**Rethinking the American lawn**

You are probably focusing on holiday preparations more than your yard right now. However, we wanted to put a bug in your ear before spring. Americans love their lawns. Yet think of the time, money, products, and water you use to grow grass, so you can cut it, so you can pay to have it hauled away, so you can start all over again. Organics make up the largest percentage of our waste stream, so it would be great to have less grass going to the landfill. Here are a few ideas to “cut the grass”.

- Replace part of your lawn with some vegetables, berry bushes, native plants, or low water ornamentals. The EPA states that nationwide, landscape irrigation accounts for nearly one-third of all residential water use, totaling nearly 9 billion gallons per day. With the headlines about droughts and the effects on our food supplies, it might be time to use the space for something better. If you can’t water it in the summer, and it looks beat up in the winter, what is the point of having a lawn anyway? Sheet mulching is an easy way to get rid of grass with no chemicals or digging.

- Overseed your lawn with Dutch White Clover. This allows you to reduce watering, mow less, and skip fertilizing while keeping a green lawn. Before the invention of weed killer, clover mixed in your grass used to be a sign of a quality lawn. If you mow regularly, you will not be overrun with flowers and bees (though some of us find that to be a good thing).

- Explore lawn alternatives. Native groundcovers, creeping herbs, or flowering mixes for the Northwest, such as Fleur de Lawn are a few ideas. These stay low to the ground, require no mowing, spread quickly, and feel very pleasant on bare feet. Just like with clover, using weed products will kill these.

- Switch to natural fertilizers and manage weeds by hand or with spot applications of herbicides. Dousing the lawn with chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides is not a great idea, especially if you have kids or pets that use the yard. It's also not helpful to our birds and struggling bee populations. Remember: no bees equals no food.

- Switch to an electric mower. They are very quiet, easy to start, and you don't need to fill them with oil and gas. Some run on batteries if you tend to run over cords. Each weekend, about 54 million Americans mow their lawns, using 800 million gallons of gas per year and producing around 5% of the nation's air pollution, according to the EPA.

- Get a mulching mower or mulching blade for your existing mower. They chop the grass up into tiny bits that actually fertilize your lawn. This does not cause thatch problems, as some say, and can actually prevent it by keeping the lawn healthier.

- Mow high – it saves water and makes stronger grass blades. Never take off more than 1/3 of your grass height at a time. Drop us a line in spring and let us know if you made any changes.

**Feedback requested on the plastic bag ordinance**

As you have probably noticed, some of your favorite stores are no longer offering plastic carryout bags for your purchases. This is because Tumwater, Olympia, Lacey, and Thurston County (for the unincorporated areas) adopted bag ordinances that started July 1, 2014. The new law prohibits most retailers from providing single-use plastic carryout bags and requires them to charge a minimum of 5 cents for large paper bags.

This change required adjustments for both retailers and their customers. We want to thank everyone for their efforts. It has now been four months since the start date and we would like to hear from the community how things are going. Two online surveys are available: one for retailers and one for customers.

**For customers:**
www.surveymonkey.com/s/customerbag

**For retailers:**
www.surveymonkey.com/s/retailerbag

Each survey contains only a few questions. This important feedback will be included in a status report on the ordinance that will be posted at www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/plastics early next year.

Thank you!
Organics collection is now the same countywide

The organics collection programs in Thurston County have gone through several changes over the past few years. This has left many residents and businesses confused about what to put in their bins. Thurston County, the City of Olympia, and LeMay recently adopted the same list of acceptable items to help end the confusion. Now, no matter where you live or work, or who picks up your organics, the items that go in your bin are the same. These items fall into three basic groups:

1. **Yard and wood waste** including grass, branches, leaves, plant waste, and clean lumber scraps.

2. **Food waste and plate scrapings** including fruits, vegetables, bread, dairy, eggs, meat, bones, seafood, and shells.

3. **Uncoated food-soiled paper and shredded paper** including paper napkins, towels, coffee filters, and pizza boxes. Shredded paper should be put in a paper bag.

