

# talkin' TRASH ...and more



Visit us at [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org)

## Tips for Keeping Thurston County Healthy, Spring/Summer 2011

### HazoHouse Has New Digs

Thurston County's collection site for unwanted hazardous products has a new home of its own. In March, HazoHouse moved to a new spot at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, located at 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. near Lacey.



The new HazoHouse.

The new site has a sheltered drop-off area, easy drive-in/drive-out access and an improved ventilation system. Along with the move came new hours. HazoHouse is now open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new location makes it even easier for residents and businesses to dispose of hazardous products such as solvents, cleaning supplies, fluorescent light tubes, and pesticides.

HazoHouse services are free for residents; businesses pay a small fee. For details, visit the "Hazardous Waste Disposal" link at [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org). The blue recycle bins and Goodwill have also moved to a bigger and better location near HazoHouse. Just follow the signs at the gate.

### We're on Facebook

Thurston County Solid Waste is now on Facebook! Please "like" us and suggest our page to your friends and neighbors. We're using the site to answer questions, get community feedback and keep everyone up-to-date on local waste reduction opportunities and events. Our page offers recycling and waste reduction tips, fun facts, and informational videos. We even plan to run some contests in the near future.



Join today! You can like us by going to [www.facebook.com/ThurstonSolidWaste](http://www.facebook.com/ThurstonSolidWaste) or by visiting [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) and clicking on the "Find us on Facebook" button.

### Google Translator

What language would you like today?... or shall we say "¿Qué idioma quiere hoy?"



We're happy to announce that the Thurston County Solid Waste website is now available in more than 50 languages thanks to the addition of a Google Translator tool bar. Residents who speak Spanish, Vietnamese, Swedish or a host of other languages are now able to read our information about how to reduce, reuse and recycle. A drop-down menu is located in the upper right corner of [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org).

As we update our English printed materials, we plan to add the Google Translator icon and our web address to let people know about this helpful addition.

### 2 Good 2 Toss

List or shop for items that still have life left in them by using [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com), Thurston County's free materials exchange website. All items are \$200 or less, with many free. There's no cost to use the site.

### trash flash

**HAZOHOUSE CUSTOMERS:** More residents and businesses are choosing to safely dispose of their hazardous materials. In 2002, 7,364 customers brought 117 tons of hazardous waste to HazoHouse. In 2009, 16,396 customers disposed of 410 tons of unwanted toxic products.

### WasteMobile Headed to Yelm

The annual spring WasteMobile collection event for Thurston County residents will be held in Yelm on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. The WasteMobile will be stationed at the Yelm Middle School parking lot at 402 Yelm Avenue West.

If you live in the Yelm/Rainier area, this is a perfect opportunity to safely get rid of dangerous products that are in your garage or home.

**The WasteMobile will accept:** oil-based paints, stains, adhesives, thinners, solvents, pesticides, all types of batteries, antifreeze, motor oil and filters, cleaners, pool and hobby chemicals, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, propane cylinders, and other home-generated hazardous materials. Please bring waste in five-gallon containers or smaller.

**The WasteMobile will not accept:** medical wastes, latex paint, explosives, ammunition, radioactive materials, smoke detectors, electronics, garbage, yard waste, empty containers, or appliances.

The WasteMobile is for Thurston County residents only and will not accept business-generated wastes. Businesses may, however, use HazoHouse at Hogum Bay road for a small fee (see the article above).



Staff members collect products at the WasteMobile.

### trash flash

**FLUORESCENT LIGHTING:** Compact fluorescent light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce electricity bills, and last up to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs and tubes do, however, contain mercury so they don't belong in the trash. HazoHouse and several local businesses accept them for free from residents. For locations, visit [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org).

## Since You Asked!



### **Why doesn't HazoHouse accept latex paint any more?**

In the past, HazoHouse collected large volumes of latex paint at a very high cost. Today, research shows that latex paint is no longer considered hazardous material, so it does not need to go to HazoHouse. Latex paint cans may go in the regular garbage, provided the paint is dry and the lids are off the cans. To dry latex paint faster, pour kitty litter or paint hardening powder into the can.

Last summer, Oregon enacted a "product stewardship" law for paint recycling. Under the program, the paint industry has established convenient take-back locations for paint at retailers and government hazardous-waste facilities. Hopefully, Washington will pass similar legislation in the future.

Although homeowners may dispose of solidified paint in the garbage, businesses should still take all types of paint to HazoHouse for disposal.

### **Why can't I take painted or treated wood to the yard debris area at the Waste and Recovery Center?**

The material at the yard debris area is ultimately turned into either compost or industrial fuel. If painted or treated wood is burned, toxic fumes can end up in the atmosphere. Also, chips of paint that are added to the soil in the form of compost can damage plants or pollute ground water, lakes, rivers and streams.

