

talkin' TRASH ...and more



Visit us at www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm

Tips for Keeping Thurston County Healthy, Spring/Summer 2009

Free Computer Recycling



Now it's easier than ever to recycle computers, laptops, monitors and TVs in Washington state. A new state law requires manufacturers to provide free recycling of these items for residents, nonprofit organizations, schools, small businesses and local governments. The materials are accepted at state-approved collection sites and then transported to a facility to be recycled safely and responsibly according to standards set by the Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority (WMMFA) and the state Department of Ecology, which oversees the program.

The law began Jan. 1, 2009 and Thurston County residents have already jumped at the chance to clear out their electronic clutter. In February, 5.3 percent of the materials collected through the "E-Cycle Washington" program came from within Thurston County, yet our county represents only 3.7 percent of the state's population. For more information about the program, visit www.ecyclewashington.org.

trash flash

BATTERIES: Batteries Plus and Interstate Batteries offer free recycling for virtually any type of battery. (Fees are charged for wet nickel-cadmium batteries.) Batteries Plus is located at 2905 Capital Mall Drive in Olympia, 570-0000. Interstate Batteries is located at 3480 Martin Way E. in Olympia, 438-2747. For a list of other locations, visit the "Where Should I Take My?" page of www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm. Note: Thurston County's HazoHouse no longer accepts standard alkaline batteries because they are not classified as "hazardous waste"; however, HazoHouse will accept all other types of batteries. See page 3 for more information about HazoHouse.

Local collection sites

The E-Cycle collection sites in Thurston County are listed below and are current as of April 2, 2009. E-Cycle sites offer a permanent, ongoing opportunity to recycle, so residents no longer need to wait for a special one-day collection event.

Remember: The E-Cycle program applies to computers, laptops, monitors and TVs only. The Goodwill locations may accept other working electronics, but call first to make sure Goodwill will accept your items before making a delivery. Also remember to remove sensitive data from your computer.

Goodwill Olympia Retail Store

400 Cooper Point Road S.W. in Olympia
(360) 956-0669

Goodwill South Lacey Retail Store

4800 Yelm Highway S.E. in Lacey
(360) 456-1800

Goodwill Tumwater Donation Station

Mega Foods
700 Trosper Road S.W. in Tumwater
(253) 573-1333 ext. 306

Goodwill Lacey Donation Station

Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center
2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. in Lacey
(253) 573-1333 ext. 306

Goodwill Lacey Retail Store

1145 Galaxy Drive N.E. in Lacey
(360) 413-7191

Midway Recovery, Inc.

638 Durrell Road S.E. in Olympia
(360) 584-9162

Recycling your electronics is great, but making them available for others to use is even better. If your items are still working, consider donating them to a worthy cause or selling them online. For more information about reuse options, see the "Where Should I Take My?" article on page 4.

Funding of Talkin' Trash

As you may be aware, Thurston County is facing a budget deficit because of steep declines in property tax and sales tax revenues. The Solid Waste Program would like to assure you that money for this publication does not come from the county's general fund, and therefore it does not affect other valuable programs and departments that are experiencing budget cuts – such as the Parks Department and Fair. The money for Talkin' Trash and other education efforts comes from grants and rates at county-operated garbage disposal sites, and those "dedicated" revenues cannot be shifted to other purposes that are unrelated to garbage or recycling.

We are, however, considering discontinuing the printed version of Talkin' Trash and sending electronic versions instead. This approach would cut costs and save resources. At the same time, we realize that many residents have come to depend on the printed version of Talkin' Trash to learn about Community Recycle Days and other events and opportunities.

Ideally, we would like to give people the choice of receiving Talkin' Trash either by e-mail or regular mail; however, we are unable to pull individual names off of the mailing list. As you can see on the address panel, Talkin' Trash is not addressed to individual homes, rather, it is distributed to every residence along a given delivery route. This allows us to take advantage of the lowest postage rate, but it also prevents us from picking and choosing who receives a printed version versus an e-mail version (or none at all). Postage is the biggest cost associated with Talkin' Trash, and rates will increase again in May.

No decisions have been made yet, but we encourage you to e-mail Terri Thomas at thomaste@co.thurston.wa.us if you'd like to add your name to an e-mail list in the event that the printed version of Talkin' Trash is discontinued. Your e-mail address will not be provided to any other entity and will be used only to send you newsletter notification and periodic updates on new waste reduction programs and events.

Since You Asked!



May I put cooking oil in my organics bin?

No liquids of any type belong in the organics bin. If you have large quantities of cooking oil (for example, after frying a turkey), take the oil to HazoHouse at the Waste and Recovery Center to be recycled; otherwise, the oil should go in the trash. See page 3 for details on HazoHouse.