Printable versions of the list are at www.ThurstonSolidWaste.com/organics. Posting this easy-to-use list where everyone can see it will help “Keep the Green Clean”. For LeMay customers, the information will also be in your January/February 2015 billing insert. Information about Olympia’s services can be found at www.olympiawa.gov/wastewise.

**Residential Organics Collection**

**Acceptable Materials**

**Yard waste and plant waste**
- Grass, branches, and leaves
- Plants and flowers
- Lumber scraps (untreated, unpainted, unstained—nails ok)

**Food waste and plate scrapings**
- Bread, pasta, and rice
- Dairy and eggs
- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat and bones
- Seafood and shells

**Food-soiled paper and shredded paper**
- Coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags
- Paper plates (uncoated, non-shiny)
- Paper towels and napkins
- Shredded paper
- Pizza boxes

**Trash Flash**

In Thurston County, about 17% of what we send to the landfill every day is food waste. That is more than any other single item in our trash.

**Other waste reduction options for organics**

- Take your yard waste to the Waste and Recovery Center or check out our WhereDoITakeMy? database to find other yard waste drop-off locations. Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org and click on Yard Waste Disposal or Where Do I Take My?
- Start your own backyard compost pile. Go to mgftc.org and click on Resources.
- Practice GrassCycling, a simple, natural way of recycling grass and returning water and nutrients to the soil. Go to www.olympiawa.gov/ grasscycling.

Don’t break the recycling loop

All uncoated, non-shiny paper will compost. Food-soiled paper products like napkins, coffee filters, paper towels, and pizza boxes should go in your organics bin. However, most paper products like office paper, magazines, cardboard boxes, and newspapers can be made into new paper products over and over again and should go in your recycling bin. This helps conserve the natural resources and energy required to make new paper from trees. When recyclable paper is composted, the recycling loop is broken.
Keeping the green clean

Composting facilities have a zero-tolerance policy for contaminants like plastic, metal, and glass. No one wants these things in their gardens or yards. Even small amounts of them can contaminate a very large load of compost. The most common sources of contamination are the layers of plastic that coat a wide variety of paper products. These include coffee and soda cups, and many types of paper plates and take-out containers. Even if the paper composites, the plastic is left behind and is almost impossible to remove from the finished product.

Not all items labeled “compostable” or “biodegradable” really compost. And even some products that make no claim to being compostable are marketed in ways that make it easy for folks to think they can put them in their organics bin. As an example, one product that we’re seeing more often in both residential and commercial organics bins is a line of take-out containers called BioPlus Earth. In many ways, it’s a very green product. It’s made from 100% recycled paper with 35% post-consumer content using a chlorine-free process. However, the containers are plastic-lined, so they are not compostable.

You can help ensure the availability and affordability of our local programs by keeping metal, glass, and plastics—including the plastics that coat many paper products—out of your organics bin. If a paper product is shiny, or appears to be coated, throw it in the trash. And, if possible, choose durable products like washable utensils, cups, and plates to prevent waste. We offer tips on how to organize a waste-free event.

Just go to www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org and click on Event Planning. For more information on compostable products, and what you can put in your organics bin, visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Organics.

More cheer, less waste this holiday season

From Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day, household waste increases by more than 25%. This adds 1 million tons of extra food waste, shopping bags, packaging, wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons to our landfills each week during the holiday season.

• An estimated 2.6 billion holiday cards are sold each year in the United States, enough to fill a football field 10 stories high. Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive.

• If we each sent one less card, we’d save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

• If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.

• Half of the paper America consumes is used to wrap and decorate consumer products. Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper.

• Gift cards that don’t require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.

• Approximately 33 million Christmas trees are sold in North America every year. To help prevent waste from cutting down and disposing of trees, buy a potted tree and plant it after the holidays.

• About 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.

Give a gift to the planet this holiday season by cutting the amount of waste you and your family generate. Find reduction, reuse, and recycling resources on the back of this newsletter.

Use it or Lose it!