### **I am confused about which plastic tubs can be recycled. You say "dairy products," but margarine is not a dairy product. Trader Joe's sells a tzatziki dip that contains yogurt, so does that tub qualify? Why are some tubs recyclable and others aren't?**

Plastics are very confusing and there are so many different kinds. The challenge is that not all plastic tubs are made from the same materials. Plus, the recycling facility will only take a certain type of plastic. We say "dairy tubs" because it's the best rule of thumb we can give people. "Dairy tubs" means the non-clear (usually white) tubs that typically hold yogurt, butter, cottage cheese, sour cream and other dairy products. Although margarine is not a dairy product, it is packaged in the same type of container as butter.

Some foods, like dips and other sides, might have dairy products in their ingredients; however their containers are usually not accepted by the recycling facility.

We tell people to follow the rule, "When in doubt, throw it out." Contaminating recycling with the wrong containers junks up the system, so it's better to leave out a container if you're not sure.

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## A Rise in Green Faith

Across the country, faith groups are taking an active role in environmental stewardship. Green values are appearing in sermons, facility and grounds practices, and in service projects. Many feel that keeping the Earth healthy is not a choice, but a duty.

Faith groups in Thurston County are stepping out as leaders in green worship.



Olympia First Baptist Church is working hard to reduce waste. Each Sunday, the church feeding ministry composts paper and food scraps left over from 250 to 400 meals. The church has replaced plastic forks and spoons with durable metal utensils, and has switched from Styrofoam to compostable paper cups. From service ware to food scraps, church staff members compost, recycle, or wash and reuse every part of the meal they serve. Staff members no longer fill ten to 12 trash bags after each weekly meal; they now just fill one or two.

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Lacey started an Earth Ministry Team to help its members be greener. An energy audit conducted last spring revealed the church uses less electricity than the average facility its size.

If your place of worship would like to reduce waste, Thurston County Solid Waste offers free assistance. We can do on-site waste sorts, offer advice on green purchasing options, and provide signs and staff training. Contact Emily Orme at 867-2086 or e-mail [ormee@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:ormee@co.thurston.wa.us) for more information.

## trash flash

**GREEN FAITH SANCTUARIES:** If you belong to a faith organization and would like more information about environmental stewardship, consider visiting [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org). This interfaith partnership offers environmental leadership programs and certifies houses of worship as "Green Faith Sanctuaries."

## Food Retailers Can Donate Too

Grocery stores and other food retailers often end up with edible food that has just passed its "sell-by" date. If you're in the food-retail business, consider donating these foods to a local food bank or meal program instead of throwing them away. Many local residents could use the help.



In the past five years, the number of people visiting the Thurston County Food Bank and its satellite locations has grown by nearly 80 percent. Donations have increased, but not as quickly as needed.

At the same time, nearly half of the food we grow in the United States ends up in the garbage. That's 14 billion pounds wasted each year. Experts estimate that farmers, processors, and retailers spend \$50 to \$60 billion on food that ultimately gets thrown out.

Food banks and meal programs particularly need high-protein food, such as canned chili, peanut butter, beans or canned meat.

Donating food not only helps those in need, it's a free alternative to throwing food in the trash. There's no need to worry about liability because federal and state Good Samaritan laws protect donors from liability when they donate food they believe to be safe. Donations are also tax deductible.

For a list of local food banks and meal programs, go to the "Business Recycling" link of [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) and select "Donate Food." If you're not in the food retail business, don't worry – you can still donate to the organizations on the list. (Hint: Does your local grocery store donate food that has passed its sell-by date? Ask the manager!)

Source for U.S. statistics: 2004 study by University of Arizona anthropologist Dr. Timothy W. Jones.



## trash flash

**HUNGER IN WASHINGTON:** More than 367,000 households in Washington struggled to put food on the table in 2009, according to the most recent report on food security in America released Nov. 15, 2010 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). To help combat hunger locally, consider donating food to the Thurston County Food Bank at 220 Thurston Street N.E. in Olympia. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Source of hunger statistic: Children's Alliance of Washington, "Hungry in Washington," November 2010.

# E-Cycle Program Still Energized

What a difference two years can make! Since its inception in 2009, Washington State's E-Cycle program has recycled more than 78 million pounds of computers, monitors, laptops and TVs. In 2010



alone, the program collected a whopping 39.5 million pounds of materials. Of that amount, Thurston County contributed 1.6 million pounds.

That's roughly 4 percent of the materials collected in 2010, even though our county represents 3.7 percent of the state's population.

The E-Cycle materials could otherwise have ended up in a landfill, or in another country where irresponsible recycling and disposal practices are the norm.

This year we're already off to a good start. As of February 2011, area residents have recycled 257,745 pounds of E-Cycle items.

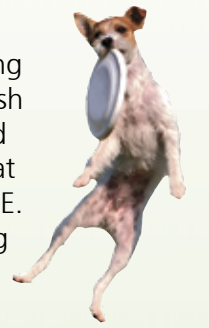
Under the E-Cycle program, manufacturers provide free recycling of computers, monitors, laptops and TVs for residents, nonprofit organizations, schools, small businesses and local governments. Here in Thurston County, residents can drop off E-Cycle items at Goodwill locations and Midway Recycling in Tumwater. Site details are available by clicking the "Electronics" link of [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org).