Wrappers for food products (granola bars, cookie packaging) appear to be a combination of aluminum foil and plastic. Are they recyclable?

No, unfortunately the wrappers are not recyclable.

We have about six old railroad ties from our landscape. Where and how should I dispose of them?

Wooden railroad ties are treated with creosote (the black glue). The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that creosote is a possible carcinogen, so the railroad ties cannot be composted or burned. Consider posting them on 2good2toss.com. Other landscapers might jump at the chance to use the ties. You may also dispose of the ties as garbage at the Waste and Recovery Center in Lacey. When handling the creosote-treated wood, make sure to wear gloves and long sleeves.

Where can I take a broken, cord-style telephone?

Recycle your old, cord-style telephone at one of our upcoming Community Recycle Day events featured on the back page, or purchase a "recycle box" at a retailer like Office Depot. Cell phones are accepted for recycling at several locations. See the bright yellow "Where Should I Take My?" link on www.co.thurston.wa.us/www.

May I dispose of old gasoline at HazoHouse? If so, will you empty and return the can?

HazoHouse does accept old, contaminated fuel. If the container is suitable, HazoHouse staff can bulk the fuel and return the container for reuse. Please bring the fuel or any other type of hazardous waste in a five-gallon container or smaller.

Where can I take fill dirt?

Consider placing an ad for free fill dirt on an online listing service such as 2good2toss.com.

Another option is to take the dirt to Bill McTurnal Enterprises in Kamilche by Little Creek Casino. McTurnal Enterprises accepts smaller loads of sod, dirt, and rocks for free. A fee may be charged for larger loads. The dirt cannot contain any wood, plastic or metal. The business "recycles" dirt by screening it and reselling it as

topsoil. For information, call 866-4594.

2

Top 10 Mistakes in Recycle Bins

It's time to get rid of that plastic frozen-food tray, but does it belong in the garbage or the recycle bin? If you don't know the answer, follow this rule: "When in doubt, throw it out." Nonrecyclable items like frozen-food trays and hangers contaminate your entire load of recyclables. As a result, either the value of the materials plummets, or the entire load is treated as trash at the recycling plant.



Unfortunately, not everything that features a recycle symbol is truly recyclable. It all depends on whether recycling plants will actually accept the materials, regardless of whether the manufacturers imprint the familiar "chasing arrow" symbol on the bottom. Here are the top contaminants that end up in recycle bins:

- 1 Lids from plastic bottles and dairy tubs.** All plastic lids should be tossed in the garbage.
- 2 Plastic bags.** Plastic bags are not recyclable through the curbside program because they get tangled in the sorting equipment. Loads that contain plastic bags are treated as trash. Please take plastic bags to local grocery stores to be recycled instead.
- 3 Plastic packaging from store purchases.** If the packaging has cardboard, separate the cardboard and put it in the recycle bin. The plastic portion goes in the garbage.

4 Plastic frozen-food trays or clamshell food containers. The facility that processes recyclables from Thurston County will not accept these items.

5 Styrofoam. No Styrofoam of any kind is allowed in recycle bins, including molded Styrofoam, packaging "peanuts" and Styrofoam take-out food containers. Mailing services often accept used Styrofoam peanuts. Call the Peanut Hotline at 800-828-2214.

6 Fast food bags full of scraps, straws, utensils and napkins. Place the paper products and food scraps in the organics bin instead. (Plastic items go in the trash.)

7 Plastic buckets like kitty litter and detergent containers, and plastic flower pots. Reuse plastic buckets for mixing paint or storing items. Check to see whether your local nursery will accept used flower pots, or take the pots to Community Recycle Days. (See page 8 for dates.)

8 Motor oil cans. Place all containers that have held hazardous products in the garbage or, if the cans still contain oil, take them to HazoHouse. (See the next page for details.)

9 Coat hangers. Plastic and metal coat hangers do not belong in the recycle bin. Drycleaners or thrift stores might take the hangers.

10 Diapers. Need we say more?

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CARDBOARD BOXES: An innovative business is "rescuing" used boxes from large companies, and making them available to consumers for a fraction of the price of new boxes. The service includes free shipping and guarantees delivery within one or two business days. For details, visit www.usedcardboardboxes.com.

Separate That Glass

Are you recycling glass bottles and jars? Good for you! Just a quick reminder: If you receive curbside service through a company owned by LeMay Enterprises, remember to keep glass out of your regular, comingled recycle bin. Glass goes in a separate container (between 5 and 20 gallons in size) that you supply. Drilling holes in the bottom of the container will prevent it from filling up with rainwater. You may set out as many glass containers as needed on pickup day. Glass is collected every other recycle day, which amounts to every four weeks.

For more information about glass pickup schedules, go to www.lemayinc.com/Thurston/Thurston_PickupSchedule.html or call your hauler at the phone number listed on page 7.