For a long time, good folks doing good work have focused on the Reuse and Recycle part of the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle mantra. And to even have a conversation about reduction means we’re starting from a place of plenty. We have so many choices…so many things to own! There are cars and electronics, houses, jeans, and anything you might possibly want—used or new. Only, what we often realize, somewhere between the storage unit and the basement, is that the now famous adage is true: “you don’t own stuff, stuff owns you”. Owning something means caring for it, cleaning it, finding a place for it, and hopefully, using it or appreciating it. We can end up swimming in STUFF. This, despite the fact that we know what matters to our happiness isn’t wrapped in plastic, steel, or ancient hardwood.

So, let’s work on this together, Thurston County. In each new issue of Talking Trash, we’ll focus on how to reduce the stuff in your life—simplify and find value in what matters to you. You can use it—or lose it. Totally up to you.

This edition’s USE IT OR LOSE IT introduces Olympia’s fast-growing gift-economy. If this makes you think of presents, you’re on the right track.

Useable items are “gifted” to those who need or want them, rather than collecting dust or rotting in the landfill. Seen most often in the end-of-the-driveway FREE boxes, this movement is now more organized with THE BUY NOTHING OLYMPIA Facebook page. You can check out the page anytime, but will need to request to be a member through the page administrator, in order to participate. With over 1,200 members and growing fast, this effort promises great things for our community.

Page members can “ASK” for anything they need, “GIFT” anything they are done with, and show “GRATITUDE” for gifts received. What you can’t do is barter, trade, sell or discuss anything. This is a reduction opportunity that doubles as a great way to build community.

Don’t be fooled by the name. There are members not just in Olympia, but from all over the county, but users are encouraged to give as locally as possible. If you’ve been looking for a way to get back to basics and simplify your life—start now. Chances are there are good people who really need that dusty-old-whatever lurking in the corner of your attic.
We need your input

There are significant environmental, financial, and societal issues related to the amount of food we waste, from farm to fork. Solid Waste launched a residential awareness and assistance campaign earlier this year. In order to better serve the community, we’d like to get your input on the issue of wasted food and our efforts to date. Please help us by taking the short survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/WasteLessFood.

Business spotlight: Value Village: good deeds and great deals

Did you know that shopping at Value Village makes you financially, environmentally, and socially responsible? Most people are aware that buying used quality items saves money and resources. But when you get them at Value Village, you also help their 140 non-profit partners.

Value Village works with the ARC of Washington, an organization that helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and pays them for donated items. They also collaborate with local non-profits to help them with their own clothing drive fundraisers. Any non-profit can participate.

Only the highest quality items make it to the sales floor, which, on average, is about 40% of what they receive. That is 6000-7000 items a day! The majority of items not sold are recycled or reused. Each year the stores’ efforts prevent 600 million pounds of unsold merchandise from ending up in landfills. Here are a few of the ways this happens:

- Clothing, shoes, toys, books, small household goods, and baby items are shipped to developing nations through both wholesale and philanthropic efforts.
- Prescription eyeglasses go to a local Lions Club who rework the glasses for people in need.
- Blankets and towels are provided to Animal Services and other pet related organizations.
- Coats and jackets go to a local nonprofit that provides them to the homeless.
- Clothing and other goods are donated to Community Youth Services, the YWCA, and other nonprofits in our area.
- Metal is recycled locally.
- Electronic items are recycled through the E-Cycle program.

The next time you are in Lacey, stop by 604 Sleater Kinney Rd SE to shop or donate and do some good.

Trash Flash

Did you know BEST BUY accepts most electronics and small and large appliances for recycling? Many at no charge! Visit www.bestbuy.com/recycling, or contact the stores in Lacey and Olympia.

