



Waste Wise

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A public service of Tillamook County Solid Waste

• Spring 2012

Tsunami debris not yet visible on Tillamook beaches

Local officials taking a proactive approach to protect environment

In March 2011, a devastating earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. When the tidal wave subsided, it carried with it out to sea large amounts of debris from the land. Debris from that event may already be reaching U.S. shores. But there is still a large amount of uncertainty about its volume and where it will land.

"Tillamook County plans to take a proactive approach to making sure our 75 miles of pristine beaches continue to be a high priority for our citizens and the thousands of tourists who visit them every year," said County Commissioner Mark Labhart.

"Tillamook County Solid Waste has and will continue to work closely with Oregon's Parks and Recreation Department, which owns the beaches, and local volunteer beach clean-up organizations to ensure that any tsunami debris that does come ashore is cleaned up."

According to Gordon McCraw, director of the Tillamook County Emergency Management Department, debris from the Japanese tsunami has yet to show up on Tillamook's beaches.

"Some debris has washed up here, but one piece had U.S. (English) writing on it and no evidence of sea life growing on it, so it was ruled out," he explained. "A gas can was found, but it also was determined to not be from the tsunami."

McCraw said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is working with local beach comber groups to use their data as a benchmark for future debris finds.

"These groups know how much debris normally washes up in an average year. Their experience will help us determine whether more is showing up as we go forward."

McCraw said NOAA does not believe that any of the 2011 tsunami debris will arrive en masse, as some fear.

"The Pacific Ocean is so vast and the debris has already dispersed. A lot of it will sink on the way," he explained. "There is no way to determine how much will actually reach us, but it won't be in a giant wave, as is shown in the early photographs."

He noted that many people are concerned that large cargo containers may show up.

"What most people don't know," he said, "is that

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Scrap metal a winner for Charity Drive

It's widely known in Oregon what good things the kids at Tillamook High School do for local charities and Portland's Doernbecher Children's Hospital in their annual Charity Drive.

But, what's not so well known is what the Charity Drive does to help clean up the environment in Tillamook County.

For years, students have been collecting scrap metal as part of their fund-raising efforts. And this year – as they did with the amount raised in the overall Charity Drive – the kids set a record for the amount of scrap metal collected.

According to Aaron Averill, manager of the Tillamook Transfer Station, students brought in more than 200 tons of "weighted material," that is, material brought in over the station's scales, during the annual drive.

That doesn't count the nine cars, the farm truck, the farm tractor and the box van they also collected.

"This is the biggest Charity Drive scrap metal collection I can remember," Averill said, "and I've been doing this on and off for 21 years."

In the past, Averill noted, Charity



Aaron Averill with some of the scrap metal collected during this year's Tillamook High School Charity Drive.

Drive scrap metal collections have run around 160 or 170 tons.

"We always say, 'They'll never top last year's amount,' but this year they sure did," Averill added.

Scrap metal prices are about \$5 a

ton lower than they were this time last year, he said. Nevertheless, the scrap metal collected earned the Charity Drive \$185 a ton this year, or 22 percent of the total \$187,824.12 that was raised during the campaign.

Zero waste is CARTM goal

22-year-old group refocuses its mission

It started back in 1990 with a group of North County residents who were dedicated to recycling.

CARTM (Community Action Resource Team Manzanita) first operated on a small lot opposite the city's fire station. It collected used tin, glass and old newspapers.

Over the years, there have been changes – new people, new services, new buildings and a new location. In time, it took over operation of the Manzanita Transfer Station and, in 1997, it officially became a nonprofit organization.

In 2002, according to figures supplied by Tillamook County, CARTM

recycled nearly 100 tons of newspaper, 105 tons of cardboard, a ton of batteries, 90 tons of yard waste, and two tons of oil. It was responsible for recycling more than 600 tons of various materials that year.

Today, according to Executive Director Jan Hamilton, CARTM recycles free of charge more than 40 different types of materials every day, including many that are not accepted at other recycling centers.

"We also accept clean, re-usable donations of household goods, hardware, electronics, building materials, books, sporting equipment – you name it – for re-use," Hamilton said. "Our goal is to divert as much as possible out of the waste stream. We recycled 1.2 million glass bottles last year, which translates to 181 tons of

bottle glass. We also recycled 109 tons of cardboard boxes."

In 2011, CARTM was responsible for diverting more than 730 tons of material from landfill disposal, a 22 percent increase over recycling numbers in 2002.

Hamilton said CARTM's board of directors recently refocused the organization's mission on "leading our community to zero waste."

That, she added, includes operating a safe and convenient transfer station, recycling center and re-use store and encouraging the creative re-use of materials.

