



# Waste Wise

Reduce · Reuse · Recycle

A Public Service of Tillamook County Solid Waste • Summer 2013

## CARTM weighs in on garbage!

Over the years, CARTM, a local non-profit organization which operates the Manzanita Transfer Station, has been losing money on trash. This is primarily because the Manzanita Transfer Station has not had the luxury of scales, so CARTM has had to charge customers by volume, but must pay to dispose of garbage by weight.

This has meant CARTM lost money on heavier loads, while some customers paid more for their garbage loads than they would have at a transfer station with a scale. "Customers were paying too much for dumping a yard of something light like Styro-foam," said Jan Hamilton, CARTM executive director, adding, "and CARTM loses money on every load of construction debris, especially the heavy stuff like composition roofing."

Hamilton and David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager, teamed up to research the best type of scales for CARTM. The scale was recently installed and staff will be recording both volumes and weights throughout the summer as customers deliver their trash. During this trial period, customers will continue to pay based on volume.

Following the trial phase, CARTM will revise its trash fee structure to reflect weight versus volume. In addition to the tipping fee (that CARTM pays for disposal) the new fees will reflect the cost of hauling the trash to Tillamook. As a transfer station franchisee operating under the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department, CARTM will need final approval by county officials before changing its fees, said Hamilton. "We're hoping for that to happen by January."

Hamilton said she expects the community to welcome the new fee structure because it will make trash disposal more equitable.



Sunshine, a CARTM employee, demonstrating how the scale is used.



## Recycling made easy in Tillamook

Residents have access to curbside recycling, though many of them do not seem to realize it

"Curbside recycling is available if you call City Sanitary and let them know," said Mayor Suzanne Weber, of Tillamook. "They will come and pick up your recyclables along with your trash. It is a program that is really underused. It could be that people don't know they have that option."

Getting the word out about curbside recycling is one of several recycling goals the City of Tillamook established in mid-2012. The Council set the goals to increase local recycling participation to 25 percent of Tillamook households. At that point, only 15 of 953 City Sanitary customers were participating in curbside recycling. This figure did not reflect the number of local recyclers who transported their materials to the City Sanitary facility at that time.

"It gives people who are not able to transport recyclables themselves the ability to fully participate in a recycling program," said Weber, who, as she puts it, "schleps" her household recycling to the City Sanitary location and to CARTM in Manzanita.

Although she transports her own recycling to local facilities regularly, Weber is an advocate of curbside recycling for its ability to help greatly improve Tillamook County's waste recovery rate.

At the moment, Tillamook residents who wish to recycle can place their recyclable materials in cardboard boxes or grocery bags next to their garbage cans on garbage pickup day, said Weber. It is possible that at some point the city will seek grant funding to supply permanent mobile recycling bins for curbside customers, she noted. "We are getting closer to needing something like that as our population gets closer to 5,000."

If you are a City Sanitary Service customer and would like to participate in curbside recycling, call the company at 503-842-6262 and request weekly pickup. Each week, separate your recyclables into tin, aluminum, newspaper, glass, corrugated cardboard and plastics and place them in a cardboard box or grocery bags next to your garbage can.

You can also recycle for free at City Sanitary, located at 2303 11th Street in Tillamook.

**Getting the word out about curbside recycling is one of the City of Tillamook's several recycling goals.**

Tillamook County Solid Waste Department  
503 Marloff Loop, Tillamook, OR 97141

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## Waste Wisdom

By David McCall  
Solid Waste Program Manager  
Tillamook County

**T**his summer, I feel like we have the heat cranked up at the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department. Not only have we wrapped up multiple projects following publication of the last issue of Waste Wise, we have many more planned for upcoming months. To name just a few:

In addition to what you can read about in this newsletter, months of legislative process have now come to an end, and the package of bills that were passed contains an amendment to the paint stewardship law. I was impressed by the energy invested in this bill, now a law, and the intensity of hours and hours of negotiations that resulted in this final compromise. Now comes the work of enacting it, and ensuring Oregonians have the best possible solution!

During the burn ban, it is perhaps a good time to report on the success of our yard debris separate collection project. You can bring in clean yard debris to all three transfer stations, from where it is sent to composting operations. During the first month of this project, we collected approximately 120 tons of yard debris (nearly 500 cubic yards), which was sent to composting, significantly reducing the quantity of materials we had to send to the landfill while enabling those valuable nutrients to be returned to our soil. We will be working on similar projects in the future. Keep an eye on our website for more information!

