



Waste Wise

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A public service of Tillamook County Solid Waste

Spring 2011

Kids to clean up for Earth Day

Students at Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School have their work cut out for them.

Some will be removing blackberry bushes at the Bay City Rain Garden. Others will be removing weeds at Vosberg Creek in Wheeler. And still others will be doing beach cleanup chores and removing scotch broom at Nehalem Bay State Park.

It's all part of the school's "Day of Service," which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, in celebration of the week of Earth Day 2011.

In all, officials at the school have scheduled more than 20 work projects at various locations throughout the Neah-Kah-Nie School District for groups of students ranging in size from two to 20.

School Principal Jim Severson explained that, in addition to achieving the necessary grades academically, students at the school in Rockaway Beach must perform five hours of community service each quarter in order to be eligible for the school's honor roll.

"We've had that as a requirement for the last three years," Severson said. "But this is the first year the school has arranged projects for them to work on."

Severson, teachers Peter Walczak and Jo Cooper, school secretary June Ekborg, Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordina-

tor Jennifer Purcell and others have been planning for the Day of Service since the fall. All 171 students in the school are required to take part, Severson added.

"It's all about citizenship," the principal said. "We want our kids to be engaged in the community. And the community needs to see that."

Students receive no extra credit or grades for Day of Service projects, he noted. "But I tell them to write all this down. It will help set them apart when it comes to applying to a college."

On the big day, students are scheduled to leave the school on buses for their various destinations and return at about 1 p.m.

"They'll all be given special T-shirts with logos designed by two of our students," Severson said, "and, when they get back, there will be a big barbeque for everyone involved."

Severson said Ekborg lined up two grants totaling nearly \$1,100 to help pay for the day's activities. Target Stores chipped in about \$700 to contribute to transportation costs with the remainder being offset by First Student, Inc., which contracts with the school district for bus services. A Generating Assistance for Public Schools (GAPS) grant through the Northwest Education Services District will help pay for the T-shirts.



Showing logos that will appear on student T-shirts for the Day of Service are, from left, Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School teacher Jo Cooper, seventh-grader Kelsey Nelson and Principal Jim Severson. Nelson and sixth grade student Kindness Hyde designed the logos.

"The Tillamook Smoker is donating supplies for the barbeque," he added.

Purcell said Tillamook County Solid Waste will be providing disposal at no charge for the community cleanup efforts and Western Oregon Waste has committed to provide dumpsters and hauling services at some of the work sites.

School officials are still looking to sign

up parents to help supervise the kids at the work sites. Parents who wish to volunteer may do so by contacting Stephanie Johnstone at (503) 812-3901 or by e-mail at stefj607@gmail.com.

School officials advise that volunteers must have a completed and approved volunteer application on file before joining the event.

Oregon Legislature looking at plastic bag ban

Oregon could become the first state in the nation to ban the use of plastic bags by retailers if a controversial bill currently wending its way through the Legislature becomes law.

The measure, Senate Bill 536, would be the most significant environmental law in Oregon since the state's bottle-deposit bill was enacted in 1971, according to some observers.

Specifically, the bill would outlaw single-use plastic bags and give shoppers the options of bringing their own reusable bags with them or paying 5 cents each for paper bags. The proposal exempts some businesses, including pharmacies and restaurants.

The bill has won significant support among legislators in both parties, environmental groups and even the state's grocery

industry. It has drawn fire from representatives of the plastics industry and some conservative groups who argue that increasing the cost of a trip to the grocery store in bad economic times is not a good idea.

The Oregonian reported that a public hearing by the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee in early February produced plenty of fireworks with Sen. Mark Haas (D-Beaverton), the bill's chief co-sponsor, and an executive from one of the nation's largest plastic manufacturers arguing over the need for the bill.

"These bags have been hard on Oregon's environment and even harder on Oregon's economy," Hass asserted, adding that the use of plastic bags has largely overtaken the use of paper bags, which are

produced in Oregon and create jobs here.

Mark Daniels, however, said studies show that plastic bags account for less than 1 percent of the litter problem. He said his firm – South Carolina-based Hilex Poly Co., one of the leading manufacturers of plastic bags and film products – is making great progress in its efforts to increase recycling of plastic bags. He said that about 30,000 retailers around the country now have recycling bins for the bags.