After the materials are collected, they are transported to a facility to be recycled safely and responsibly. Standards are set by the Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority and the state Department of Ecology, which oversees the program.

The E-Cycle program accepts four items only: computers, monitors, laptops and TVs. Many local businesses, however, accept other types of electronics such as keyboards, scanners, printers, fax machines and DVD players. For locations, click on the "Electronics" link of [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org).

# Unleash the Fun!

The canine residents of Thurston County are having a great time at the off-leash dog area at the Waste and Recovery Center, located at 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. near Lacey. The 5-acre dog area is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to dusk.



While you're there, check out the bone-shaped brick entrance to the park. Purchase your brick and have a personal message imprinted on it! For an order form, visit [www.thurston-parks.org](http://www.thurston-parks.org).

# Take a Virtual Tour

Have you ever wondered how plastic, metal, and paper items that are combined in one bin get separated out for recycling? All of the stuff you toss into your recycle bin at home goes to SP Recycling in Tacoma, where belts, blowers and magnets shuffle it around until it's properly sorted. Thanks to the internet, you can see how it's done without leaving your living room. To take a virtual tour, click "Publications" on [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) and look in the videos section.



A sort line at SP Recycling.

# trash flash

**TAKEBACK PROGRAMS:** According to the Electronics TakeBack Coalition, 24 states have passed legislation mandating statewide e-waste recycling. All laws except California's use the producer responsibility approach, where the manufacturers must pay for recycling. This means 65 percent of the U.S. population is now covered by a state e-waste recycling law. (Washington State's E-Cycle program is among those that use the producer responsibility approach, also called "product stewardship.")

# Organics: Keep the Green Clean

The curbside collection program for organics is growing like a weed. In 2010 alone, Thurston County residents who receive organics service from LeMay Enterprises recycled 11,060 tons of food, food-soiled paper and yard waste. That's a 62 percent increase since 2008, when food waste and compostable paper were added to the yard waste bins. The City of Olympia has an impressive residential organics program as well and collected 5,125 tons in 2010.

Although organics recycling is flourishing, contamination remains a problem. Plastics, metals, and other contaminants create a huge problem in the commercial composting process. These contaminants make the program more expensive and reduce the quality of the composted materials. Examples include garbage, plastic bags, plastic utensils and straws, foil and Styrofoam food containers.

Please check the yes/no list on the lid of your bin, request a brochure from your hauler, or visit [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) and click on the organics link. The "yes" list is easy to remember: yard waste, food, and food soiled paper.

Remember: The words "compostable" and "biodegradable" do not mean that a product or package can be composted at a commercial composting facility. For example, regular, petroleum-based plastic bags will biodegrade when left to the environment long enough. This, of course, does not mean the bags will turn into compost. Only products with the US Composting Council ASTM D 6400-99 seal of approval should be put in the organics bin. Examples include BioBag, Al-Pack, Nature Friendly and EcoSafe.



# trash flash

**FEWER SPORKS:** Six schools participating in Thurston County's Food to Flowers program have switched from spork kits to durable silverware. By making this change, the schools are preventing an estimated 353,500 spork kits from entering the waste stream each school year! Food to Flowers helps Thurston County schools plan and implement programs to compost their cafeteria food waste and food-soiled paper, and to expand their overall waste reduction and recycling efforts. For more information about Food to Flowers, contact Peter Guttchen at 709-3013, [guttchp@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:guttchp@co.thurston.wa.us).

# Web Offers Phone Book Opt Out

Let's face it: We all have our favorite phone books. When others arrive on the doorstep, they often go straight to the recycle bin. Fortunately, a revamped website now makes it easy to cancel deliveries from any yellow-page publisher with just a click of the mouse.

The site, [yellowpagesoptout.com](http://yellowpagesoptout.com), is sponsored by the Yellow Pages Association and the Association of Directory Publishers. It is the only opt-out system fully backed by directory publishers; however, [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org) offers an all-inclusive system for customers to opt out of phone books and catalogs.

For more ways to opt out of catalogs and get off of marketing lists and credit card offers, visit our website at [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org), click on the "Recycling and Reuse" link and look for "Junk Mail."



## Olympia News

Are you on City of Olympia garbage and recycle service? If you answered "yes," then you will want to save [www.olympiawa.gov/wastewise](http://www.olympiawa.gov/wastewise) to your internet favorites. The city offers a variety of programs and resources to help residents reduce waste and recycle more. Whether you are a business, resident, or organizing an event, there is a program and staff to help you out.

- Commercial organics and free waste assessments: 753-8752
- Recycling and composting presentations for neighborhoods and multifamily properties: 753-8509
- Zero Waste Events: Looking to make your next event waste free? 570-5837

Olympia's Saturday Drop Off Site opened March 5. The site is located at 1401 Eastside Street S.E. in Olympia. It is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through November 19 (including holidays). Olympia residents can drop off yard debris (fee charged) and scrap metal (free). Residents can find out which items are accepted and the fees at [www.olympiawa.gov/recycle](http://www.olympiawa.gov/recycle).

