47%.



Hallinan students test and record findings from local ground and surface water samplings.

Oregon City’s King Elementary

Students “Merit” through gardening and composting

Despite the cold, wet spring, King Elementary students are busy planting beans, onions, asparagus, potatoes, carrots, herbs, and more in raised beds. The extensive garden, which includes an orchard, grapes, berries, eight rain barrels and drip irrigation, is a community effort that’s paying off big for the K- 6 students. “I am amazed how quickly it can happen,” said Principal Kyle Laier. “The garden was just grass in 2009.”

Spearheaded by a couple of science teacher parents, Rod and Angie Shroufe, and teacher Jamie Semrad, King’s new garden-as-classroom is limitless. Teachers are integrating the garden into state science standards and using it to teach many important skills, including service to others.

Produce is donated to local families and a food bank program. “Families help us keep it going during the summer,” said Semrad. “They never fail.”

Inside the building, even kindergartners are becoming experts on waste prevention, recycling and composting. The school’s Green Team meets Fridays after school to solve problems and investigate possibilities.

From the lunchroom to the teachers’ room, everybody participates. The school custodian, David Lai, fully supports recycling and composting. “The garbage dumpsters are never overflowing around here,” he noted.

King Elementary’s generous policy of providing tours and assistance to other schools and its curriculum integration activities helped it advance from an “Entry Level” to “Merit Level” Oregon Green School.



King Green Teamers restore creek banks by planting native species.

Oregon Green School Stars



Congratulations to our **Oregon Green Schools!**
Clackamas County OGS list as of April 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
Kelso Elementary, Boring
King Elementary, Oregon City
Oak Creek Elementary, Lake Oswego
Uplands Elementary, Lake Oswego

ENTRY LEVEL OREGON GREEN SCHOOL

Ackerman Middle, Canby
Alder Creek Middle, Milwaukie
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
CedarOak Park Primary, West Linn
Colton Middle, Colton
Damascus Middle, Damascus
Eagle Creek Elementary, Eagle Creek
Firwood Elementary, Sandy
Forest Hills Elementary, Lake Oswego
Gardiner Middle, Oregon City
Gladstone High School, Gladstone
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
Lake Oswego Jr. 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
Palisades Elementary, Lake Oswego
Redland Elementary, Redland
Rex Putnam High, Milwaukie
River Grove Elementary, Lake Oswego
Rock Creek Middle, Happy Valley
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: eileens@co.clackamas.or.us
Online applications and samples available at:
www.oregongreenschools.org

Alternatives are available - use less toxic products in your house and yard

Think twice – or maybe three times—before purchasing pesticides, herbicides, solvents, household cleaners, and the like. Just because these products appear on store shelves everywhere 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 Environmental Protection Agency. 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 is possible 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

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.

“**Natural Gardening**” - the ever-popular trouble-shooting guide for common garden pests and weeds. Visit http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files//09124w_natural_gardening_full_book.pdf



“**Grow Smart, Grow Safe**” - a consumer guide that ranks 600 pesticides, fertilizers and soil amendments, so you can select the least hazardous products. Visit http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/gsgs_11-5_web.pdf

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

Time for some spring cleaning?

Where to dispose of hazardous products



Hopefully you don't have a place at home that looks like this. But, if you do have some of these materials you want to get rid of, there is a place to safely dispose of them.

The Metro South Transfer Station at 2001 Washington Street in Oregon City accepts hazardous products Monday - Saturday, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. At this time there is no charge for residential amounts up to 35 gallons. Look to the right as you go in the main gate for signs directing you to the hazardous waste drop-off location.

Some of the materials accepted are 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/tubes and old thermometers.

Contact Metro at 503-234-3000 for questions about possible hazardous materials or if you have non-residential hazardous materials. Also visit www.oregonmetro.gov/hhw.

More spring cleaning tips

1. Donate usable furniture and clean, wearable items to charities.
2. Borrow or rent items you don't use very often. Bonus: You don't have to store them.
3. Take your car to the carwash rather than wash it at home. Carwashes recycle their water. You won't be flushing the oil and debris from your driveway into the storm drain --and ultimately into the nearest stream.

4. Call your garbage company to help you get rid of big things, such as old carpet, appliances, tires, and furniture. Call for a quote and to arrange a pick up time.



Got Drugs?



Prescription Drug Take-Back

April 30, 2011 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its local partners will accept expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. People can turn in the drugs anonymously, no questions asked.

There will be drug take-back sites in Canby, Happy Valley, Milwaukie, Oregon City, West Linn and Wilsonville.


For more information and to find take-back sites near you, visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/ or call 503-794-8064.

Recycling the right stuff




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, foil, pie plates, trays (unflattened)
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, please.

If not clean, they go in the garbage.

For a copy of the Recycling YES & NOs:

Visit www.clackamas.us/transportation/recycling/ or call Clackamas County at 503-742-4463.

NOT recyclable in our program:



Please keep these papers out of your recycling:

- ⊗ Paper with food on it (pizza boxes, etc.)
 - ⊗ Paper with a wax, plastic or foil coating or with "wet strength" in it, such as frozen food boxes, paper cups, paper plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues, pet food bags
- Wet strength is an additive that keeps a paper product intact when it gets wet; which 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
- These kinds of glass are not made from the same "recipe" as glass bottles and they don't mix together when melted. See Trash Talk page 6 for safe disposal of fluorescent light bulbs and tubes which contain mercury.