Keeping up on all the trashy news

The newsletter is a great way to stay informed on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. However, there are only two editions per year. For those of you that want the latest and greatest news or have waste reduction questions keeping you up at night, here are a few suggestions:

- Look for your billing inserts. LeMay trash bills include an insert from Thurston County Solid Waste. Olympia sends one out in their utility bills.
- Sign up for our E-newsletters. Just go to www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org and enter your email address on the right side. We have a general waste reduction newsletter and some specific ones for schools, businesses, construction, and reducing the food you waste.
- Join us on Facebook. We have two pages and often have contests, so you should “Like” them both. Thurston Solid Waste provides general waste reduction. Waste Less Food—Thurston Solid Waste is all about helping you reduce the food you waste and money you spend.
- Contact us with any question or comment at ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us or 360-867-2491. We really do want to hear what is on your mind.
- Schedule a presentation for your school, workplace, or community group. Our entertaining and knowledgeable staff can speak on a variety of topics.
Organizations waste less food and save money

The news these days is full of great stories about businesses and other organizations finding ways to reduce the food they waste. Why are they doing it? It’s good for business! A 2012 report states that Stop N Shop/Giant Landover saved $100 million! Intermarche, in France, increased their business by 24% in two days, and our very own Olympia School District donated more than 4 tons of prepared, uneaten food to the Thurston County Food Bank in 2013. Businesses that waste less food can save money on purchases, staff time and disposal costs, all while reaping the rewards of helping the environment, their customers, and the community-at-large. Here are just a few things that local businesses can do to waste less food and increase their bottom line:

• Conduct a waste audit to learn where the waste is happening and what you’re throwing away.
• Donate food that is safe but that you’re not able to sell (Thurston County Food Bank, for example).
• A day or two before items are pulled from the shelves as “Expired”, sell them at a discount—perhaps on a bargain shelf or section. This works for produce too!

Is your favorite shop working to waste less food? Tell us about it so we can share it with the community on our web site and Facebook page. Why not tell your grocer how they could save money and waste less food?


Learn more

Does your business work hard to save energy, conserve water, or reduce trash? Then certify it as a Green Business at http://thurstongreenbusiness.com/apply and get a window sticker to show the community what you are doing. It’s good for the environment and for business.

Are you ready to be famous?

Have you ever wanted to be a celebrity radio star, revered scriptwriter, or esteemed director? Now is your chance—Thurston County style! You may have heard our Waste Less Food radio ads on local stations (they are also on the Resources page at www.WasteLessFood.com). It’s time to write some new ones and we know how creative our community is, so we decided to give you the job!

Put on your thinking caps and draft a script. The goal of the Waste Less Food program is to raise community awareness about the huge social, environmental, and financial impacts of wasting food. We want people to identify the reasons they waste food and start using our tools to make sure they actually eat the food they buy. The ads can be serious or wacky — whatever works to get people’s attention.

A panel of “experts” will review all the submissions and pick three, which the good people at the radio station 94.5 ROXY will produce. Each winner will get to direct the action and even star in their ad, if they choose to. The ads will be on several stations in the spring.

Your written script should be about 50 seconds when you read it aloud. Make sure to identify who is speaking, if more than one person, and any sound effects. The contest is open to residents of all ages that live in Thurston County. Email submissions to thomaste@co.thurston.wa.us by February 1, 2015. For more information on the Waste Less Food project visit www.WasteLessFood.com.

Lettuce, Tomato and Beef, Oh My!

Sometimes it can feel like a little magic is required to use up all those odds and ends in the kitchen. And we should use them—wasting food costs us money and wastes natural resources. Luckily, you don’t have to be a wizard. Check out the website www.bigoven.com! You can enter up to three ingredients you have on hand and it will give you recipes that include them. The site www.allrecipes.com offers a similar “search by ingredients” option. Want to get serious about wasting less food and saving more money? Have a leftovers night every week. And don’t be afraid to try something new—you might discover a hidden gem.

Donating to Habitat for Humanity just got easier.

Are you building, remodeling, cleaning out, or downsizing? The South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity Donation Station, at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, can help. Drop off your usable items to save on trash disposal costs and get a tax receipt. Donated items are sold to the public for discount prices at the two Thurston County Habitat for Humanity Stores. Proceeds help build affordable homes in Thurston County for families in need. But the benefits don’t stop there. By repurposing your furniture, appliances, or leftover building supplies, you are conserving resources and keeping good stuff out of the landfill. For more information on what types of items they accept, visit www.spshabitat.org or connect with them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/spshabitat.

Opt out!