Glass is kept separate to prevent shards from contaminating the other recyclables, and to keep your recycling rebate as high as possible. (This rule does not apply to residents who receive recycling service through the City of Olympia. The city accepts glass in the regular comingled recycle bin.)



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ALUMINUM CANS: Habitat for Humanity is collecting aluminum cans for a great cause thanks to a partnership with South Sound Steel and Recycling in Tumwater and the Aluminum Industry of America. The cans are purchased at a generous price and the funds are used to build homes. Just drop off your cans at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore at 210 Thurston Ave. N.E. in downtown Olympia, or at Lincoln Elementary School at 213 21st Ave S.E. in Olympia. For more information, visit sphabitat.org/donate/cans-for-habitat.

Recycling Available for Apartments and Condos

If you live in an apartment, duplex, condominium or mobile home park, welcome to the loop ... the recycling loop, that is!

Owners or property managers at most multifamily residences in Thurston County now have access to curbside recycling service. In fact, Thurston County Ordinance 13696 requires owners and managers of multifamily dwellings to pay for recycling service, which in turn encourages them to actually sign up for a recycling program and reap the benefit of their payments. This ordinance applies to multifamily residences (outside City of Olympia limits) where the owner or manager receives the solid waste bill for the entire complex.

For owners and managers, the ordinance may mean a big cost savings. Recycling services cost much less than trash disposal, so the more residents recycle, the higher the savings. LeMay Enterprises offers recycling kits to help property managers make recycling easy. Signs, brochures, and a packet of resources and ideas will ensure a successful program.

If you're a resident, keep in mind that all facility costs – including the trash bill – are eventually passed down to you, so recycling may keep more money in your wallet too. Of course, the environment wins as well.

If your site still lacks curbside recycling service, please urge your property manager to call Pacific Disposal at 923-0111 and ask for the multifamily recycling coordinator.



Amber Smith recycles at an apartment complex.

Olympia Site Takes Scrap Metal

City of Olympia residents may now recycle scrap metal at the city's Maintenance Center, 1401 Eastside Street S.E. in Olympia. The scrap metal must be clean, and appliances such as refrigerators and freezers are not accepted.

Customers must also unload their own materials. The scrap metal recycling is free of charge through June 20, after which fees might apply. Yard debris is also accepted at the site for a fee.



The drop-off site is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Nov. 21. For more information, visit www.olympiawa.gov or call 753-4444 message #8580 or 753-8715.

Five Recycle Blue Bins Closed

Thurston County Solid Waste closed five Blue Bin recycling locations Jan. 1, 2009 due to illegal dumping and budget reductions. The recycle bins were located in Tumwater, Steamboat Island, Yelm, Bucoda and Lacey (College Street Safeway). Recycle bins are still available at the Waste and Recovery Center on Hogum Bay Road, and at the Rainier, Rochester and Summit Lake sites. (See page 7 for addresses.)

Our thanks go to all of the local businesses that hosted Blue Bins over the years, and to the residents who have been using them properly. Visit the "News and Events" link of www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm for detailed information about this decision.

Energy Fair & Race

The City of Lacey is hosting its annual Alternative Energy Fair and electric car "Grand Prix" on Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The electric car race typically features vehicles that have three or four bicycle wheels, weigh less than 200 pounds, and are powered by conventional car batteries. Information booths will display alternative fuels and other energy choices, as well as recycling and conservation information. Food vendors and children's activities will also be available.



A special "Miles Per Gallon" rally is also planned, where drivers of non-electric cars can drive a route to learn about gas mileage and efficiency.

The track and tech area opens at 9 a.m., with races at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Booths and activities will be ongoing from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Huntamer Park, 7th and Woodland Square Loop in Lacey. For entry rules and details, call 491-0857.

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2GOOD2TOSS.COM: Thurston County recently raised from \$99 to \$200 the price limit for items sold on the popular materials-exchange website, 2good2toss.com. There's no cost to use the site, and many items are even offered free of charge. As of April 9, there were 945 listings on the Thurston County 2good2toss.com web page, among them: a table saw, grandtather clock, book cases, landscaping materials, and a metal futon frame.

Using HazoHouse is a Breeze

Those old containers of paint, bug spray and cleaning products in your garage aren't getting any younger or less dangerous. Maybe it's time to clear the clutter and take your hazardous products to Thurston County's HazoHouse for free, safe disposal.

HazoHouse is open Friday through Monday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m and is located at the Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. in Lacey. Once inside the main gates, drive through the Blue Bin recycling area to the right and you'll see HazoHouse straight ahead. Just drive in and friendly staff will unload your materials. The facility is located before the tollhouse, so there's no need to wait in line with people who are delivering garbage.

