



Waste Wise

Reduce ■ Reuse ■ Recycle

A Public Service Of Tillamook County Solid Waste • November 2017

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1ST

None of our recycling facilities will accept plastic clamshells, #4 lids, #5 tubs, or plastic bags.
(There are collection containers in place at both Fred Meyer's and Safeway for store bags.)

STYROFOAM (CLEAN, BULKY, WHITE) COLLECTION WILL CONTINUE AT:

- CARTM in Manzanita 1st weekend of the month
- Household Hazardous Waste collection events in Tillamook December 2nd
- Pacific City Transfer Station Normal Operating Hours

THE NATIONAL SWORD SLICES INTO TILLAMOOK COUNTY'S RECYCLING PRACTICES

Recycling is not new, but the transition of recycling markets is somewhat unique. Traditionally, recyclable materials were used to offset the need for additional raw materials during upsurges in manufacturing, or when raw materials were in high demand. Over time, manufacturers realized that displacing raw materials with recyclable materials leads to not only a reduced need for raw materials, but also reduced needs for energy and water. Recycling was not only environmentally preferential, but economically appealing.

China has fueled its blossoming manufacturing economy for decades using secondary raw materials from North America and Europe. As American industries increasingly outsourced manufacturing to developing countries, the need for materials decreased domestically while it increased abroad. More and more materials were exported from the United States to China, where they were converted into consumer goods and transported back to the U.S. for sale. China's hunger for additional materials was fed by increased recycling efforts. The spread of commingled recycling throughout the U.S. was possible because China's thirst for materials outweighed issues of contamination.

Changes

As China's breakneck economic growth began to slow, so did manufacturing and the need for materials. The government embarked on a long term strategy to improve environmental conditions, including reducing contamination in loads of recyclable materials. Just as officials went to great lengths to ensure the air was clean for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, they did not want their country known as the world's garbage dump either. Acceptable levels of contamination have been progressively reduced during the past decade, down to 1.5% this year, and 0.3% set for 2018. This summer China announced that no further loads of mixed paper or plastics would be accepted beginning January 1, 2018.

The practice of mixing paper, plastics and metals in a single commingled recycling cart means that someone has to separate them back out before they can be reused. Technology has enabled machinery to do the lion's share of the work, with human hands used for quality control. Such "unmixing plants" are called Materials Recovery Facilities, or MRFs. In the Portland area alone there are half a dozen MRFs. The roll out of more and more commingled recycling programs led to a push for machinery to handle more and more materials, with some of the largest MRFs processing 30 tons an hour, still working two shifts a day to handle the mountains of materials collected through convenient commingled recycling programs.

The Current Conundrum

Several factors have led to the current situation, in which news programs are filled with stories of MRFs and their struggle to deal with materials. One problem is called "light weighting," which refers to improvements in manufacturing that allow for less materials to be used in packaging. Glass and plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, grocery bags, and almost every form of packaging have become thinner and lighter. This means that when collected with a compacting collection truck, materials get flattened, and sorting machinery is often unable to distinguish between a flattened water bottle and a newspaper, for example. One of the most significant problems is glass contamination. When glass gets mixed in with other recyclables, it often breaks. As commingled materials rush through the conveyor belts at a MRF, the glass shards get caught up in other materials, especially in soft newspapers or moist cardboard. Once glass shards are caught in paper, it is almost impossible to remove them. Most paper mills are equipped to filter out small amounts of contaminants, like tape on boxes or baling wire, but few machines can withstand the marring damage caused by glass shards as they scrape across fine screens, designed to separate paper fibers from water.

Recycling programs have been promoted as a means to positively affect the environment, and the convenience of commingled curbside recycling has led to increased quantities of recycling. What most people do not realize is the difficulty involved with trying to "unmix" that commingled recycling into separate, useful materials. Moreover, the additional costs of "unmixing" have collided with opposing economic trends, such as the drastic drop in the cost of plastics due to cheap shale gas, or the decrease in demand for newsprint as we switch to electronic media.

While commingled recycling programs in Oregon do not allow glass in the mix, the problem of glass is so prevalent that most domestic paper mills categorically refuse to accept MRF paper because of the potential for glass contamination.

Forget about the World, what's this mean for Tillamook County?

Fortunately, most of the recycling collected in Tillamook County is not collected in a commingled system, but source separated. The quality inherent in our source separated system's materials means that those materials are viable on domestic markets. What we need to do is continue to recycle well, so that our materials will continue to be valued. We will need to make some changes, and market values will continue to fluctuate, but we will continue to accept most materials.