What is the best way to find out what goes in your curbside recycle and organics cart? Check your hauler's yes/no lists. It is the only sure way to know what is accepted in your community. The lists can usually be found on the haulers' websites. If you do not see an item on the "yes" list, then you should not put in it your recycling or organics cart.

Driving with an unsecured load is a crime.



Want to litter? Fine.	
Food or beverage container	\$103
Unsecured load	\$216
Lit cigarette	\$1025
Illegal dumping	\$1000-5000 + jail time

Secure every load to avoid fines and potential liability.

Litter and it will hurt.

Report violators. 1.800.LITTER.1  
[www.litter.wa.gov](http://www.litter.wa.gov)

## Builders Save Green

Attention builders and remodelers: You can save money by NOT dumping construction and demolition debris at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center. That's right – it's usually less expensive to recycle construction and demolition debris at nearby recycling centers than to dump it at our facility on Hogum Bay Road. For example, comingled construction debris at Recovery 1 in Tacoma is \$56 per ton, while the 2011 trash rate at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center is nearly double that amount at \$110 per ton. Depending on the location, some materials can be recycled for free and others might even be worth money!

Many builders and remodelers in Thurston County already realize that being green can save them green. In 2010, they sent 5,006 tons of construction and demolition materials to Recovery 1 for recycling. That's a 24 percent increase in materials from Thurston County since 2009, despite a building slump. In contrast, Recovery 1's totals increased by only 3 percent from 2009 to 2010.

Recovery 1 is just one of several businesses that accept construction and demolition debris for recycling and reuse. Builders and remodelers can self-haul materials or, in many cases, arrange for collection bins to be placed at the building site.



For a complete list of options, click the "Recycling and Reuse" link of [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) and select "Construction and Demolition Debris." Also check our database for reuse and recycling locations for various construction materials at [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org).

In other good news, business has also increased at the South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The store offers many new and used building materials at prices that are lower than retail. Builders have been donating more materials as well, and the donations are tax-deductible. The ReStore is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 415 Olympia Ave N.E. in Olympia. Phone: 956-3456.

## trash flash

**LOTT OFFICE:** The new LOTT Clean Water Alliance office building features a wide variety of recycled building materials. For example, the building includes 16,500 square feet of recycled wood from an old Port of Olympia warehouse that once occupied the East Bay redevelopment area where the LOTT project was constructed. The office also uses chairs, countertops and furnishings made from recycled materials. LOTT is located at 500 Adams Street N.E. in Olympia. While you're there, be sure to visit the WET Science Center to find out how water is recycled in our community.

## Community Garage Sale, May 7

Mark your calendar for a great day of bargains at this year's Community Garage Sale and Reuse Fair. The event will take place Saturday, May 7 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, 3054 Carpenter Road near Lacey.

Last year's event was a huge success with 3,000 shoppers and 175 vendors. That's a lot of customers to buy your reuseable treasures!

The event includes garage sale booths, educational booths, a free book and magazine exchange table, entertainment, food, and more! This is a perfect opportunity to swap or sell items you find while spring cleaning!

There will be a \$2 early-bird admission between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and \$1 admission after 9 a.m. Booth space is \$25 for an outdoor space and \$40 for a covered space (all approximately 10 feet x 10 feet).

Buying items secondhand not only saves money but helps keep perfectly good items out of the landfill. While you are there, keep an eye out for the recycling stations. In the spirit of "reduce, reuse, recycle," the Fairgrounds and Solid Waste are making sure you have a place to recycle your organics, bottles and cans.

To reserve your space or get more details, visit [www.co.thurston.wa.us/fair](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/fair) or call the Thurston County Fair at 786-5453.



## trash flash

**TWIST TIES ON TOYS:** Beginning this year, the popular toy manufacturer, Hasbro Inc., plans to eliminate all wire ties from its packaging. In addition, the company has set a goal to have at least 75 percent of its paper packaging derived from recycled material or sources that practice sustainable forest management.

# Products that Close the Loop

In this edition of Talkin' Trash, we're launching what will become a regular feature highlighting recycled-content products. If you know of a recycled content or "upcycled" product that you would like to see featured in our next edition, please e-mail Deanna Garner with your suggestions at [garnerd@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:garnerd@co.thurston.wa.us).

## Glass Aggregate

Crushed glass is a cost-effective substitute for sand and gravel and it is available locally at Concrete Recyclers on Black Lake Boulevard. This glass cullet is used for a variety of construction applications, including backfill, roadway construction, drainage medium, and utility bedding. It is also approved by the state Department of Transportation for nearly 20 construction uses.



Businesses that produce glass aggregate, like Concrete Recyclers, receive glass from solid waste haulers and then crush it into small, non-sharp pieces.

## trash flash

**INTERCITY TRANSIT:** Intercity Transit plans to install solar-powered lights in 20 bus stop shelters beginning this year. The shelters provide light at night to offer riders extra security and safety while they're waiting for their bus. The lighting systems are powered by a battery that builds up electricity throughout the day. Work is also underway for a new, 334-stall park and ride at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center. The lot is set to open in 2012.

# Green Business Program

Many local businesses spent 2010 cleaning up their acts. Actually, make that "greening" up their acts. The Thurston Green Business Program recognizes companies, governments, and nonprofits that operate sustainably. Organizations provide information about efforts made during the past year such as reducing waste and conserving energy.



On April 13, the Thurston County Chamber acknowledged

qualifying applicants. They also awarded a small, medium, and large business that had taken major steps toward sustainability. This edition of Talkin' Trash went to press before the winners were announced. Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ThurstonSolidWaste](http://www.facebook.com/ThurstonSolidWaste) to get the results.

In addition to public recognition, the program and its partner agencies offer resources to help green your business. You can find articles, videos, and money-saving tips at [www.thurstongreenbusiness.com](http://www.thurstongreenbusiness.com). The program is free and open to any organization in Thurston County or in good standing with the Thurston County Chamber.

## trash flash

**LET US KNOW:** How has your office or workplace reduced waste? Do you have ideas or advice to share with others? Tell us your story and we'll post it on our website. Click the "Business Waste Reduction" link at [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) or e-mail your story to [ormee@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:ormee@co.thurston.wa.us).

## Toilets to Tiles

Doing a home remodeling project and looking for ceramic tile? Why not use tiles created from old toilets? As of November 2010, Fireclay Tile had collected more than 150 tons of recycled porcelain from old toilets, bathtubs and vanities. Located in northern California, Fireclay collected the materials in partnership with two Bay Area recyclers.



Fireclay Tile's recycled tile products feature more than 70 percent locally sourced recycled materials, more than 50 percent of which is post-consumer waste. Materials include recycled waste glass, recycled waste granite dust, recycled porcelain, and spent abrasive materials.

For information, samples, and sales locations in Seattle, visit [fireclaytile.com](http://fireclaytile.com). Look for the "Debris Series."

## Schedule a Speaker

Do you have a business, homeowners association, civic organization, or other group that would like to learn how to live a bit greener? Our education staff provides free presentations to help the community learn more about the many convenient waste reduction and recycling opportunities in Thurston County. We have a variety of topics available and can tailor presentations to your group's needs. To schedule a speaker for your next meeting or other group event, call Deanna Garner at 754-4398 or e-mail [garnerd@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:garnerd@co.thurston.wa.us).

## Paper: Pre or Post?

Pre-consumer content is the percentage of paper recovered during the manufacturing process, which is a standard practice in almost all paper mills. It includes paper trimmings and other mill scraps.

The more important indicator is "post-consumer content," which identifies the percentage of paper that has been collected from recycle bins and used as pulp to make new paper. Post-consumer recycled content is very important for conserving resources and minimizing pollution and waste.

Thurston County's in-house sustainability policy recommends using paper with a post-consumer content of at least 30 percent; however, many departments are using Harbor 100, made locally at Grays Harbor Paper. It is 100 percent post-consumer recycled content and manufactured with 100 percent renewable, fossil-free energy.

## Fire Extinguishers

Disposing of an old fire extinguisher gives you the chance to practice what we hope you'll never actually have to do: use it. Simply follow these steps:

1. Check the pressure gauge. If your extinguisher is completely empty, take the steel body to a scrap metal recycler. A list of locations is available on [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org). Click on the "Scrap Metals" link. You may be asked to remove the head of the extinguisher.
2. If the extinguisher is not empty, take it outside and place the head of the extinguisher in two heavy plastic trash bags. Pull the release lever through the bags so your skin does not come in contact with the contents. (Wearing gloves is also a good idea.) Close the bags tightly and put them in the trash. The extinguisher can then go to a scrap metal recycler.



Once you dispose of the old extinguisher, make sure you replace it with a new fire extinguisher immediately.

## Spring Flings



Spring is officially here and it's time for all those "spring flings" .... no, not *those* types of flings. We're talking about all the food and paper products people fling into the garbage after soccer games, family barbecues and company get-togethers. Planning ahead is the most important tool for recycling waste at special events. Here are some tips, courtesy of the City of Portland.

- Buy in bulk to reduce the quantity of single-use items and pre-packaged foods, including cream, sugar, catsup, mustard, cookies and snacks.
- Invest in reusable mugs, plates, napkins, linens, food trays, utensils, cups and glasses. Over time, you'll get a greater return on your investment than buying disposables.
- Use compostable food service ware instead of plastic or polystyrene.
- Donate extra edible food to a food bank or local charity.
- Compost food scraps, coffee grounds and paper contaminated with food residue. You can either compost the food scraps at home, or arrange for a hauler to take them away.

Finally, place recycling, composting and trash receptacles next to each other; otherwise, guests will dump materials in the closest bin they find, regardless of whether it's the correct container.