Tired of all those phone books left at your mailbox or in your driveway? It’s easy to opt out. Just go to www.yellowpagesoptout.com.

Opt out!
Youth opportunities:
Earn your RRR patch
Kids can earn the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle patch from Thurston County Solid Waste individually or as a group activity. The program is designed to teach youth the meaning of “reduce, reuse, and recycle” by encouraging them to take better care of their environment and neighborhood.

After completing activities and action projects, each group or individual fills out a Patch Requirement Sheet and submits it. Thurston County Solid Waste will then send each participant a free patch for practicing the 3R’s. To download instructions for earning the patch, visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Youth.

Don’t Stop with the Patch Program!
Solid Waste can help Girl and Boy Scouts and other youth organizations earn badges, pins, and service hours. Our helpful presentations show you what you can recycle in your community, how to recycle at home, and where your garbage goes. We also have “learning by doing” activities that let group members become the teachers. Activities include showing people how to sort their waste at a public event like the Thurston County Fair.

For information on any of our programs, please ask your leader or sponsor to contact Colleen Minion at (360) 867-2280 or minionc@co.thurston.wa.us.

New Waste Less Food classroom presentation getting enthusiastic results!
When asked about his family’s food wasting habits, Jackson, a student participant in a Waste Less Food classroom presentation at Grand Mound Elementary, admitted, “My brother and I don’t normally eat everything on our plates”. After tracking and measuring his families wasted food for a week, he was singing a new song. “We thought it was a good experiment because it is a way to get us to eat our food so we are not throwing money away. Now, me and my brother and my family are going to eat everything on our plates.”

Way to go Jackson! That is exactly the outcome families can hope for when their child’s class participates in the new Waste Less Food presentations for 4th-8th grades. In these presentations, students learn how much food Americans waste, the reasons behind this waste, and the environmental and financial impacts.

By taking the Challenge at home, students and families come face to face with just how much they are wasting and why. More importantly, they learn easy ways to waste less food, save time and money, and keep valuable resources from going to waste. On top of committing to eat everything on their plates, students at Marshall Middle School had some great ideas on how to prevent wasted food including: creating a shopping list and buying only what they need, storing foods properly so they last longer, and freezing their leftovers.

Check out the Challenge instructions at www.WasteLessFood.com or contact Carrie Ziegler at (360) 867-2285 or zieglec@co.thurston.wa.us for more information and to sign up for a presentation.

Trash Flash
Point Defiance Zoo and Girl Scouts of Western Washington are teaming up again this year to offer holiday light recycling at a number of locations through mid-January. Visit www.pdza.org/holiday-lights-recycling-program.

Attention teachers: Check out these resources for your students!
Trash Talk Newsletter
Like Talkin’ Trash? Now fourth and fifth grade students can get their own free Trash Talk publication! We’ll deliver a copy of the newsletter for each student in your class four times throughout the school year. Trash Talk features information on recycling, reuse, household hazardous waste, organics, waste reduction, and more. It also has activities like word searches, crossword puzzles, and other games to make learning more fun!

Classroom presentations
Solid Waste offers free, fun presentations for kindergarten through eighth grade students about recycling, worms and worm bins, waste reduction, and household hazardous products. Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Youth to read a description of each presentation.

For more information on presentations or receiving Trash Talk, contact Colleen Minion at (360) 867-2280 or minionc@co.thurston.wa.us.
Deep-frying a turkey? Recycle your used cooking oil!

With deep-fried turkey increasing in popularity, many residents wonder what to do with gallons of leftover cooking oil. Don’t dump it down the drain; oil sticks to pipes and can cause backups. Instead, take it to the Thurston County Waste & Recovery Center (WARC) during regular business hours. Businesses should continue using their disposal service.

Since the installation of the self-service tank in 2013, over 1,900 gallons of used cooking oil have been collected. But, increased participation makes it harder for us to keep our tank clean. Please help us by straining oil for food particles and grease before bringing it for recycling. Find tips on storing oil for reuse, and preparing it for recycling at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/pdf/cookingoil.pdf.

Healthy Homes!