You can now follow us on Facebook as well! Find updates on our programs as well as opportunities to recycle at:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Tillamook-County-Solid-Waste-Public-Works/469663463128676?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tillamook-County-Solid-Waste-Public-Works/469663463128676?fref=ts)

## Hazardous chemicals removed from local high school labs

**To keep students safe from dangerous chemical contact, several entities recently teamed up to clean up local school laboratories.**

In late April, school science lab specialist Dave Waddell, representatives of Tillamook County's three school districts and the Tillamook County Department of Public Works conducted a walk-through of the science labs and art rooms, removing old, often hazardous chemicals along the way.

Together they collected more than 300 pounds of dangerous chemicals, which they later transported to Tillamook County's Hazardous Waste Facility for processing and final disposal.

"In one school, chemicals were found that required removal by the bomb squad," said David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager. The "two nasties," as he referred to them, were potassium metal, which is flammable when it comes into contact with oxygen, and cyclohexene, the chemical the Oregon State Police Bomb Squad removed.

**"In one school, chemicals were found that required removal by the bomb squad."**

Several schools had mercury in their chemistry labs, said McCall. "Oregon law forbids mercury to be stored or used in schools, so that had to be removed.

Many of these chemicals were commonly used many years ago in science labs, but since then we have learned that they are carcinogenic or otherwise toxic and they have been replaced with safer substitute chemicals."

It is easy to see how older chemicals remain in school labs, said McCall. "Many times old chemicals are not cleaned out, and staff changes mean that new staff uses what they are comfortable with, and may even forget about those old chemicals on the shelves. Thus they tend to gather dust, and just get older. Then staff changes come into effect, and the circle just continues."

Chemical walk-throughs such as these are becoming more common in light of recent chemical accidents in schools throughout the United States. Four years ago, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality spent hundreds of thousands of dollars cleaning up the remnants of a 1-pound mercury spill that left a trail of vapors at one of the state's public high schools in Avondale. The mercury had been stored in a school science lab. Elemental mercury is a poison that can cause brain damage and respiratory failure, among other health problems.



Dave Waddell and Mike Wynands working in a high school science lab chemical storage area.

During the winter of 2012, closer to home in southeast Portland, 12 David Douglas High School students were taken to the hospital for respiratory treatment after a chemistry experiment took a bad turn. In that case, someone turned on the water above a sink filled with sodium metal, a chemical that is highly reactive in water, causing an explosion in the high school lab. The school later installed additional ventilation in the lab.

The Tillamook County Solid Waste Department and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality initiated the recent local walk-throughs, said McCall. They recruited Waddell, who is the founder and principal member of Waddell Environmental, a King County, Wash. company that coordinates school chemical clean-outs and trains school administrators, teachers and staff in techniques to reduce risk of injury from chemicals. Waddell worked as an independent consultant on the recent local walk-throughs. "DEQ paid for all of Dave Waddell's expenses and the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department paid for all the hazardous material, packaging and treatment expenses," added McCall.

Not only did the walk-throughs rid local schools of hazardous chemicals, they served as learning vehicles for local educators, said McCall. "This was a very good opportunity to bring our teachers up to speed on the best chemicals to use and substitutes out there."

At the 2013 Northwest NAHMMMA Conference, DEQ was awarded the Best Program Award for providing this program to Oregon schools.

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[www.dailyastorian.com](http://www.dailyastorian.com)

## To burn, or not to burn

Each summer, the Oregon Department of Forestry imposes a full burn ban to avoid wildfires, such as the series of devastating Tillamook Burns that occurred three times between 1933 through 1945.

However, while two out of three of the infamous Tillamook Burns started with logging operations in exceedingly dry conditions and the third started with a discarded cigarette, most forest fires are sparked by simple backyard burning. The practice "is the primary source of forest fires," said David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager.

To reduce the risk, the state implements burn bans based on weather conditions. Generally, the bans occurs in stages, with a full ban put into effect in July or early August. You have most likely noticed signs along area highways indicating the level of fire risk in local forests.

However, even when a burn ban is not in effect, burning certain materials is prohibited by law, said McCall. "For those who have permits, it is legal to burn organic materials, such as untreated wood, paper and branches," he noted. "It is illegal to burn plastics, treated wood, household garbage, oil and tires, among other items."

Before you burn on your property, contact your local fire department. In most cases, you must obtain a permit prior to burning.

McCall points out that even legal burning isn't necessarily good for human and animal health and the environment. "Burning releases carbon dioxide at a low level," he said. "Controlled burning, such as in a home wood stove or fireplace or in an industrial furnace, utilizes the heat from the fire, which eliminates much of the smoke. In open burning, smoke just dissipates."

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, backyard burning generates toxic compounds, including nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide.

The Tillamook County Solid Waste Department is exploring various alternatives to backyard burning and even larger scale slash piles, said McCall.