Daniels said part of the reason that recycling rates for bags seem low is that people have a number of other uses for them in their homes. He said that about 13 percent of plastic bags are recycled, even though some critics of the legislation admit the percentage is lower than that. Daniels and others also maintain that

reusable bags raise sanitation concerns. He cited studies claiming that reusable bags often become contaminated with e-coli, salmonella and other harmful bacteria because they are seldom, if ever, washed.

Environmental groups, especially those involved in clean water issues, have sought a ban on disposable plastic bags for years.

Grocery industry lobbyist Joe Gilliam, who was involved in negotiating terms of the bill, said he believes that the plastics industry can't solve the litter problem created by disposable plastic bags. Also testifying in support of the measure was Mike Ellis, president of the Fred Meyer chain.

Hass's bill makes exceptions for phar-

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Talking TRASH



By Jennifer Purcell

Tillamook County
Solid Waste Coordinator

Solid waste industry and regulatory policies are shifting away from disposal towards materials management and resource recovery.

At the same time, our citizens and businesses are demanding improved convenience and increased garbage and recycling services. However, solid waste professionals are challenged to meet those needs in an economically feasible way. The costs of doing business are increasing while our customers' ability to pay those costs is decreasing.

Tillamook County Solid Waste Department is designated as the "wasteshed coordinator" and is responsible for regulating solid waste management, providing a coordinated solid waste management program "to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people, and the natural and scenic resources of Tillamook County."

The Tillamook County Solid Waste Program includes:

- Waste prevention and reuse
- Product stewardship
- Outreach and education
- Residential and commercial recycling and resource recovery
- Residential and commercial waste collection
- Self-haul
- Hazardous waste management
- Illegal dumping and code enforcement
- Disaster debris planning

Increasing program expenses combined with a decrease in waste for disposal means we have less money available to us each year to operate programs, maintain facilities, finance our landfill liability and put money aside for capital improvements.

So Tillamook County is now reviewing its solid waste management practices and materials management infrastructure and developing an updated Comprehensive Materials and Solid Waste Management Plan.

Materials and solid waste management practices will be guided by the following hierarchy:

1. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated.
2. Reuse material for its originally intended purpose.
3. Recycle or compost material that cannot be reduced or reused.
4. Recover energy from material that cannot be reduced, reused, recycled or composted.
5. Landfill the remaining solid waste.

Broad stakeholder input will be critical to successful implementation of the plan.

If you would like to be notified personally of upcoming opportunities to participate, please notify Tillamook County Solid Waste at recycle@co.tillamook.or.us or by calling (503) 815-3975.



A new Re-Store warehouse, right, is helping Habitat for Humanity accept more donations and make more money.

Re-Store space and business expand

Things are looking up at Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store in Bay City.

The facility's new two-story, 4,000-square-foot warehouse addition is now open for use, which is allowing the Re-Store to take in significantly more donated housing construction material and, by so doing, keep much more waste out of local landfills.

In addition, according to Kathleen Tyler, executive director of the Tillamook County chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the facility has begun accepting donations of all kinds of metal, is "avidly" recycling automobiles and has hired two full-time staff members, allowing for an expansion of its operating hours.

The warehouse was completed and went into operation in late January, Tyler said. Half of the additional space, she said, is for storing items donated to the Re-Store. The other half is for donated construction materials for Habitat's local house-building projects.

And it is making a huge difference.

"We just finished harvesting donated materials from a 3,500-square-foot house in Nehalem that was about to be demolished," she said. "We gutted the place. We took out windows, doors, lighting fixtures, paneling, toilets, sinks, you name it. We couldn't have done that last year before we had all the additional storage space."

Tillamook County's Solid Waste Coordinator, Jennifer Purcell added, "Deconstruction is a sustainable alternative to conventional demolition. These services divert reusable materials from landfill disposal, provide affordable and sustainable remodeling solutions, and assist a local non-profit in furthering its mission."

Tyler said the salvage operation worked well for the

property owner and estimated that it diverted about four tons of material from going into a landfill.