Interested in helping people reduce their exposure to housing-related health risks and serving your community? Consider being a Healthy Homes Volunteer. The Healthy Homes Program teaches people how to reduce exposure to toxins, asthma triggers, mold, lead, and other risks. Volunteers may also help staff booths at community events, work on special projects, or write articles for community newsletters.

The hands-on training begins January 14 from 6:00-9:00 pm and meets weekly through March 25, 2015. To learn more, call 360-867-2674, e-mail healthyhomes@co.thurston.wa.us or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/healthyhomes.

How does Thurston thrive?

Thurston County’s Board of Health knows that health requires more than health care. Because of this, the Board has issued the community-wide call to action known as Thurston Thrives. The effort’s environment strategy focuses on keeping air and water clean, reducing waste, monitoring and preventing diseases spread by mosquitoes and animals, preventing food-borne illness, and ensuring our community’s ability to recover from emergencies. Thurston Thrives’ other targets include: affordable housing, adequate income, quality education, safe & active ways to get around, and more. Each plays an important role in helping us all be as healthy as possible.

For more information, or to share your ideas, go to www.thurstonthrives.org.

Engine should run, not idle!

What do drive-thrus, parking lots and driveways have in common? They are all locations where people allow their cars to idle. We may idle engines because we think they need to “warm up,” the heater or air conditioner is on, the windows are defrosting, or we want to hear our favorite song.

The truth is, idling engines contribute to air pollution. According to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, vehicle exhaust is the leading source of toxic air pollution in Washington State. Vehicle exhaust can cause asthma, lung and heart disease. Children, elders, and people with compromised immune systems, or with lung disease are most at risk.

While letting your car warm up was once standard practice, it’s no longer necessary. The general rule is to shut off an engine idling for more than 10 seconds and start it back up when you’re ready to drive again. Idling engines don’t work at top efficiency and can’t fully combust fuel. This can lead to dirty spark plugs, contaminated engine oil, and more pollution coming through the exhaust. Idling for long periods in cold weather can cause extra engine wear. Keep in mind that a slowly moving car actually warms up faster than an idling one.

An idling car produces twice as much pollution as one that is driving and more pollution than stopping and starting an already warmed up engine. Also, an idling engine gets zero miles per gallon. Give yourself enough time in the morning to scrape windows, and warm up your engine and the heat by driving—not idling.

Heavy traffic is NOT the best place to stop your engine. But, for cleaner air and healthier lungs, turn off the engine when it is safe to do so—at your morning coffee stop, when picking up and dropping kids at school, waiting in line at the drive-thru, and when you are tempted to let the engine idle while you “run in real quick.” When you want to keep listening to that catchy new song, turn your engine off and the key to the ACC (accessories) position.

Grow Smart, Grow Safe® App makes choosing safer garden products easy

Standing in the pesticide aisle can be pretty overwhelming. We know many people want to choose products that are safer for the environment and safer to use where children and pets play. Grow Smart, Grow Safe® is an iPhone® App that helps Pacific Northwest gardeners find safer pesticide products and learn more about what they are already using—those of you without an iPhone® can find the same helpful information at www.growsmartgrowsafe.org. The App ranks pesticide products found in area stores and that are registered for use in Washington and Oregon. It lists products and pesticides with the safest ones at the top to those that have more health or environmental concerns further down the list. Making smart choices in the pesticide aisle has never been easier!

Grow Smart, Grow Safe® is a collaboration between the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Washington; Portland Metro, Oregon; and Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, Washington. Grow Smart, Grow Safe® uses science-based research to rate pesticide safety and it’s approved for use by Washington and Oregon Master Gardeners. There’s more too. The App contains sections for Natural Yard Care, Natural Lawn Care, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that give in-depth information to help you learn more. The Alternatives section has great ideas on how to deal with pests without using pesticides and tips on creating a beautiful, healthy yard and garden.

Why do we care about pesticide use? Your health, and that of your children and pets, can be impacted by pesticide use. And, pesticides can have lasting impacts on the environment, fish, wildlife, birds, and bees. Gardening without pesticides is always the safest choice.