Effective November 1, 2017, the same acceptance guidelines for plastics will be in place at all recycling facilities in Tillamook County.

PLASTIC RECYCLING CATEGORIES:

PLEASE NOTE: Please separate the caps on all plastic bottles, as we have no recycling opportunities available for caps at this time

Plastic Bottles with Necks
Botellas de plástico con cuello

PETE

#1 PET or PETE Bottles

These are round and have a screw on "neck" smaller than the container. These bottles are clear or translucent and have a "1" on the bottom. The round bottom has a nipple in it.

Plastic Bottles with Necks
Botellas de plástico con cuello

HDPE

Frosty Plastic Only
Sólo plástico esmerilado

Frosty #2 HDPE Bottles or Jugs

These are the most common form of this popular plastic jug is a milk jug. It is frosty, cloudy, soft white color similar to fog. The bottom has a line and a #2.

Plastic Bottles with Necks
Botellas de plástico con cuello

HDPE

Colored #2 HDPE Bottles or Jugs

These containers are not transparent, and come in a variety of shapes and colors. The bottom has a line and a #2.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DILIGENCE IN SORTING YOUR MATERIALS, WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO KEEP RECYCLING MATERIALS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED ELSEWHERE!

MASTER RECYCLERS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS

October 21, 2017 culminated the 8th class of Tillamook County Master Recyclers. Six new students earned the title of Master Recycler, joining the ever-growing team. "It's exciting to see people expressing enthusiastic interest in this program," states Sue Owens, Tillamook County Education and Outreach Coordinator, "even though we are only growing a few at a time, per capita, we are doing very well compared with other counties that have large, robust programs. County residents now have over twenty people they can go to with recycling questions and concerns." Owens elaborates that Master Recyclers have come from all areas of the County, "I'm excited that this was the first class to have an out-of-county participant. Perhaps her drive and enthusiasm will start a movement in Clatsop County." Most recent course completers include: Bonny Gorsuch, Beverly Stein, Elki Powers, Dave and Deb Hirshfeld, and Cathy. "I would encourage you to congratulate these people on their achievement and visit with them about they have learned during the course," Owens states.

Students of the program learn to minimize the impacts of materials and learn strategies that encourage thoughtful consumption, the reduction of toxins and the recovery of our material resources. Aspects relating to local recycling efforts are also emphasized.

The 20 hour class is taught by David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager and Owens as well as local experts. On hand to share their knowledge and experiences for this class were CARTM Executive Director (and Master Recycler) Karen Reddick Yurka and Master Recycler John Goertzen.

The course is free to Tillamook County residents and in exchange, asks for a 30 hour volunteer commitment to the Solid Waste Department and the message of recycling. The next class is scheduled for February 10, 16 and 17 of 2018. Those interested in participating are encouraged to contact Owens.

For more information about becoming a Tillamook County Master Recycler, call Owen at (503) 842-3419 or email her at sowens@co.tillamook.or.us. You may also visit the county website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste



New Master Recycler Graduates take a break during a field trip: L to R: Beverly Stein, Elki Powers, Dave Hirshfeld, Bonny Gorsuch, seated on floor, Debra Hirshfeld.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTERS:

Offered to you as courtesy of the Tillamook County Master Recyclers and Tillamook County Solid Waste



- North Tillamook County Manzanita Transfer Station (CARTM)**
34995 Necarney Road, Manzanita Open 10am to 4pm, Thursday through Sunday
- Central Tillamook County Tillamook Transfer Station**
1315 Ekloff Road, Tillamook..... Open Daily, 8am to 4pm
- City Sanitary Service**
2303 11th Street, Tillamook..... Open 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday
- South Tillamook County Pacific City Transfer Station**
38255 Brooten Road, Pacific City Open 9am to 4pm, Friday, Saturday & Monday

RECYCLE SHACKS:

- ROCKAWAY BEACH:**
• 3rd Street (by Sewage Plant) Open 9:30am to 4:30pm
- GARIBALDI:**
• 625 Garibaldi Avenue (Behind Parkside Café) Open 9:30am to 4:30pm
- BAY CITY:**
• 5405 B Street, Bay City (Next to Public Works Dept.)..... Open 9:30am to 4:30pm

COMMUNITY RECYCLING:

- NETARTS FIRE STATION:**
• First Saturday of the month Open 9:00am to 3:00pm

For more information, call the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department at 503-815-3975 email recycle@co.tillamook.or.us or see us online at www.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste

