Single use plastic bags

Based on national averages, Thurston County residents use about 90 to 125 million plastic shopping bags each year. Bags require energy and resources to make, affect our environment and wildlife, and create a financial burden on retailers and governments. With these impacts in mind, it seems like a good time to have a community conversation about the use of plastic bags and potential alternatives.

The trouble with plastic bags
You cannot put plastic bags in your commingled curbside cart because they tangle in the equipment at the sorting facility. Shutting down equipment and removing the bags costs the recycling facility an extra $1,000 per day. Despite our outreach efforts, some residents still put bags in their recycling.

Public outreach about plastic bag recycling has improved over the last few years, and many more retail stores collect bags for recycling. However, published reports by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) show that the nationwide recycling rate for bags actually dropped from 6 percent in 2009 to 4.3 percent in 2010. That means more bags wind up in the trash. Because plastic bags are light weight, they travel easily through the environment. Even when placed in a trash can, they can become airborne during the collection, hauling, and transfer station processes.

The Marine Research Foundation estimates that 100,000 marine mammals die each year because of plastic litter in the North Pacific Ocean. Whales, dolphins, seals, turtles, and birds often mistake plastic bags for food and swallow them. Birds and other marine life routinely get tangled up in bags. Bags also affect livestock and other land animals.

What can we do?
Thurston County Solid Waste wants to work with the citizens, cities, retailers, and community groups of Thurston County to discuss the problem of disposable bags. We hope to develop possible solutions. Our first step will be to work with the cities to host a series of community meetings.

We will also develop a web page at www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Plastics with more information on the problems with bags. The web page will list studies and reports and what actions other jurisdictions are taking. Visit this page to sign up for an email newsletter with more information on the issue and a schedule of community events.

Not all bags are created equal
It is true it takes more energy to produce a paper bag than to make a plastic bag. However, there are other factors to consider:

• Most recycled plastic bags are made into lower quality plastic products. Paper bags are easily recycled into new paper bags.
• Plastic bags must be separated from other recyclables. Paper bags can go in your curbside recycling cart.
• A paper bag holds about 50 to 400 percent more than a plastic bag.
• Plastic bags are made from oil, a non-renewable resource. Trees are renewable.
• Plastic bags do not break down like paper bags, so they create the environmental issues we are concerned about like litter, marine damage, and blocked storm drains.

Our ultimate goal is to prevent waste. Therefore, reusable bags are a better option than plastic or paper. Remembering to bring your reusable bags when you shop is like learning any new habit – you can do it with time, practice, and incentives.

We hope you will join us in the upcoming community dialogue around the use of plastic bags and potential alternatives.
Since you asked!

My coworker said she doesn’t bother to separate her trash and recyclables. She claims there is an assembly line at the Waste and Recovery Center where they pick through the trash to find recyclables. Is this true?

No, there is no assembly line to pick through residential trash at the WARC. Staff uses equipment to pull large items like metals and clean wood from loads of construction and demolition (C&D) debris. Attendants only sort through C&D loads that appear to have a large amount of recyclable materials.

I have several electrical chargers from old cell phones and other electronics. Where can I recycle them?

Best Buy stores in West Olympia and Hawks Prairie have a kiosk where you can recycle cords and chargers, rechargeable batteries, and ink cartridges for free. Best Buy will also recycle many types of electronics. Visit www.bestbuy.com/recycling for details.

I want to recycle a large TV. Do E-Cycle locations have a size limit?

There is no size limit on TVs. However, if you want to drop off your TV at an E-Cycle location, it’s best to call first. If you want to drop off your TV at an E-Cycle location, it’s best to call first. E-Cycle locations have a size limit, so it’s best to call first.

If you see someone dumping trash into the recycle bins, please tell the attendant immediately.

Easy recycling at the WARC

Foam recycling has arrived at the Waste and Recovery Center! Polystyrene foam, called Styrofoam™, is now accepted at the WARC. Plastic and metal items can be recycled at the WARC as well. To learn more about recycling at the WARC, visit www.thurstonwaste.org.

Recycling plastic at the WARC just got a bit easier, too. Instead of separating plastic containers by number, you can now recycle them all in the same bin. However, plastic bags still have their own separate bin.

Non-plastic items like cans, paper, and glass still go in separate bins. You must put all items into the bins loose, not in bags or boxes. Only put foam items into clear plastic bags.