"We actively divert materials from the waste stream and encourage people to re-think waste: reduce, re-use, and recycle. We would like to become

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Tsunami debris Q&A

The following information is provided by NOAA. For more information, and to see a video, go to the NOAA website at <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/japanfaqs.html>.

Q: When will the debris from the tsunami in Japan reach the U.S.?

Many variables affect where the debris will go and when. Items will sink, disperse, and break up along the way, and winds and ocean currents constantly change, making it very difficult to predict an exact date and location for the debris' arrival on our shores.

Scientists are relying on computer models to predict the debris path and drift rate. Independent models run by NOAA and the University of Hawaii tell us some debris could pass near or wash ashore in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as early as this winter based on reported sightings of debris by a Russian ship, approach the West Coast of the United States in 2013, and circle back to the main Hawaiian Islands in 2014 to 2016.

Models can only assume general direction and timing. There is no guarantee the debris will stay on its predicted path.

Q: Why are pieces of debris washing up now if scientists think it will take years?

Marine debris is an everyday problem for much of the Pacific region and it washes up on our coasts from Asia all the time. Items need to be closely inspected before we can determine, if possible, that they were washed into the sea by the tsunami.

Q: Are there really 25 million tons of debris coming this way? Is there a debris field?

It's a misconception that there are 20 to 25 million tons of debris in the water from the tsunami. The Japanese government estimated that the tsunami and earthquake generated a

total of 25 million tons of debris, but there is no confirmed estimate of how much actually went into the water. There is also little information on what types of debris – for example, boats, trash or appliances – went into the water.

Immediately after the event, satellite sensors focused on the area around Japan picked up tsunami debris, but by April 14, 2011, the debris had dispersed to a point where the sensors could no longer detect it. This doesn't mean it has vanished -- we just can't see it with lower resolution satellites, making it very difficult to locate.

The debris is no longer in a debris field. Rather, there are many items scattered across a large area of the North Pacific.

Q: Is the debris radioactive?

There is consensus among scientists that this is highly unlikely, for several reasons:

First, the tsunami created debris over a large stretch of coastal Japan, while the leak from the damaged Fukushima reactor occurred in one place. Therefore, the vast majority of the debris was many miles away from the reactor, precluding any contact with the radioactive leak.

Second, the leak of contaminated water from the reactor into the sea started days to weeks after the debris was washed out to sea. By the time the radioactive water leak developed, the debris was already in the ocean, miles away from the reactor, and moving farther offshore. Exposure to contaminated water, which also moves by currents, was unlikely to occur.

Finally, vessels coming into the United States from Japan were monitored for radiation, and readings were below the level of concern. In the one instance where debris from the Fukushima region was found it was tested for radiation and the levels were normal.



Event at new hazardous waste facility

Workers take in items during a monthly collection event in March at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Tillamook Transfer Station on Ekloff Road. Since the facility opened in October it has collected 58,510 pounds of materials from 473 customers, more than double the amount collected in Tillamook County in all of 2011.

You can now dispose of pharmaceuticals at local law enforcement offices

Tillamook County residents may now dispose of waste medication at the County Sheriff's Office and a few local police stations. Pharmaceutical wastes pose a serious threat to human and animal health. They are particularly harmful to aquatic life when they are flushed into wastewater treatment systems.

For several years, medical wastes could only be turned in during scheduled annual events at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds.

"Now we have a container for these mounted on the floor in our lobby," said Sheriff Andy Long. "Our purpose is to have it there all the time. We think it will be successful."

The Sheriff's Office is located at the Tillamook County Justice Center, 5995 Long Prairie Road. Long said the disposal container is available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Waste medication, including expired and unused over-the-counter drugs and prescription pharmaceuticals, are acceptable, Long said. Liquids must be in sealed containers, he added.

Thermometers, sharps, syringes, IV bags, hydrogen peroxide, aerosol cans, inhalers, EpiPens and iodine will not be accepted.

Other participating police departments include Tillamook, Manzanita and Garibaldi.

Here's how to drop off medical wastes at one of those locations:

Tillamook – Come to the police station, 207 Madrona Ave., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Garibaldi – Come to City Hall, 107 Sixth St., Monday from noon to 5 p.m. or Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Manzanita – Dropoffs may be made at the police station, 165 S. Fifth St., seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents are asked to call (503) 368-7229 before coming in to be sure there is someone in the office.

For additional information about medical waste disposal, visit the Solid Waste Department website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste/medicalwaste.htm or call (503) 815-3975.

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between 2,000 and 10,000 cargo containers fall overboard off ships every year and most never make it to shore. They just sink. So that is not likely to be a problem."