Please bring items in 5-gallon containers or smaller, and store items upright in boxes or tubs. (Do not bring items loose in bags.) Containers should be sealed and not leaking. For your own safety, store acids and oxidizers separately, away from each other and other hazardous products.

Pesticides, varnishes and other hazardous products should never be placed in the trash or poured in the sink, because the products

can end up polluting the ground and water bodies. Many are combustible and can catch fire when exposed to heat or other chemicals.

While you are at HazoHouse, stop by the SwapShop to pick up usable products such as auto products, household cleaners and paints. Incoming products are checked to ensure they are in good condition, and then made available free of charge to the public. Available materials vary day-to-day.



trash flash

PHONE BOOKS: Breaking news! You can opt out of receiving unwanted phone books at www.yellowpagesoptout.com. For more information on how to reduce junk mail, catalogs, phone books and phone calls, visit www.ecocycle.org/junkmail/index.cfm.

Where Should I Take My...?

Wondering what to do with those unwanted medical

Where Should I Take My?

supplies, bricks and lawn chairs? You know they don't belong in a recycle bin, but where should they go? Worry no more! Visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm and click on the yellow box that says "Where Should I Take My?"

The Solid Waste Program has compiled a list of reuse and recycling locations throughout the county. Whether it's packing peanuts, old athletic shoes, fluorescent light bulbs or washing machines – we've got you covered.

The database is constantly updated, so if you are a business that accepts certain items or a resident who knows where to take something, just call us at 357-2491 or send an e-mail through the link at the bottom of the web page.

Donate or Buy Building Materials

If you have building materials to donate or are looking for items for a project, be sure to visit the two nonprofit building supply stores in downtown Olympia.

Olympia Salvage
415 Olympia Ave. N.E.
705-1300
www.olympiasalvage.org

South Puget Sound Habitat
for Humanity ReStore
210 Thurston Ave. N.E.
753-1575
spshabitat.org/restore



Please check the stores' websites for a list of acceptable items before making a delivery. Donations are tax-deductable.

You'll Want This!

Here's a handy item to keep in your kitchen. For just \$10 plus a \$5 shipping fee, you can purchase a small countertop compost container with a tight fitting lid. Line it with a compostable bag (not plastic) and you can easily carry kitchen scraps outside and toss the bag into your organics bin, without any mess. Call 481-4204 or visit www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com and click on the accessories link. Shipping fees are waived for orders of \$40 or more.

While you're on the website, check out other reduced-price compost bins, like the Earth Machine and Biostack bin.



Compostable bags are carried locally by the two Olympia Food Co-ops, Olympia Supply, Ralph's and Bayview Thrifways, the west side Top Foods, the west side Safeway, and QFC. Examples include BioBags, Al-Pack, Nature Friendly, and EcoSafe.

Community Garage Sale May 2



Trade, sell and barter with community members May 2.

Join the fun at Thurston County's first annual Community Garage Sale and Reuse Fair! The event will be held Saturday, May 2 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, 3054 Carpenter Road S.E. in Lacey.

The event includes garage sale booths, educational booths, guest speakers, a free book and magazine exchange, food, music, and more. This is a terrific opportunity to sell, trade, and barter with others in your community. Don't forget to bring your books and magazines for the free exchange table. There will be \$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 booth and \$40 for a covered booth. Participants will set up their booths Friday, May 1 from noon to 10 p.m. To reserve your space or for more information please call 786-5453 or visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/fair.

trash flash

REUSE: Recycling is important, but reuse is even better. That's because the recycling process involves using energy and resources, while reusing items gives them a new life in their original form – it capitalizes on all the original natural-resource investments made to create the product in the first place. You can reuse items yourself, or sell or donate them. Buying used items is equally important, and a great value too!

Trashing the Climate

When you think about reducing greenhouse gases, what comes to mind? Driving less? Saving energy at home? Excellent! But you also have another opportunity to combat climate change, and it's probably also located right in your garage: your recycle bin.

Recycling, composting and waste prevention are hot topics in the conversation about climate change. New research and assessment techniques prove that these efforts provide measurable and significant benefits to the environment and our climate.

Traditionally, researchers have focused almost exclusively on gas emissions from landfills; however, this approach failed to recognize the most significant impact of waste disposal on climate change: For every item that is landfilled or incinerated, a new one must be extracted, processed, and manufactured from raw materials to replace those buried or burned.

New, more comprehensive measuring tools are taking into account the chain of events from production to disposal. Using data from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Washington D.C.-based Institute for Self Reliance reports that the consumption-to-disposal process accounts for 36.7 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Thurston County was able to quantify the environmental benefits of the curbside recycling program over a one-year period by using the EPA's Waste Reduction Model. According to the model, the volume of materials recycled at the curb in Thurston County from March 2007 to March 2008:

- Saved 10,192 Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent (MTCE), which is equal to removing 8,089 passenger cars from the roadway.
- Saved the equivalent of 4,241,846 gallons of gasoline or the emissions from the electricity use of 4,950 homes for one year.
- Is equal to planting 958,222 tree seedlings and letting them grow for 10 years, or preserving 261 acres of forest.