Download the App for free at www.growsmartgrowsafe.org or at the iTunes App Store.

Learn more

How safe are the ingredients in your cosmetics and skin care products? Find out with the Skin Deep® database at www.ewg.org/skindeep/. There are also Apps for Apple and Android products—links to download the Apps from are available on the website.
Garbage and recycling resources

Garbage disposal rates are correct through 12/31/15

Contacts

Talkin’ Trash is produced by Thurston County Public Works.

Contact Solid Waste staff:
By phone: 867-2491 (Recording) 754-2933 (TDD)
By email: ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us

Miss the last Talkin’ Trash?
Catch up online! Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org and click Resources.

Join the conversation online!

- www.facebook.com/ThurstonSolidWaste
- www.twitter.com/ThurStonSolidWaste
- www.youtube.com/User/ThurstonSolidWaste

The area code for all phone numbers in this publication is 360 unless otherwise noted.

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
  Eastern Grays Harbor (Summit Lake)
- Pacific Disposal
  Rural Refuse
  Joe’s Refuse

The above companies are owned by Harold LeMay Enterprises, which has been purchased by Waste Connections. Foodyard waste collection service is also available in many of the service areas. Call for more information or visit www.thurston.lemayinc.com.

Town of Bucoda residents call 278-3525 to arrange for curbside trash and recycling service with LeMay Enterprises.

City of Olympia residents call 753-8368 or visit www.olympiawa.gov/wastewise. Olympia provides its own trash, recycling and organics collection service.

Public Health and Social Services, Environmental Health

Phone: 867-2674 (Recording) 867-2603 (TDD)
Address: 412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia, 98506
Web: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhw

Integrated Pest Management: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehpm
Gardening guides: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcg
Healthy home advice: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm

Environmental Health blog: www.environmentalhealthblog.blogspot.com

Facilities

Waste and Recovery Center
Located at 2420 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
One ton = 2,000 lbs

Garbage
300 lbs or less: $18
More than 300 lbs: $19 per ton, prorated
(The per-ton garbage rate is 6 cents per pound.)
For refrigerated appliances, add $18 handling fee to the rate above. Rates include 3.6 percent state refuse tax.

Computers, monitors, laptops, TVs, e-readers, and tablets
Free through the E-Cycle Washington program. Take these items to the Goodwill donation station near the recycle center.

Yard debris
300 lbs or less: $9
More than 300 lbs: $45 per ton, prorated
More than 10 yards: $37 per ton, prorated
There is no state refuse tax on yard waste.

Hours
Weekdays: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Enterance gates close at 4:45 p.m. daily.

Drop boxes
Rainier: 13010 Rainier Acres Road SE.
Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

HazoHouse
Take household hazardous products to HazoHouse. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gates close at 4:45 p.m. daily. Phone 867-2912.
HazoHouse is located next to the recycling area of the Waste and Recovery Center. This service is free for residents; businesses pay a small fee.

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 Do I Take My?
Thurston County maintains a database of locations where residents can reuse and recycle many items. Visit www.WhereDoITakeMy.org. Are we missing any locations? Call 867-2491 or email ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

Reuse websites

The following websites provide an excellent way to sell or give away reusable items. While you’re there, you might just find some good deals on items you need.

- Thurston County’s free online exchange program: www.2good2toss.com
- Craigslist: http://seattle.craigslist.org/glo
- FreeCycle: www.freecycle.org

Recycle drop-off bins

Recycling drop-off locations:
You can drop off recycling at the WARC and the Rochester and Rainier drop boxes (see addresses in the column at the left).

Items accepted at the locations
Thurston County’s recycling drop-off locations accept:

- Newspaper
- Glass bottles and jars
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Mixed paper
- Plastic: dairy tubs, bottles, jars, rigid plastic pots, and buckets
- Corrugated cardboard
- Foam (polystyrene with #6 recycle symbol) blocks and food containers. Must be clean and in a clear plastic bag. (WARC only)

Please place all materials loose in the bin—not in a bag (except foam). Bagged materials are difficult to separate at the recycle sorting facility.

Reuse websites

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