When in doubt, keep it out.

If you are not sure it goes in your recycling, please keep it out until you find out for sure. Putting something in because it makes you feel better causes more problems at recycling sorting centers and mills than just throwing it into the garbage.

Please keep these plastics out of your recycling:

- ⊗ Plastic bags and plastic film
- ⊗ Foam (polystyrene) packaging, peanuts, trays, take-out containers
- ⊗ Any plastic bottle or tub smaller than 6 oz.
- ⊗ Clear "clamshells," bakery containers
- ⊗ Lids, trays, cups, 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

To find a recycler for the plastics and other materials not included in our recycling program:
Metro Recycling Hotline, 503-234-3000
www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler

More about plastics



What to do with expanded polystyrene?

Foam peanuts - Reuse what you can or offer them to others. Bag the rest and take them to a packaging or mailing service. Call first to make sure your local store needs them. If you do put them in the garbage, bag them securely so they don't blow around.

Foam blocks - Unfortunately, the market for expanded polystyrene is variable. Recyclers come and go. Call the Metro Recycling Hotline at 503-234-3000 to find out where it is recyclable. **Please, do not put it in your recycling!**

Avoid it if you can. Instead, try a more Earth-friendly packing material. Using alternative packaging means there will be less to worry about when the package reaches its destination. Email manufacturers about replacing foam packing with a reusable or recyclable material.

Why are so many plastics on the Not Recyclable list?

The many types of plastic resins have different uses and ingredients, and don't combine together when melted. Manufacturers only want some of the many resins to make new products. If a type of plastic isn't needed to make a new product, it's not recyclable.



NOT by the numbers - The numbers you see on plastics are codes, required by Oregon law, to identify the resin used to make that item. It does not mean that the plastic is recyclable.

"Plastic bags have never been allowed in curbside recycling," said Rick Winterhalter, Sr. Sustainability Analyst with Clackamas County. "They cause problems all through the recycling process." Recycling facilities in the Metro area 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 at home or take them to a recycling depot listed on page 8.



It's easy to compost at home



Green and brown material in at the top

Keep it really local. Instead of tossing out your yard trimmings and fruit and vegetable scraps, put the nutrients to use in your own yard and garden. Compost improves soil quality, helps control weeds and saves water.

It is easy to make your own compost. Just remember green, brown, air, and water. Mix one to two parts carbon-rich **browns** such as leaves, twigs, wood chips, old potting soil, with one part nitrogen-rich **greens** such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, filters, tea bags, eggshells, and even grass clippings if you don't have a mulching mower. To add **air**, use enough brown material (it's fluffier) and mix it occasionally. Finally, working compost should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge. Add **water** if it's too dry. In a few months you will have soil-like compost to use in your yard.



Finished compost out at the bottom

Composting can be done in a pile, but if you prefer a bin: See **Going Beyond Green** page 8 for the June 4 Rain Barrel and Compost Bin sale. If you want a bin right away, Metro has them for \$39 year-round at the MetroPaint Store at 4825 N Basin, Portland.

Metro composting information:
www.oregonmetro.gov/compost or call 503-234-3000.



Goodbye Blue Heron Paper

The Oregon City mill closed in March 2011 so this is the last issue that will be printed on this very local Blue Heron paper.

Our printer is exploring other papers but so far hasn't been able to locate one that has the same 70 percent post-consumer recycled-content paper bleached with peroxide, not chlorine.

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 the local franchised garbage and recycling companies.

This publication is printed with soy-based inks.

Clackamas County
Office of Sustainability
503-557-6363
email: sustainability@co.clackamas.or.us
www.clackamas.us/sustainability

Yard debris reminders

If you live in an urban area of the county you likely have curbside yard debris collection.



OK in curbside yard debris carts: Weeds, grass clippings, leaves, flowers, shrub and tree prunings - under 4" in diameter and 36" in length.

These materials are not yard debris and should be disposed of properly:

- Flower pots - rigid plastic 4" across and larger can go in your recycling, no dirt please. Other kinds - find them a new home or find a recycling depot.
- Wood, lumber, sod, stumps, logs, concrete, rocks, dirt - may be accepted at a yard debris recycle center or by another recycler.
- Animal waste and cat litter go in the garbage.

Yard debris recyclers

May accept untreated wood and other materials, and sell compost, bark and soil.

Dan Davis Recycling Center, 503-285-8777
4001 Willamette Falls Dr., West Linn
www.recologyoregonmaterialrecovery.com/danDavisRecyclingCenter.htm

McFarlane's Bark, 503-659-4240
13345 SE Johnson Rd., Milwaukie
www.mcfarlanesbark.com

Metro South Transfer Station, 503-234-3000
2001 Washington St., Oregon City
www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler

S & H Landscaping Supplies, 503-638-1011
20200 SW Stafford Rd., Tualatin
www.shbark.com/

Metro Recycling Hotline: 503-234-3000
www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler

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-curbside 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				E