# New policy in China forces CARTM to rethink plastic recycling program

This past spring many United States recycling facilities were forced to rethink their plastics policies after China abruptly stopped accepting several types of plastic recyclables.

Locally, this means those accustomed to recycling a wide variety of plastics at CARTM, in Manzanita, will have to either hold on to or throw away a portion of their recycling.

The edict, which the Chinese government refers to as Operation Green Fence, bans the import of substandard recyclables, including bales of plastic contaminated with other materials.

While CARTM separates its recyclable materials in bins and other containers, its staff helping customers to place materials such as tin cans, teflon aluminum cans, various types of paper and plastics and other items into the appropriate receptacles, most curbside recycling collectors employ commingled services, meaning customers place all their recycling into one container for pickup. This recycling is later separated by employees at larger recycling facilities. However, not all facilities have a solid track record for eliminating contaminants.

Since the Chinese launched the Operation Green Fence campaign in February, the country has intercepted more than 800,000 tons of contaminated or otherwise illegal waste. The campaign has domestic recycling traders and brokers refusing to ship recyclables that could be turned

away. While CARTM's plastic bales remain remarkably free of contamination, they compose a tiny fraction of what would make a full shipload of plastics bound for China.

The Chinese are reacting to a real problem, according to an article in the Christian Science Monitor ("China puts up a green wall to US trash," June 19, 2013), that quoted an international scrap dealer based in Los Angeles saying, "A lot of companies have used China as a dumping

**Plastics take centuries to break down. Throughout that process their components are released into the environment, often contaminating it.**

ground, getting rid of... substandard scrap and trash."

Following the edict, CARTM no longer, at least for the foreseeable future, accepts plastics marked with the numbers 3, 6 and 7, nor rigid nor thin film plastic. "I don't see this changing any time real soon," said Jan Hamilton, executive director of CARTM.

In central Tillamook County, City Sanitary Service and the Tillamook Transfer Station, and in south county, the Pacific City Transfer Station, continue to take only plastic bottles

with necks, which tend to be numbers 1 and 2.

On the other hand, CARTM continues to accept the following plastics for recycling:

- No. 1 clam shell containers.
- No. 2 plastic bottles with necks.

These include many laundry detergent bottles.

• No. 4 and No. 5 plastic containers, which include yogurt and butter tubs, amber prescription pill bottles and baby wipes containers.

- No. 2 "frosty" milk jugs.

In the mean time, when it comes to the plastics the facility can no longer recycle, "We are looking for alternatives," said Hamilton.

Until an alternative means of processing newly non-recyclable plastics is in place on a local level, Hamilton recommends solving the plastic recycling problem by being mindful of packaging when you shop for groceries and other items. In fact, CARTM has always advocated buying products with as little packaging as possible, particularly when that packaging is plastic, which, when not recycled, takes centuries to biodegrade.

Plastics take centuries to break down. Throughout that process, "their components are released into the environment, often contaminating it," said David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager.

Visit [www.cartm.org](http://www.cartm.org) to learn more about materials CARTM accepts for recycling.



First loads of yard debris collected on the new collection slab at the Tillamook Transfer Station.

## Keeping Yard Debris Green

A county-wide composting pilot program is putting a significant dent in the amount of organic material shipped from Tillamook County to regional landfills.

On average, each ton of garbage deposited in landfills consists of one-third organic matter, according to David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager.

The county collected roughly 50 tons of yard debris during the first two weeks of the program, said McCall. "The loose volume of this material was probably about 350 to 400 cubic yards," he added. "This represents 6.5% of waste generated in Tillamook County."

With each ton of landfilled garbage producing one cubic meter of gas, 60% of which is methane, per year for 30 years, reducing the volume of organics in our waste makes a significant impact on air quality, said McCall. "That means by removing this first 50 tons of yard debris from the landfilled matter, we have reduced the amount of landfill gases which will be produced by approximately 4,500 cubic meters. This is the equivalent of 2,700 cubic meters of methane and nearly 1,800 cubic meters of CO<sub>2</sub>."

Preventing organic waste from ending up in landfills offers other benefits, noted McCall. "While diverting this material from the landfill, through composting we are able to return its valuable nutrients back to the soil, improving soil sustainability and decreasing our need for artificial fertilizers," he said.

The pilot program was subsidized until the end of July through vouchers from the Oregon Department of Forestry office in Tillamook, good for dropping off up to 9 yards of residential yard debris at Tillamook County transfer stations. Residents can continue separating their yard debris from other household waste when taking it to the local transfer station, although the transfer station will be charging an acceptance fee.