McCraw recommends that, if you find debris on the beach, "treat it as you would any other debris." If it is just routine trash, such as bottles, simply recycle or dispose of it. If it is large, such as a drum of material, call 911 and report it so officials can deal with it. If it is personal items, contact McCraw's office. The Japanese government is interested in returning as many personal items to their owners as possible.

If you have general questions about tsunami debris, you can go to the NOAA website. If you find something or need information about local initiatives, contact Gordon McCraw at (503) 842-3412.

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**
March 31-April 1

or at the County Public Works Dept.

\$45⁰⁰



Plenty of events ahead for CARTM

Although fund-raising events will no longer be held at the CARTM recycling facility on Necarney City Road in Manzanita, an ambitious schedule of community activities to benefit the organization is in the works for 2012.

CARTM officials have formed a fund-raising partnership with the Hoffman Center in Manzanita. The two organizations will split the proceeds from the 14th annual Trash Art Show in early July, according to Hoffman Center board member John Freethy and Lorraine Ortiz, event organizer for CARTM.

The show, featuring works of art made from discarded and recycled items, will take place July 6, 7 and 8 at the Hoffman Center, 594 Laneda Ave.

Items will be on display and on sale from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, July 6; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 7; and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 8.



Photo by Gary Seelig

From left: Model and "trashionista" Julie "Fig" Yanko shows off a trashy creation at last year's Trash Bash. - Cathy Silver's "Japanese tsunami" broken china mosaic. - Craig Spegel's "Dragonfly II" created from welded scrap metal.

A special ticketed, pre-opening event featuring refreshments will take place Thursday, July 5, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Only 100 tickets costing \$25 each will be sold for that event.

For more information or to purchase pre-event tickets, call the Hoffman Center at (503) 386-3846.

Artists may deliver art for the show to the Hoffman Center Friday, June 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 30, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Trash Art Show organizers also are hard at work organizing workshops in April and May where participants can learn how to create trash art for the show in July.

"We want people to come and make art for the show," said Ortiz.

Dates and locations have not yet been set, but Ortiz urged everyone to keep an eye on local media or visit www.hoffmanblog.org or www.cartm.org for updated information.

Ortiz said a new event - the CARTM Treasures Live Auction - will take place July 28 in the barn in downtown Nehalem. Ortiz said the event will feature live music, a barbeque and a professional auctioneer selling "collectibles, primitives and other unique items." Items may be previewed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the auction will run from 1 to 4 p.m.

Ortiz said a "Trashion Show," featuring clothes and costumes made from discarded materials, is in the works for some time this fall.

"This was a very popular aspect of the Trash Bash," Ortiz said.

Keep an eye on local media and www.cartm.org this summer for more information.

CARTM

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the first zero waste community in Oregon. That takes a tremendous amount of time, energy and money."

The change in emphasis, Hamilton explained, was one reason why CARTM decided to cancel the Trash Bash, a popular annual event aimed at raising money for the organization.

"Fun fund raising events aren't going away," she said. "They'll just be held at other locations."

Hamilton said CARTM will concentrate its efforts in five areas:

- Gathering information aimed at determining how well CARTM is fulfilling its mission. "That," she said, "includes conducting an internal waste audit to make sure we practice what we preach." She said the internal audit, expected to be finished in April, will focus on reducing waste in all areas of CARTM's operations and making sure that it doesn't contribute to waste, for instance, by purchasing unneeded items. CARTM also will conduct a community waste audit to make sure the services it offers are in line with what's needed. "For instance, if we find there's too much food waste, we'll know we need to be pushing our composting program."

- Creating a program to help make public and private events in the community, such as weddings and birthday parties - "anything where people gather" - zero waste events. "We'd like people thinking, 'I'm having a party; I need to call CARTM,' so we

could recycle recycling containers, signs and so on," Hamilton said.

- Focusing on re-use by joining with The Wild Flower Thrift Boutique in Tillamook to refurbish used appliances. The Wild Flower, which is operated by the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, has been refurbishing and selling used stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers and dishwashers for over a year.
- Looking for funds to upgrade CARTM's re-sale store with a special priority to salvage and re-sell building materials. "Our goal is to get people thinking about coming to CARTM to see if they can buy that stuff here before going to a retail store," Hamilton said.
- Determining whether it's feasible to buy a delivery truck to pick up donated items and, therefore, encourage re-use of materials. "We're also looking at converting a diesel truck and our backhoe to use vegetable oil biodiesel fuel," Hamilton said.

"We're looking hard at where we are going from here," Hamilton added. "We think that's the right thing to do."

CARTM is located at Manzanita Transfer Station, 34995 Necarney City Road. Its operating hours are: Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day) - Thursday through Monday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Winter (Labor Day to Memorial Day) - Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CARTM is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Day and July 4.