Remember, Thurston County Solid Waste can loan you FREE collection bins for organics, trash and mixed recyclables. We can also give you more great ideas on how to plan a waste-free event. Give us a call at 867-2491 to reserve the bins or receive our handy tip sheet.

## Compost Workshops

Master Composters provide FREE compost workshops each year from spring through fall. These workshops include hands-on training in how to turn food and yard wastes into compost, including small space composting (worm bins). For a schedule, visit [www.mgftc.org](http://www.mgftc.org) and click on "Composting." Pre-registration is not required.

Can't attend a workshop or have questions? Call the Master Gardener/ Master Composter Clinic Rotline at 867-2163. E-mail: [master@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:master@co.thurston.wa.us).



## Free, Secure Medicine Disposal

Chances are you have some expired cold medicine or a prescription that you no longer need in the medicine cabinet. Now it's time to take those unwanted medications over to a medicine return drop box so they don't end up in the wrong hands or in our environment.

Seven secure medication drop boxes are now available throughout the county thanks to a partnership between local law enforcement agencies, the Washington State Department of Ecology, Group Health, and Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. In 2010, the public network of sites collected more than 2,000 pounds of antibiotics, pain-killers, antidepressants and other drugs languishing in medicine cabinets.

Drop boxes are available at these locations:

- Lacey Police Department, 420 College Street S.E. in Lacey - seven days a week/24 hours a day.
- Rainier City Hall, 102 Rochester Street W. in Rainier - Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tenino Police Department, 358 McClellan Street S. in Tenino - Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thurston County Sheriff's Office, 2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W. in Olympia - seven days a week/24 hours a day, outside Building #3.
- Tumwater Police Department at City Hall, 555 Israel Road in Tumwater - Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



- Yelm Police Department, 206 McKenzie Ave. S.E. in Yelm - Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Group Health Cooperative\*, 700 Lilly Road in Olympia - Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. On Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, the hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

\*Unlike law enforcement offices, Group Health cannot accept controlled substances like Oxycontin or Vicodin.

Collection locations in Mason, Lewis and Pierce Counties can be found at [www.TakeBackYourMeds.org](http://www.TakeBackYourMeds.org).

### Worth the Effort

Safely disposing of medications not only clears out clutter, it also keeps pharmaceuticals out of the trash or toilet. As a result, they are less likely to enter the environment as leachate or wastewater. Plus, it reduces the chance of addictions, overdoses and hospitalizations. That's why Thurston County joined more than 140 other organizations in supporting a Secure Medicine Take-Back bill this legislative session.

The proposed legislation - Senate Bill 5234 - would require drug manufacturers selling medicines in Washington State to fund a safe, statewide take-back program for unused medications. Here in Washington, total revenues for prescription and over-the-counter medicines exceed \$4 billion annually. The bill did not receive a vote before the legislative cut-off date, but efforts will continue to get it passed during the 2012 legislative session.

## trash flash

**DRUG TAKE BACK DAY:** On April 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Thurston County Sheriff's Office will host a drug take-back day at ROOF Community Services, 10140 Highway 12 S.W. in Rochester. Last year, the event brought in roughly 50 pounds of unused or expired prescription medications. This event is part of a nationwide collection day sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Visit [www.justice.gov/dea](http://www.justice.gov/dea) for more information.

## Culminating Project Help

Attention high school students: Do you need ideas for your senior culminating project? Solid Waste staff can work with you to develop ideas and plan your project. Need volunteer hours? Summer is a great time to get started! If you already have a great idea that involves waste reduction, we can get you started on the right path.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Giving recycling presentations.
- Distributing informational material.
- Improving recycling or starting a composting program at school.
- Litter removal in public areas.

Call us at 867-2491 or email [wwm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:wwm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us).



## trash flash

**ENVIRO TEENS:** Teens who are most active online and influential with peers are also the kids most concerned about the environment, according to a 2007 study published by the research firm JupiterResearch. So-called green teens are slightly more engaged in a number of activities than the average 13-year-old to 17-year-old, according to the report. (Of the teens surveyed, 38 percent said they were worried about the environment, and 15 percent said they were highly concerned about it.) Excerpted from Cnet.com.

# Health Matters



## News from Thurston County Environmental Health

### Septic Financial Aid

Thurston County offers low-interest loans and grants to help residents repair failing septic systems.

**Loans:** Any Thurston County homeowner is eligible to apply for a low-interest loan to repair a failing septic system. A failing system means sewage is surfacing outside or backing up into the house.

**Grants:** To be eligible for a grant, homeowners must be low-income, enrolled in the senior or disabled property tax exemption program, or have a repair that qualifies as a marine shoreline repair. The grant covers a portion of the cost and does not need to be repaid. Thurston County Environmental Health will verify that the system is failing. The loan or grant may be used to replace the failing system, or to connect to a public sewer, if one is available.

Another program provides small grants for low-income septic system owners in shellfish protection districts to help pay for inspections, pumping, septic tank riser installation, pump replacement, or other minor repairs that don't require a permit.