These figures represent recycling in Thurston County, outside City of Olympia limits. The numbers are even more impressive when the city's recycling data is included.



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WASTE AND GREENHOUSE GASES: Garbage produced in Thurston County takes a long journey to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in south-central Washington, about 240 miles away. The garbage is first hauled to the county Waste and Recovery Center at Hawks Prairie, transported by truck to Centralia, put on a train to Roosevelt, and trucked to the landfill. The vehicles create greenhouse gases when they burn fuel, and most of them get single-digit gas mileage. Thurston County sends about 580,000 pounds of garbage per day to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill. (The quantity is even higher when the economy is healthy.)

State Turns Scraps Into Savings

The state Department of General Administration launched a pilot composting project in January 2009 at the Natural Resources Building on the capitol campus. Food and certain paper products are



now being sent to Silver Springs Organics instead of the landfill. Silver Springs accepts all types of organic waste, including meat, fish, paper towels, pizza boxes and more.

Compost is decomposed organic matter. When fully decayed it resembles very dark crumbly soil. Compost is a beneficial landscape product because it helps improve the moisture-holding capacity of soil and is a good source of plant nutrients.

The Natural Resources Building houses about 1,400 state employees and includes a large cafeteria. Employees are being asked to dump their food and paper waste into large, centrally located bins or desk-side receptacles.

Before the new program was launched, about a dozen state employees examined a day's worth of garbage to determine how much of it could be composted. The group sorted through 611 pounds of garbage and found that only 68 pounds needed to go to the landfill. The rest could have been composted or recycled.

In just two months, roughly 24 tons of waste were sent to the composting facility instead of the landfill. This total represents about a 17 percent reduction in landfill waste compared to a year ago, saving the state about \$1,000 over the two-month period.

The pilot project is scheduled to run for six months. If it is successful and composting goes campus-wide, the state estimates saving about \$26,000 per year.

In addition to saving money, composting helps reduce greenhouse gases because less fuel is burned transporting the materials to nearby Rainier instead of the Roosevelt Regional Landfill 240 miles away. Plus, the compost is ultimately used to grow more crops and food products.

For information on how your business can reduce waste and save money, go to www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm, click on "Recycling and Disposal" and then go to "Business Waste Reduction."



trash flash

COMPOST IN ACTION: Local demonstration gardens provide examples of how to design beautiful gardens with native plants and use compost to keep the plants healthy. The gardens are located at Closed Loop Park at the Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. in Lacey; at Dirt Works on Alta Drive off Capital Mall Drive (behind Yauger Park and Apple Park apartments); and Olympia Farmer's Market at the north end of Capitol Way in downtown Olympia.

Businesses Save Green

Thurston County residents do a great job of recycling at home. Here's a reminder that you can take those green habits to work as well. Business waste makes up the majority of garbage sent to the landfill each year and much of it can be recycled easily.

One way to cut waste and save money is to sign up for the "Certified Green Program" from LeMay Enterprises. The program offers reduced rates for businesses that subscribe to a package of recycling services tailored for their individual needs. Options include comingled recycling, cardboard, glass, wood scraps, plastic bags/film, organics, and paper shredding. Staff will help determine the best service levels for your business and provide a bid. Call LeMay Enterprises at 486-8608 or visit www.lemaymobileshredding.com/services_cert_green.html.

For more great information, go to the "Recycling and Disposal" link of www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm and click on "Business Waste Reduction." You'll even find a waste assessment kit to help you determine the quantity and types of materials that are ending up in the trash at your business, school or organization. Think of it as a "garbage performance appraisal" that lets you target areas for improvement.



Start your business recycling program now to prepare for the Thurston Green Business recognition program next year. The Thurston County Chamber of Commerce and several local partners highlight local business for their environmentally friendly practices. For more information, visit www.thurstonchamber.com/green.

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RECESSION: There may be one silver lining in our national recession. As consumers tighten their budget belts and purchase fewer products, landfills around the country are seeing a steep drop in volume – including the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center. Thus far in 2009, the Waste and Recovery Center is experiencing a 10 to 12 percent drop from 2008 in the number of tons of garbage processed at the site.

Want to litter? Fine.

Food or beverage container	\$103
Unsecured load	\$216
Lit cigarette	\$1025
Illegal dumping	\$1000-5000 + jail time

Fines subject to change and may vary locally.

Litter and it will hurt.

Get caught littering and you'll feel a sharp and unpleasant pain in the wallet. If you see someone littering or dumping, remind them how much littering hurts by reporting their license number.

