



# Tillamook County Solid Waste

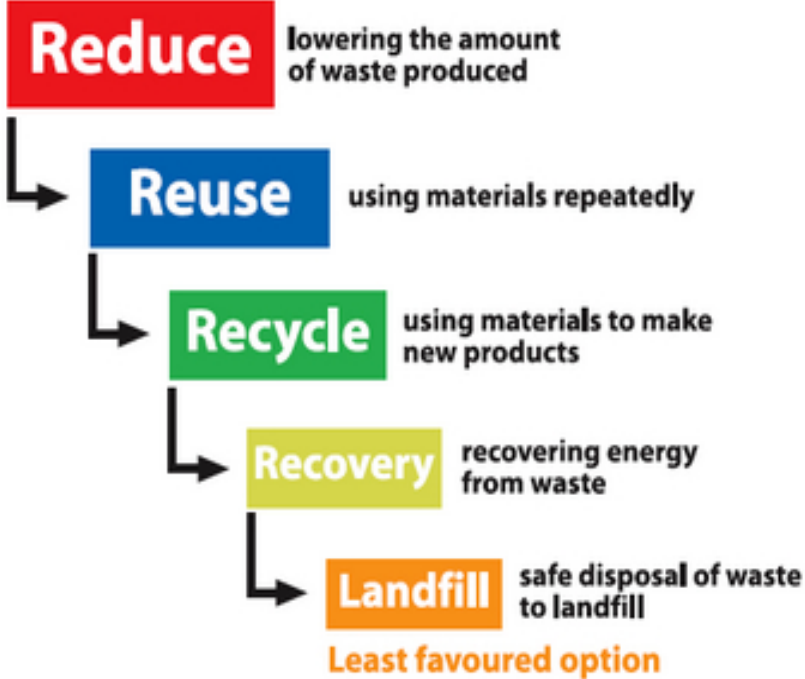
For more information about recycling or hazardous waste disposal:

Call (503) 815-3975 or visit our website at [www.co.tillamook.or.us/solid-waste](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/solid-waste)

503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook, OR 97141

## Why bother recycling?

Most favoured option



A lot has changed in the recycling world during the past few years, and it is important that people know exactly what happens with the materials they studiously **rinse, clean, separate** and **collect**, and then **drop off** at one of Tillamook County's recycling locations.

During the past few decades, more and more communities shifted their collection systems to so-called commingled collection. In order to reduce the increasing costs of collection, the commingled system allows people to mix paper, plastics and metals together in one cart, which are later separated by machines and people in so-called Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). Unfortunately, the machines have not been able to keep up with the ever-changing improvements in packaging materials, and levels

of contamination rose. For many MRFs, the easy solution was to export almost-sorted materials to other countries, where poorly paid workers tried to sort materials well enough to be used for production. Several years ago China, the largest importer of such materials in the world, announced that contaminated loads would no longer be accepted. Following a few trial periods, China implemented a near-total ban on most recyclables in 2018, called the Blue Sky program. Since then, **recycling markets throughout the world have been in turmoil.**

Everyone has been affected by these changes – including those places where people have never hoped to unmix their commingled recycling. When Chinese and other Asian markets closed, the laws of supply-and-demand caused prices offered for recyclable materials

to plummet. Materials that used to be revenue drivers, like cardboard and metal, may only bring in enough revenues to cover the transportation costs, and lower-value materials, like glass, may not even cover the cost of transportation.

The greatest changes have been noticeable where commingled recycling is practiced. Many cities reduced the types of materials accepted in their recycling mix, others increased trash rates by as much as 15% per year, and a few have done both. Some communities suspended commingled collection altogether. By contrast, in Tillamook County **we haven't increased rates in several years.**

Even in times of economic turmoil, proper recycling still makes sense. You can **reduce your garbage bill** by reducing the amount of trash you generate – maybe

even switching from weekly to monthly collection. We continue to provide a full line of source-segregated recycling opportunities at all Tillamook County transfer stations, **free-of-charge.**

Preliminary numbers show that our volumes of recyclable materials collected and sent to licensed recycling facilities has **grown by over 30%** since 2019 – and we hope to continue with that trend.

If you have questions about

what happens to the recyclable materials you drop off at a Tillamook County recycling location, **feel free to ask.** We strive for transparency, and will provide you with answers. This way you can rest assured that your recycling is truly being recycled, and we're doing things properly.

David McCall  
Solid Waste Program Manager  
Tillamook County



### Paint Recycling Made Easy

#### Recycle Your Paint

There are over 180 PaintCare sites in Oregon where households and businesses can recycle or dispose of unwanted paint, stain, and varnish all year round, including these sites in Tillamook County:

**True Value**  
34995 River Ave  
(503) 965-6295

**Manzanita Transfer Station**  
34995 Necarney City Rd  
(503) 368-7764

**Tillamook County HHW**  
1315 Ekloff Rd  
(503) 815-3975  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

on this date:  
**Saturday, March 5, 2022**  
<https://www.co.tillamook.or.us/solid-waste>

All PaintCare sites accept up to 5 gallons per visit (some take more). Please call ahead to confirm business hours and ask if they can accept the type and amount of paint you would like to recycle. PaintCare sites do not accept aerosols (spray paint), leaking, unlabeled, or empty containers.



LEARN MORE: VISIT [PAINTCARE.ORG](http://PAINTCARE.ORG) OR CALL (855) PAINT09

### COMPOST FACTS

THE UNITED STATES PRODUCES AROUND **34 MILLION TONS** OF FOOD WASTE PER YEAR



NEARLY **HALF** OF FOOD IN AMERICA GOES TO WASTE

ONLY ABOUT 5% OF FOOD WASTE IS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