Find details and forms at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/loan\\_program.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehoss/loan_program.html) or call (360) 867-2628.

### Septic Workshops

Thurston County is offering free "Septic Sense" workshops:

Wednesday, April 27 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
McLane Fire Station #91  
125 Delphi Road N.W. in Olympia

Thursday, May 5 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Griffin Fire Station 13-1  
3707 Steamboat Island Loop N.W.

**To register,** call (360) 867-2674 or visit [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health\\_fpforms/ehoss/ss\\_wrkshp.htm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health_fpforms/ehoss/ss_wrkshp.htm). TDD line is (360) 867-2603.

### Lawn Makeover

Taking care of your lawn doesn't need to be difficult, if you learn the basics and tips for success. By using simple techniques, your lawn can look like it had an extreme makeover without a lot of fuss. Attend a FREE workshop given by Peter Punzi, horticulture instructor and landscaper, to learn how!

Classes will be held Tuesday, April 19 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Horizons Elementary School OR Saturday, May 7 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at South Puget Sound Community College.

To register, call (360) 867-2582 or go to [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg).

## Recycling Used Motor Oil

Motor oil and other automobile fluids are polluting Puget Sound and other waterways. Just think of all the drips and stains you see in streets and parking lots. Much of this leaked oil washes into local storm drains and may reach local streams, lakes, rivers, and Puget Sound. Even small amounts of spilled or dumped oil can contaminate entire stretches of shoreline, shellfish growing areas, and recreational attractions.

Each year, Thurston County residents make the smart choice and recycle thousands of gallons of used motor oil. The oil is collected at HazoHouse, local auto supply stores, and businesses that offer oil-collection tanks. The results are slick: The more used motor oil is recycled, the less drilling and energy-consumption is needed to get virgin crude oil. Used motor oil is often used as an alternative industrial fuel or refined into new lubricants.

Recycling used oil in Thurston County is easy! First, keep your used oil clean. Never mix used oil with other hazardous materials, including old gasoline, solvents, or antifreeze. These mixtures cannot be recycled and are considered hazardous waste.

Store used oil containers inside. If they're stored outside, water can enter even tiny cracks in the containers and the oil will float out. You'll end up with a container full of rainwater, and the soil will end up contaminated. As a precaution, store only small amounts of used oil.



- When you're ready to recycle, securely load your containers into your vehicle and visit one of the nearly 30 locations in Thurston County that accept used oil. For details on the locations and operating hours nearest you, visit Thurston County Public Health and Social Services' website and download the used oil recycling brochure at: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/pdf/used\\_oil\\_bro.pdf](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw/pdf/used_oil_bro.pdf). More information about used oil collection and recycling is also available by calling (360) 867-2578.

- Recycling used motor oil is environmentally and economically sound. While it can't change the fact that oil supplies are non-renewable, it can help extend the life of our limited supply.



## Clean for Spring

As we crack open windows to let in fresh air, some of us may notice mold creeping onto windowsills or above the shower. And even more concerning is the fact that moldy and damp living spaces can increase allergies and other health problems and trigger asthma attacks.

The easiest way to prevent mold is to keep surfaces dry. Use ventilation fans or open windows while you cook, shower, and do laundry. Leave the ventilation fan on for about a half-hour afterwards to clear out moisture. Make sure fans vent to the outdoors rather than into attics or the inside of walls. When you notice moist windowsills or droplets on windows, dry them off, or use a squeegee to control water as soon as possible.

If you already have a mold problem, start with the underlying moisture issue. This may require cleaning clogged gutters and directing downspouts away from the home, fixing a leak, or placing heavy plastic on top of the soil in crawl spaces. If the underlying problem is not resolved, mold will continue to grow and spread. If you suspect hidden mold, see the EPA website for recommendations: [www.epa.gov/mold/hiddenmold.html](http://www.epa.gov/mold/hiddenmold.html).

- If you feel compelled to clean up, be prepared! Always read the label and follow safety instructions before using any cleaning product. Wear long gloves and a N-95 respirator and goggles to reduce your exposure to airborne mold. Scrub hard surfaces with a mild detergent solution such as laundry detergent and warm water. Allow to air dry. This may be all that is needed.

- If you choose to use bleach on more stubborn mold, use a solution of ¼-cup bleach to one gallon of water and wipe on the moldy area. Wait 20 minutes and repeat. Give the entire area a good cleaning, vacuum floors, and wash any exposed bedding or clothing. Mold damaged furniture may need to be thrown out but you can try to save it by vacuuming and airing it out. Musty and damp smells indicate there is a continuing problem.

- More clean-up instructions are on the Washington State Health Department website: [www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/IAQ/got\\_mold.html](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/IAQ/got_mold.html). For more information on green cleaning, call (360) 867-2674 or e-mail [johnsoj@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:johnsoj@co.thurston.wa.us).

# Garbage and Recycling Resources

► The information on this page is correct through 12/31/11.