A message from the
Washington State
Department of Ecology.

REPORT VIOLATORS
866-LITTER-1
711 (TTY Relay)

Green Your Office

- Start small. Talk to your boss or the person in charge about getting recycle bins placed around the office.
- Try to make it office policy that everyone turns off their monitors and computers before they head out for the day.
- Make sure that paper used in copiers and printers is 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper.
- If possible, change habits in the kitchen. Try to get your employer to buy real forks and knives instead of plastic utensils.
- If your company leases copiers and fax machines, call the vendors to see if they have models that will print on both sides.
- Reuse boxes from the shipping department. (Also see "Trash Flash" on page 2.)
- Teleconference instead of traveling to meetings.
- If you have windows, use the free light that is outside and turn off the overhead lights.

Text courtesy of www.thegoodhuman.com.



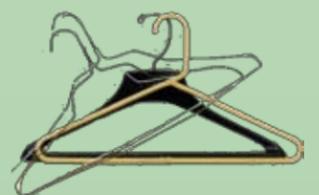
Pop Quiz ...are these recyclable?

Aluminum cans



Yes

Clothes hangers – metal or plastic



No

Health Matters



News from Thurston County Environmental Health

Garden Rhapsodies

Mark your calendar for the 14th annual Garden Rhapsodies Tour, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's tour will delight your senses with beautiful gardens, music and art. The tour provides demonstrations on water-saving irrigation, pest and weed strategies that protect your family and pets, the benefits of compost, and so much more. Gardens include a lovely in-town Ken Lake oasis and compact and sprawling country gardens in the Delphi Valley.

Tickets are \$15 and include a shuttle bus to the gardens. Tickets are available now online at www.mgftc.org/gardenrhapsodies.html or in early July at local nurseries, True Value Stores, Olympia Federal Savings, and the Olympia Farmers Market. Call Jennifer Johnson at 754-3355 ext. 7631 for more information.

IPM Prescriptions

This spring, the Environmental Health website will feature a special page that provides Integrated Pest Management (IPM) prescriptions for some of the most common weed and pest problems in Thurston County. Simply put, IPM prescriptions are guidelines to help the county, its residents and other decision-makers make well-informed choices about managing weeds and pests while protecting human health and the environment.

The IPM approach emphasizes physical, mechanical, cultural, and biological tactics. Any chemical control products included in the county IPM prescriptions have passed a strict Environmental Health review process. Summaries of the pesticide reviews will also be included on the site.

IPM is recognized as being an effective, research-based approach to pest control, and includes regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed.

The information will soon be available on www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm.

Lawn Fertilizer Tip

If you're getting ready to fertilize plants, be sure to check the small print on the bag. It should specify at least 50 percent water insoluble nitrogen; a higher percentage is even better. These slow-release fertilizers provide nitrogen slowly, at a rate the plants are more likely to absorb and use. In contrast, much of the nitrogen from quick-release fertilizers gets wasted – washed away into streams, lakes, Puget Sound, or ground water. See the Common Sense Gardening Guide to Natural Lawn Care at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg.

Read the Label ...and between the lines

When was the last time you read the label of your household cleaner? What's on there may surprise you. Here's text from a bathroom cleaner label: "Danger. Corrosive. Causes irreversible eye damage. Harmful if inhaled. Do not get in eyes or on clothing. Avoid contact with skin. Avoid breathing spray mist or vapors. Wear protective eyewear. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling and before eating, drinking, chewing gum, or using tobacco. Remove and wash contaminated clothing before reuse."

These warnings may make you wish you had selected a safer product, but who has time to read all the fine print while shopping? Fortunately, you can scan for the signal word to make a quick decision – in this case, "Danger." This is one of the three words required by law to be on the label to let you know the hazard level at a glance. Signal words – Danger, Warning, or Caution – must be displayed on the front of the label. "Danger" is used when the product is extremely poisonous, corrosive (can burn skin, eyes, throat), or flammable, or is a strong sensitizer (repeated exposure may lead to allergic reactions). Less than one teaspoon could be fatal if swallowed, or cause serious burns to the skin.

"Warning" and "Caution" are used interchangeably on many household cleaners. These products are mildly to moderately hazardous. The absence of a signal word should mean the product is not hazardous; however, occasionally a product is not labeled properly. If you find a product without a signal word, and you have reason to think it's hazardous, you can report it to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov or by calling 800-638-2772.



Photo courtesy Environmental Protection Agency

- Perhaps you're considering choosing products labeled "natural," "organic," "green," or "nontoxic." This might seem like a good guarantee, but unfortunately it's not. These terms are not subject to regulation and are often used to market the product. Instead, look for the logos of independent, third-party certification programs such as Green Seal, Cradle To Cradle, the Leaping Bunny and the EPA's "Design for the Environment."