"We've got an even bigger one coming up soon. We're going to get all the siding from this one; it's cedar."

The new storage space, Tyler added, is allowing the Re-Store to take donated "metals of all kinds" now, as well.

"Before, we only took in working home appliances. Now, we're taking things like scrap metal, copper tubing, aluminum gutters, metal wire. We recycle this material and the money from that helps us build houses."

Tyler added that cars are becoming a bigger part of the Re-Store's operation, too.

"It may take us a few weeks to arrange, but we'll have volunteers come and get them. If they're not running, we have mechanics who can work on them and get them in shape to sell. If we can't get them running, we'll recycle them."

Tyler said Habitat officials are hoping that the increase in donated material that can be turned into cash will help make up for the slump in financial donations caused by the current economic slowdown.

"The increased donations allowed us to hire two full-time staff members recently for the Re-Store," she said.

That, in turn, enabled the Re-Store to lengthen its operating hours. The Re-Store is now open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Re-Store, which opened in 2008, is located at 6500 Williams in Bay City, just off U.S. Highway 101. Donation pickups may be scheduled by calling (503) 377-0204. More information on the Re-Store is available online at www.tillamookhabitat.org.

Plastic bags

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macies, restaurants, farmers markets and other outlets whose main business is preparing food and drink. And the ban would not apply to bags that aren't used at check-out counters. For example, plastic bags found in grocery produce departments would be exempted. But the ban would apply to all other retailers, including department stores and convenience stores.

A representative of Far West Fibers, a Beaverton recycling facility, testified that his company's recycling machines are regularly clogged by plastic bags and other film plastics. Nearly 32 percent of the facility's sort-line labor is used to remove plastics, significantly increasing the costs of handling recyclables. Furthermore, seven percent of Far West's paper recyclables have to be rejected and sent to a landfill because of plastic contamination.

Under the bill, paper bags would have to be at least 40

percent recycled content to be used at checkout. Besides covering higher store costs, the minimum charge of five cents for paper bags would encourage shoppers to switch to reusable bags, sponsors of the legislation said.

The Oregon Surfrider Foundation estimates that 60 to 80 percent of all debris in the ocean is land-based plastic. Plastics take hundreds of years to break down at sea, the group asserts, and most types are never truly biodegrade. As a result, marine animals often get entangled in the debris or mistake it for food.

The proposed bill would also bar local governments from enacting self-styled bans, such as the one the city of Portland considered earlier this year. On Jan. 18, Tillamook's City Council passed a resolution supporting a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.

Tillamook's resolution noted that, if the Legislature does not approve a statewide ban, "it is likely that single jurisdictions will introduce similar legislation that could create a quilt work of laws" over various jurisdictions making compliance "extremely difficult" for retailers.

Compact fluorescents can be disposal hazard

Bulbs contain mercury and must be treated as hazardous waste

Incandescent light bulbs, the kind that have been around since inventor Thomas Edison's time, are on their way to becoming nearly extinct.

Governments around the world, including several states in this country, have enacted laws aimed at phasing them out in favor of more energy-saving light sources, such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and LED (light emitting diode) lamps.

The United States has no plans to impose a direct ban on them, however, a federal law setting minimum efficiency standards that most incandescent bulbs cannot meet will take effect between 2012 and 2014.

The federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires that all general purpose light bulbs, starting with 100-watt bulbs, be 30 percent more energy efficient by January 2012. Forty-watt bulbs must meet that standard by January 2014. Light bulbs outside that range will be exempt, as would specialty lights, including appliance lamps, three-way bulbs, colored lights and plant lights.

Under the federal law, further restrictions will take effect in 2020, when all general purpose light bulbs will be required to produce at least 45 lumens per watt, similar to what currently available CFLs produce. Exemptions from that standard include reflector flood lights, three-way bulbs, as well as candelabra, colored, and other specialty bulbs.

CFLs, with their distinctive "curly-Q" design, are currently the most commonly used energy-efficient bulbs. But they are not without problems of their own.

CFLs cost significantly more than incandescent bulbs, a factor that is ostensibly offset by the longer operating life attributed to them. However, experts say CFLs installed in low-use areas, such as closets, may never overcome the extra initial cost.