## Wasteful practices at Cape Kiwanda

Cape Kiwanda and adjacent Haystack Rock are among the more photographed landmarks in Oregon. However, illegal household garbage disposal in a container located in the Cape Kiwanda parking lot / beach access threatens to sully their image.

Referring to the overflowing container, which is just outside the view of Portland TV station KGW's Pacific City weather camera, Paul Carbaugh said, "It's a matter of taking pride in your area."

"Although illegal dumping isn't new at the parking lot, it has picked up in recent months,"

said Carbaugh, who, with wife Sandy, manages and operates Nestucca Valley Sanitary Service, which serves south Tillamook County's garbage disposal needs. Tillamook County Parks Department rents the container and has it emptied every Monday.

Carbaugh drove by the container on a recent Sunday and noticed it heaped with full plastic trash bags. "I could not believe the mountains of garbage coming out of it," he said.

In hopes of combating the problem, the Tillamook County Parks Department recently installed a surveillance camera at the site and is placing new signs in the area warning of the

penalties for illegal dumping. "They are hoping to prosecute a couple of violators and get the word out," said Carbaugh.

The container is there for those using the parking lot. "It's for people having picnics on the beach," said Carbaugh.

Tillamook County code enforcement officers "are monitoring the situation regularly," said David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager. "We are also conducting a review of permitted vacation homes, and we will be conducting 'waste audits,' during which we open garbage bags to try and identify the owners."

According to Tillamook County Ordinances #4 and #43, the illegal dumping of household waste carries penalties of \$500 to \$1,000.



Far too much garbage is being dropped off at the Cape Kiwanda parking lot.

# Making sure hazardous is safe

Tillamook County will host four more free household hazardous waste collection events through the remainder of 2013.

Upcoming household hazardous waste collection dates are Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Nov. 2. There will be no December event. Bring your household hazardous waste items between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. during these events, which are all held on Saturday.

Two commercial hazardous waste collection events for local small businesses are scheduled for Aug. 2 and Nov. 1. Both require prior registration.

The Tillamook County Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Tillamook Transfer Station, is the only permanent hazardous waste collection facility on the Oregon Coast. David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager, said, "We are proud to be able to offer this free service to the residents of Tillamook County in this facility, which is equipped to accept and store materials much better and safer than any temporary collection event would be able to



A few common household hazardous waste materials accepted at the facility.

do." He added, "The permanent facility allows the virtual elimination of environmental

risk, thanks to the permanent facility."

Commonly accepted household hazardous waste items include paints, pesticides, motor oil, antifreeze, cleaners, disinfectants, aerosol spray products, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, tubes and ballasts and propane tanks and bottles.

Remember to drop off your trash and/or recyclables before your hazardous waste!

The Tillamook Transfer Station is located at 1315 Ekloff Road, 3 miles southwest of Tillamook off Tillamook River Road.

For more information, or to register for either commercial hazardous waste event, contact McCall at 503-815-3975 or dmccall@co.tillamook.or.us



## Materials collected by drop-off sites in Tillamook County

|  | TRANSFER STATIONS |           |              | RECYCLE SHACKS |            |          |           |                |
|--|-------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------|
|  | Tillamook         | Manzanita | Pacific City | City Sanitary  | Les Schwab | Bay City | Garibaldi | Rockaway Beach |

### PAPER



|              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Newspaper    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Cardboard    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Magazines    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Mixed Paper  | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Office Paper | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

### CANS



|          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Metal    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Aluminum | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

### PLASTIC



|                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bottles        | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Other Plastics | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

### ORGANICS



|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wood        | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Yard Debris | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

### APPLIANCES



|              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Refrigerator | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Washer/Dryer | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Dishwasher   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| TV/Computer  | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

### MISCELLANEOUS



|             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tires       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Scrap Metal | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Glass       | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



|                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Propane Tanks  | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Medical Sharps | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Motor Oil      | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Batteries      | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Cooking Oil    | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

### For additional information on recycling in Tillamook County:

Visit our website at [www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste)



#### City Sanitary

(Operated by City Sanitary Service)  
2303 11th Street, Tillamook  
(503) 842-6262  
Mon. - Fri., 9a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sat., 9a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### Manzanita Transfer Station

(Operated by CARTM Recycling)  
34995 Necamey Road, Manzanita  
(503) 368-7764  
Thurs. - Mon., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. through Labor Day.  
Thurs. - Sun., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. during Winter

#### Tillamook Transfer Station

(Operated by Don G. Averill Recycling)  
1315 Ekloff Road, Tillamook  
(503) 842-2431  
Open Daily, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Pacific City Transfer Station

(Operated by Nestucca Valley Sanitary)  
38255 Brooten Road, Pacific City  
(503) 965-6898  
Fri. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.