- To protect your family from accidental poisonings and exposure to hazardous fumes, look for the least hazardous product to do the job. Follow the directions and precautions on the label. Be sure to keep household chemicals out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

- Mr. Yuk stickers are still a great way to teach young children about hazardous products; to receive a set, call 754-4111. For green cleaning recipes and tips, see our "Guide to Safer Products" at www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm/saferproducts.html or request a Healthy Home Companion booklet by calling 754-3355 ext. 7631.

Loans for Septics

Does your septic system need to be repaired, replaced, or hooked up to sewer? Low interest loans are available to Thurston County homeowners who have failing septic systems. No income restrictions apply. Grants are also available for some situations. Contact Debra Baker (754-3355 ext. 7521) at Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department, Environmental Health for details and an application.



Recycling Fluorescents



- Thurston County waste management programs are working with local retailers to increase take-back locations for fluorescent lighting. Retailers participating in the Take It Back Network will accept burned out fluorescent bulbs for recycling, ensuring proper disposal of the collected bulbs. Customers may be asked to pay a recycling fee.

- Current locations for recycling fluorescents are listed on www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm (click the "Recycling and Disposal" link and then select "Hazardous Waste"). The link also includes important information about cleaning up broken bulbs. Retailers interested in learning more about the program should call Mark Koster at 754-3355 ext. 6785.

Garbage and Recycling Resources

Contacts

Talkin' Trash is produced by Thurston County Public Works. Phone 357-2491 or e-mail wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us. TDD: 754-2933.

Thurston County Public Works

Thurston County Solid Waste Administration: 357-2491. TDD: 754-2933

WasteLine: 786-5494
(24-hour recorded information about solid waste and recycling)

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

Web: www.co.thurston.wa.us/wmm

"Where Should I Take My?" on the left navigation bar of www.co.thurston.wa.us/wmm. This link is highlighted in yellow on all Solid Waste Program web pages.

Located at 2504 Heritage Court S.W.
Olympia, 98502

Other valuable websites:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Recycle Assistance: 1800recycle.wa.gov.

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. Yard waste collection service is also available in many of the service areas. Call for more information or visit www.lemayinc.com.

- City of Olympia residents, call 753-8368 or visit 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.

County Public Health and Social Services, Environmental Health

Phone: 754-4111 or TDD: 754-2933

Web: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehadm

Gardening guides: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg

Healthy home advice: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehhm

Located at 929 Lakeridge Drive S.W., Room 113, Olympia, WA 98502. Send mail to 2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98502.

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

All materials should be placed loose in the bins – no paper or plastic bags (with the exception of shredded paper strips, which should be placed in a paper bag).

Compost Bin Sales

Reduced-price compost bins are available through the Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation. Bins include the Earth Machine for \$40 each, and the Biostack bin for \$60 each. The bins are subsidized by the Thurston County Solid Waste Program for county residents. The price includes tax and delivery within Thurston County. Call 481-4204 or visit www.compostbinthurstoncounty.com. Worm bins are \$28 each and sold at compost workshops only.

The Master Gardener Foundation also sells countertop compost containers for the kitchen. Click the "accessories" link to view the products.

Where to Take...

Thurston County maintains a database of locations where residents can reuse and recycle virtually any item, such as furniture, electronics, camping equipment and even medical supplies. Visit the "Where Should I Take My?" link on www.co.thurston.wa.us/wmm. This link is highlighted in yellow on all of the Solid Waste Program web pages. Are we missing any locations? If so, call 357-2491 or e-mail wmm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us.

Exchange Websites

The following websites provide an excellent way to sell or give away items in good condition. 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: seattle.craigslist.org/oly
- FreeCycle: www.freecycle.org
- Used Olympia: www.usedolympia.com

Our Facilities

Thurston County 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 12/31/09)
one ton = 2,000 lbs

Garbage

380 lbs or less..... \$15
more than 380 lbs .. \$80 per ton, prorated (One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton garbage rate is 4 cents per pound.) For refrigerated appliances, add a \$15 handling fee to the rate above. Rates include 3.6 percent state refuse tax and tollhouse fee.

Computers, Monitors, Laptops, TVs

Free through the E-Cycle Washington program. Take these items to the Goodwill donation station located across from the outbound scales.

Yard Debris

380 lbs or less..... \$8 per ton
more than 380 lbs .. \$40 per ton, prorated (One ton is 2,000 pounds, so the per-ton yard waste rate is 2 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.

Garbage/Recycling Drop Boxes

Rainier: 13010 Rainier Acres Road S.E. Friday and Saturday only, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (until 5 p.m. April 1 to Oct. 31)

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.

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.

Are you storing dangerous and unwanted hazardous products in your home?