CFLs also contain small amounts of mercury as vapor. Mercury is toxic to humans and animals and it is a high-priority pollutant at the state and national levels. Mercury can be released into the atmosphere when a CFL bulb breaks and, as a result, CFLs must be disposed of carefully and properly to avoid harming the environment.

The Oregon Environmental Council estimates that between 3,600 and 10,600 pounds of mercury are released into the air, water and land in Oregon each year. Local hazardous waste disposal programs accept CFLs, but they are only successful if the public uses them. And the more they are used, the more they cost.

Oregon is one of several states pursuing legislation to establish producer-financed recycling programs. Senate Bill 529, sponsored by Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Portland, would require producers of

lighting that contains mercury to establish product stewardship programs to offset the programs' costs.

Similar producer-financed programs for disposing of products containing toxics that pose environmental and human health risks have been established across the country. In Oregon, existing programs include managing the disposal of electronics and unused paint.

"Most counties currently collect mercury-containing lighting at their transfer stations, household hazardous waste facilities or at household hazardous waste collection events," said Emily Ackland, environmental policy manager for the Association of Oregon Counties, in testimony at a February hearing before the Senate Environmental Committee. "Although it varies by county, a rough average expenditure on the program is between \$20,000 and \$40,000 annually. This amount is likely to go up due to an increase in demand by consumers."

According to Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell, two key components of any mercury-containing lighting product stewardship program should be:

- a convenient collection system that serves the needs of residents in urban and rural communities throughout the state and
- a comprehensive outreach and education program that informs the public about the potential hazards of mercury exposure and proper disposal requirements and about the availability of disposal options.

"Tillamook County residents do not currently have convenient access to proper disposal for mercury-containing lighting,"



Purcell said. "The county sponsors an annual household hazardous waste collection event where residents and conditionally exempt small businesses can dispose of their CFLs and tube lighting. In the meantime, these mercury-containing wastes are stored in unknown quantities until the next opportunity for proper disposal."

Fortunately, Tillamook County is in the final stages of building a household hazardous waste collection facility that is expected for operation in 2011."

But, she added, that will not address the public education component.

"In many cases," she said, "the general public is not aware that energy-efficient lighting products contain toxic substances and must be managed for proper disposal through a household hazardous waste collection program. Current packaging for these products does not go far enough to indicate the potential hazards and proper disposal requirements."

CFL Handling Tips

Following are some tips from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and manufacturers of CFLs.

- CFL bulbs are glass. Be careful removing them from packaging.
- Screw and unscrew the bulb by its base, not the glass. Never forcefully twist the bulb into a socket.
- When a CFL burns out, set it aside for proper disposal at a household hazardous waste facility. Never send a CFL to an incinerator.

Cleaning up a broken CFL:

- Before starting the cleanup, air out the room for at least 15 minutes and clear it of people and pets. Shut off forced air heating or air conditioning systems. Don't let anyone walk through the breakage area.
- If the breakage occurred on a hard surface, such as wood or cement, carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealed plastic bag. Use sticky tape to pick up any remaining glass pieces or powder. Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels in the jar or plastic bag.

- If the breakage occurred on a carpet, pick up glass fragments and place them in a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealed plastic bag. Use sticky tape to pick up any remaining glass pieces or powder. Vacuum the area. Put the vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.
- If clothing or bedding materials come in direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder, the clothing or bedding should be discarded. Don't wash it because mercury may contaminate the machine and/or pollute the wastewater. You CAN wash clothing and other material that has only been exposed to mercury vapor. Shoes that come into direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder should be wiped off with damp towels, which should be placed in the glass jar or plastic bag for disposal.
- Dispose of all cleanup materials in a trash container or protected area. Double bag. Wash your hands thoroughly after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing cleanup materials.

SOURCE: www.energystar.gov/cfls

Composting Made Easy

Food waste and yard debris are the largest single component of household waste. Start your backyard composting today! Reduce waste and enjoy the benefits of a fertile soil amendment for seasons to come.

Buy your
Earth Machine Composter
at **Tillamook Home & Garden Show**
April 2-3

or at the County Public Works Dept.