For information, call (503) 368-7764 or go to www.cartm.org.

Local teen wins national award for environmental video

Branson Laszlo and his family have lived in the Tillamook County area for 13 years. So, he says, "I feel a strong attraction to Nehalem Bay."

That's one of the reasons the Neah-Kah-Nie High School junior and resident of Wheeler, who has been making videos for "quite a few years," chose the bay as the subject for a video he entered in an international contest last year.

Laszlo's YouTube video - "Don't Throw Trash in the Bay" - has earned him world-class status of sorts as a filmmaker. It won the top award for 2011 from Light-house Foundation for the Seas and Oceans in the second annual tvebiomovies 2011 film competition.

The award earned him a cash prize of \$1,500, which he is sharing with his two partners: classmates Andrew Baker and Eric Clifford.

"It is great to see local teens enjoy this kind of recognition and success," noted

Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell. "Branson's video uses creativity and whimsy to communicate an important message about pollution and our impact on oceans and waterways."

The video - which opens with a sequence of Clifford tossing a bit of trash on a local beach and Baker drenching him with a bucket of water - makes the point that "On average humans throw 2,500,000 pieces of garbage into the world's oceans every hour."

Though the film lasts only a minute, Laszlo said pre-production took a "substantial amount of time" lining up equipment and supplies. The trio did the filming over about four hours one day last October.

"The shot of Andrew getting hit with the water was done in one take. But he brought extra clothes with him just in case," Laszlo noted.

Laszlo then spent countless hours edit-

ing the final product.

Laszlo credits a British filmmaker, Christopher Bingham, whose work he has followed and admired for some time, with helping him win the prize.

"He gave special mention to our video on the Internet," Laszlo said and the result was that "Don't Throw Trash in the Bay" was viewed about 60,000 times on YouTube.

Laszlo said he got started making videos as a student at Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School.

"I got a little digital video camera and started having fun with it."

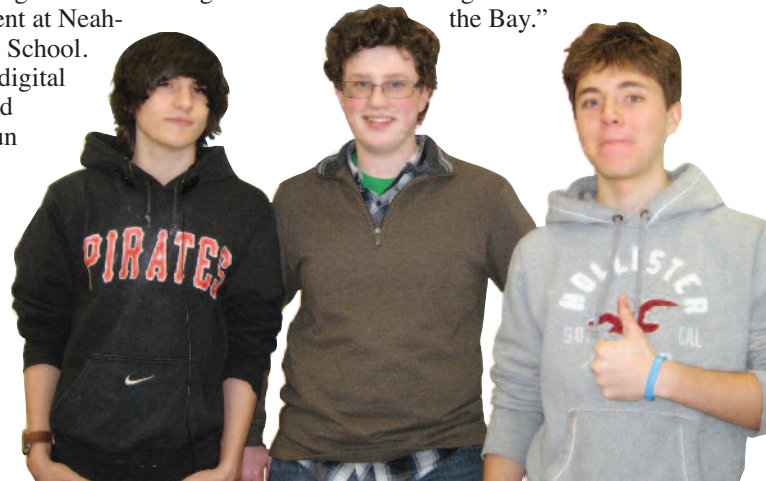
In seventh grade, he was involved in class video projects with teacher Jo

Cooper, and he took a media production course with art teacher Steve Albrechtsen last year.

Laszlo doesn't know yet whether he'll pursue a career in video production.

"It's just a hobby now, but who knows?" he said. "But there definitely will be a point when I will make another video in this (environmental) realm."







To watch his YouTube video, simply Google "Don't Throw Trash in the Bay."



Neah-Kah-Nie High School juniors (from left) Eric Clifford, Andrew Baker and Branson Laszlo are sharing the \$1,500 prize the video earned.



Your Guide to Recycling in Tillamook County

	FACTS	HOW TO PREPARE FOR RECYCLING	WHERE TO TAKE IT
 <p>ALUMINUM</p>	<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 (CARTM 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
 <p>STEEL CANS</p>	<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 (CARTM Recycling), Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook
 <p>PAPER</p>	<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 (CARTM 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 (CARTM 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 (CARTM Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Corrugated cardboard is accepted at: City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CARTM Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
 <p>PLASTIC</p>	<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 (CARTM 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.
 <p>GLASS</p>	<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 (CARTM 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.
 <p>ORGANICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Yard debris and food waste ("organics") make up approximately 1/4 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 (CARTM Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
 <p>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE</p>	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 residents can bring their household hazardous wastes to Tillamook County's Hazardous Waste Facility located at the Tillamook Transfer Station (1315 Ekloff Road) on the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For additional information about hazardous waste collection, toxics reduction and hazardous waste prevention, contact Tillamook County Solid Waste Department.

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 CARTM 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.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.