TAKE THEM TO HAZOHOUSE!

Open Friday-Monday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
754-3354

Located next to the recycling area of the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. in Lacey.





Produced by:
Thurston County Public Works
 2504 A Heritage Court S.W.
 Olympia, WA 98502-6045

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Coming Soon...

MAY: Community Garage Sale



Thurston County's first annual Community Garage Sale and Reuse event will be held **Saturday, May 2** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, 3054 Carpenter Road in Lacey. See page 4 for details.

MAY/JUNE: Free Compost Workshops

Discover how to compost at the following free workshops. No registration is required. Compost bins and bin plans will be available at the workshops. (Also see page 7 for bin sale information.) For the focus of each composting workshop, please check the Master Gardner Foundation of Thurston County's website at www.mgftc.org or call 786-5445 ext. 17908#. All workshops start at 10:30 a.m.

- May 16:** Dirt Works
- May 30:** Olympia Farmers Market
- June 6:** Closed Loop Park
- July 11:** Dirt Works
- Aug. 15:** Dirt Works
- Sept. 12:** Closed Loop Park
- Sept. 19:** Olympia Farmers Market
- Oct. 3:** Closed Loop Park
- Oct. 17:** Dirt Works

Locations

Closed Loop Park is located at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. near Lacey.

Dirt Works is located on Alta Drive, off Capitol Mall Drive behind Yauger Park in west Olympia.

Tumwater Farmers Market is located on Israel Road in Tumwater.

Olympia Farmers Market is located at the north end of Capitol Way in downtown Olympia.

Tenino Farmers Market is located at the corner of Garfield and Old Highway 99 next to Tenino Elementary School.

MAY: Community Recycle Days

Thurston County's Community Recycle Days offer an easy way to recycle a variety of household items at reduced rates.

Saturday, May 30 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Thurston County Fairgrounds,
 Event will be in the lower parking lot
 3054 Carpenter Road S.E. near Lacey

Saturday, June 6 – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 South Sound Speedway
 3720 183rd Ave. S.W. in Tenino

Community Recycle Days serves Thurston County residents only, not commercial vendors or businesses.

Visitors will be asked to supply the short form below to help us track inventory. To get a head start, please bring the completed form to the events.

For more information, visit our website at www.co.thurston.wa.us/www or call 357-2491 or TDD at 754-2933.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW FOR YOUR ITEMS AND GIVE IT TO THE STAFF WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE EVENT

ITEM	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Tires - passenger vehicles - without rim	\$2		\$
Tires - passenger vehicles - with rim	\$3		\$
Tires - truck and tractor - without rim	\$6		\$
Tires - truck and tractor - with rim	\$10		\$
Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners (maximum 4 per vehicle)	\$20		\$
Microwaves, Copiers	\$10		\$
Stoves, Washers, Dryers, Hot Water Tanks, Fax Machines, Printers, Scanners, Stereo Systems, CD & DVD Players, VCRs, Radios, Speakers (NO dishwashers accepted)	\$5		\$
Phones - all types	\$3		\$
Scrap Metal (including de-valved propane tanks)	FREE		FREE
Televisions, Computers, Laptops, Monitors, Keyboards, Computer Mice, Printed Circuit Boards	FREE		FREE
Power Tools, Push or Riding Lawn Mowers, Bicycles, Small Gas Motors (including chain saw, gas weed trimmer, outboard boat motor)	FREE		FREE
Goodwill Donations (small furniture, clothes, working small kitchen appliances, kitchenware)	FREE		FREE
Flower Pots (2 gal. or larger, clean & unbroken)	FREE		FREE
		GRAND TOTAL:	\$

MAY: Septic Sense Workshops

Learn tips to prolong the life of your septic system at these free workshops. Register online at: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health_fpforms/ehoss/ss_wrkshp.htm or call Thurston County Environmental Health at 754-4111. TDD: 754-2933. Participants will get a \$10 discount on pumping.

Wednesday, May 6 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 Rochester High School Library
 19800 Carper Road S.W., Rochester

Tuesday, May 12 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 Thurston Co. Public Health & Social Services
 412 Lilly Road N.E., Olympia

Wednesday, May 14 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 McLane Fire Station #91
 125 Delphi Road N.W., Olympia

JULY: Garden Tour

The 2009 Garden Rhapsodies Tour will be held **Saturday, July 25** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See page 6 for details.

EVENT CONTAINERS

Thurston County makes ClearStream event-recycling containers available for the towns, cities, universities, colleges, and high schools of Thurston County.

The containers are foldable, lightweight metal frames with plastic lids. The frames hold clear plastic bags, so it's obvious whether people are recycling or contaminating the container with trash. For details, visit the "Recycling and Disposal" link on www.co.thurston.wa.us/www and select "Events and Resources."