\$45⁰⁰





Your Guide to Recycling in Tillamook County

	FACTS	HOW TO PREPARE FOR RECYCLING	WHERE TO TAKE IT
ALUMINUM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Americans use over 200 million aluminum beverage cans a day. ✓ Using recycled aluminum uses 95 percent less energy. ✓ Aluminum cans can be recycled into new cans and back on store shelves in 60 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rinse. ✓ No other preparation required. 	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County and are accepted as donation at Habitat for Humanity, 2610 Third St., Tillamook
STEEL CANS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Most metal food containers are made of steel. ✓ Ferrous metals containing iron are attracted to a magnet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rinse. ✓ Remove labels. 	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling), Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook
PAPER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Paper is the No. 1 material that we throw away; it makes up 35 percent of our waste by weight. ✓ One ton of paper made from recycled fibers instead of virgin fibers saves 7,000 gallons of water, 17-31 trees, 4,000 kWh of electricity, and 60 pounds of air pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Anything that comes in the newspaper can be recycled with the newspaper. ✓ Shredded paper can be recycled with mixed paper. ✓ Cereal boxes, brown paper sacks, egg cartons, and other non-waxy cardboard packaging can be recycled with corrugated cardboard. ✓ Flatten boxes. 	Newsprint is accepted at the following: City Sanitary, Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook; Kiwanis Recycling Trailer at Les Schwab, 1220 Main St., Tillamook Magazines and catalogs are accepted at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Kiwanis Recycling Trailer at Les Schwab, 1220 Main St., Tillamook Mixed Paper is accepted at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Corrugated cardboard is accepted at: City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
PLASTIC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plastics are coded by material type, not recyclability or recycled content. ✓ By weight, plastics make up about 11 percent of America’s municipal solid waste; 25 percent by volume. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We recycle bottle-neck plastics #1-7; containers with a bottle-neck, regardless of plastic type. ✓ Remove lids. ✓ Rinse. 	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County; also accepted as donation by Habitat for Humanity, 2610 Third St., Tillamook, and other local non-profit organizations. Other plastics such as food containers, butter and yogurt tubs, and rigid plastics are not readily recyclable in Tillamook County. Contact your recycling center for more information about what is accepted.
GLASS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Glass containers are 100% recyclable . ✓ Recovered glass is the main ingredient in new glass containers. ✓ An estimated 80% of recovered glass containers are made into new glass bottles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Remove lids. ✓ Rinse. ✓ No need to remove labels. ✓ Sort glass by color - clear, green, or brown. 	City Sanitary Service Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County.
ORGANICS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Yard debris and food waste (“organics”) make up approximately ¼ of the average household’s waste. 		There is no food waste collection system available to the public. Backyard composting is a great way to reduce your waste and produce a fertile soil amendment. Composters are available for sale at the Tillamook County Public Works office. Call 503-842-3419 for more information. Yard debris (excluding grass clippings) is accepted for recycling at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART [™] Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 	Many products can hurt people, fish and wildlife. Never dispose of household toxics down the drain, on the ground, in a storm drain or garbage can.		Tillamook County has traditionally sponsored an annual collection event offered free to the public. A permanent household hazardous waste collection facility is expected to be operational this spring at the Tillamook Transfer Station. If you are unable to hold onto your household hazardous waste until collection is available in Tillamook County, the closest facility is the Metro Central Station, located at 6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland. Visit www.oregonmetro.gov/garbage for more information.

For additional information on recycling in Tillamook County, please visit our website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste.

City Sanitary
 (Operated by City Sanitary Service)
 2303 11th Street, Tillamook
 (503) 842-6262
 Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Manzanita Transfer Station
 (Operated by Cart[™]m Recycling)
 34995 Necarney Rd., Manzanita
 (503) 368-7764
 Thurs.-Sun, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tillamook Transfer Station
 (Operated by Averill Recycling)
 1315 Ekloff Rd., Tillamook
 (503) 842-2431
 Open daily, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Pacific City Transfer Station
 (Operated by Nestucca Valley Sanitary)
 38255 Brooten Rd., Pacific City
 (503) 965-6898
 Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.