## Contacts

Talkin' Trash is produced by Thurston County Public Works. Phone 867-2491 or e-mail [wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us). TDD: 754-2933.

## Thurston County Public Works

Thurston County Solid Waste Administration:  
867-2491. TDD: 754-2933

WasteLine: 786-5494  
(24-hour recorded information)

Food Recycling Hotline:  
754-2953 (24-hour recorded message)

Webs: [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org)  
[www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org)

## Curbside Collection (Haulers)

Thurston County does not own or operate garbage and recycling trucks. Call your service provider for information about collection schedules.

- Butler's Cove Refuse..... 923-0111
- Eastern Grays Harbor (Summit Lake)  
..... 923-0111
- Joe's Refuse..... 736-4769  
..... or 1-800-525-4167
- Pacific Disposal..... 923-0111
- Rural Refuse..... 923-0111

The above companies are owned by Harold LeMay Enterprises, which has been purchased by Waste Connections. Organics/yard waste collection service is also available in many of the service areas. Call for more information or visit [www.lemayinc.com](http://www.lemayinc.com).

- City of Olympia residents, call 753-8368 or visit [www.olympiawa.gov](http://www.olympiawa.gov). Olympia provides its own trash, recycling and organics collection service.
- Town of Bucoda residents, call 278-3525 to arrange for curbside trash and recycling service with LeMay Enterprises.

## Public Health and Social Services, Environmental Health

Environmental Educators: 867-2674 or TDD 867-2603

Solid and Hazardous Waste section: 867-2664

Web: [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm)

Hazardous waste web:  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw)

Integrated Pest Management web:  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm)

Gardening guides:  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg)

Healthy home advice:  
[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm)

Address: 412 Lilly Road N.E., Olympia WA 98506

## Exchange Websites

The following websites provide an excellent way to sell, give away, or purchase useable items

- Thurston County's free online exchange program: [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com)
- craigslist: [seattle.craigslist.org/oly](http://seattle.craigslist.org/oly)
- FreeCycle: [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

## Facilities

### Waste and Recovery Center

Located at 2418 Hogum Bay Road. From I-5: take the Marvin Road exit (Exit 111) and head north. Turn right onto Hogum Bay Road. The center will be on your right.

### Rates (through 12/31/2011)

one ton = 2,000 lbs

#### Garbage

300 lbs or less.....\$17  
more than 300 lbs ... \$110 per ton, prorated  
(One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton garbage rate is 5.5 cents per pound.) For refrigerated appliances, add a \$17 handling fee to the rate above. Rates include 3.6 percent state refuse tax.

#### Computers, Monitors, Laptops, TVs

Free through the E-Cycle Washington program. Take these items to the Goodwill donation station located near HazoHouse.

#### Yard Debris

300 lbs or less.....\$8  
more than 300 lbs ..... \$42 per ton, prorated  
(One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton yard waste rate is 2.1 cents per pound.)

There is no state refuse tax on yard waste.

### Hours

#### Weekdays:

Nov. 1 to March 31 .....7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
April 1 to Oct. 31 .....7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Saturdays and Sundays

Year round.....8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Drop Boxes

**Rainier:** 13010 Rainier Acres Road S.E.  
Friday and Saturday only, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Rochester:** 16500 Sargent Road S.E.  
Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Summit Lake:** 12133 Summit Lake Drive  
Sunday only, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### HazoHouse

Take household hazardous products to HazoHouse. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone 754-3354. Service is free for residents; businesses pay a small fee. Turn right just before you enter the main entrance and follow the signs.

### Holidays

The Waste and Recovery Center, HazoHouse and all Drop Boxes are closed on the following holidays only: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and July Fourth.

## Where to Take...

Thurston County maintains a database of locations where residents can reuse and recycle virtually any item. Visit [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org). Are we missing any locations? Call 867-2491 or e-mail [wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us).

## Compost Bin Sales

Reduced-price compost bins are available through the Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation. Visit [www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com](http://www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com) or call 481-4204.



Printed on recycled-content paper



Produced by:  
Thurston County Public Works  
2404 A Heritage Court S.W.  
Olympia, WA 98502-6045

ECRWSS  
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## Recycle Blue Bins

### Locations

Lacey: Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E.

Rochester: Rochester Garbage Drop Box site, 16500 Sargent Road. Open Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only.

Rainier: Rainier Garbage Drop Box site, 13010 Rainier Acres Road S.E. Open Fridays and Saturdays only.

Summit Lake: Summit Lake Garbage Drop Box site, 12133 Summit Lake Drive. Open Sundays only.

### Items Accepted at Blue Bins

Thurston County's blue recycle bins accept:

- Newspaper
- Glass bottles and jars
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Mixed paper
- Plastic dairy tubs, yogurt cups, jugs, jars, and bottles
- Milk cartons and drink boxes
- Corrugated cardboard
- Plastic film (Waste and Recovery Center only)

Please place all materials loose in the bin – not in a bag. Bagged materials are difficult to sort out at the recycling sorting facility.