When you arrive at the recycle area, ask the attendant for a tip sheet that explains what goes in each bin.

Remember, the WARC recycling area is free and available to residents only. Businesses must call their garage hauler to arrange collection.

The recycle area is for recyclables only, not trash. Contamination from trash is costly and threatens to close the recycle area. If you see someone dumping trash into the recycle bins, please tell the attendant immediately.

Local art gallery closes the loop

The next time you find yourself in downtown Olympia check out Matter! Art Gallery. This full-service fine art gallery is located at 425 Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Artists create each piece from recycled or reclaimed materials. Matter! features both fine art (created for its own sake) and functional art. Artists use recycled and reclaimed materials for their work. Repurposing these discarded materials is a great way to give them a new life.

Jo Gallaugher opened Matter! two and a half years ago. The idea for the gallery grew organically out of her love and appreciation for art and input from local artists.

Gallaugher always wanted to own and manage an art gallery. When she chose Olympia as her gallery’s location, the area’s culture and arts community inspired her to create a space devoted to art with recycled elements.

“Olympia is a wonderful place to have an edgy art gallery like this,”.. We’re surrounded by talented, gritty artists. Our local community, as well as people from metro areas near and far, are taking notice and becoming strong supporters,” says Gallaugher.

Gallaugher plans and displays every piece in the gallery herself. She wants you, the more you see. Even the displays used to hold artwork are quirky and playful.

Visit Matter! at 113 5th Ave. SW in downtown Olympia. You can also visit www.matteroly.com.

Trash Flash

Storm debris tips the scales. County residents brought 3,578 tons of storm debris to the WARC and other free drop-off sites after the snow and ice storms in January. The City of Tumwater collected another 5,625 tons of debris. County work crews continue to collect debris from over 1,200 miles of unincorporated county roads.

Tired of junk mail?

Unwanted mail, catalogs, and phone books not only clutter up your desk, they use valuable resources. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), unsorted mail wastes 4 million tons of paper each year, and half of it ends up in the trash. So what can you do? Recycling is a good step, but there’s an even better way to deal with junk mail: opt out. Here are some easy ways to stop junk mail from filling your mailbox.

Stop direct mail. Catalog Choice makes it easy for you to stop unsorted junk mail, catalogs, and phone books. Set up a free account at www.catalogchoice.org, and indicate which publications you no longer want. They also offer a prepaid envelope service. Send up to 15 pieces of junk mail to Catalog Choice and they will remove them from those mailing lists. A few, for a fee, they will also prevent big data brokers from selling your name and address.

Another way to remove your name from several national mailing lists at once is to sign up for the Direct Marketing Association’s Mail Preference Service. Visit www.dmachoice.org for instructions on how to register online or via the U.S. Postal Service.

Wrong!

We apologize for this error - bucket lids cannot go in your recycle cart. Please put lids in the trash.

Correction

In the fall 2011 edition of Talkin’ Trash, we said bucket lids could be recycled. This is not true - bucket lids cannot go in your recycle cart. Please put lids in the trash.

Event recycling made easy

Planning a big event? Add recycling and waste prevention to your to-do list. Not only do guests and customers expect recycle bins at your event, it’s an easy way to show your commitment to sustainability. In fact, vendors selling drinks in recyclable bottles and cans are required by state law to provide recycling collection.

Planning a green event doesn’t have to be difficult. Thurston County Solid Waste offers free resources to help you meet your zero waste goals. We lend out free bins to collect bottles and cans, glass, and food-soiled paper. The bins fold to fit into your trunk and are easy to set up. The bins come with signs and a limited supply of bags. The borrower is responsible for disposing of all collected materials.

Eliminating disposable items is a great way to prevent waste at your event. Here are some simple ways to replace single-use items:

• Choose durable, reusable, and recyclable options when selecting your supplies.
• Choose dishes made from recycled materials, such as recycled plastic, glass, or aluminum.
• Use cloth napkins instead of paper.
• Choose decorations that you can reuse or give away after the event. Potted plants make great centerpieces and party favors for your guests.

Our recycle bin loaner program is available to all residents, businesses, and organizations in Thurston County. We also provide cities with a supply of bins to loan out to residents or use at their facilities.

Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Bins to request loaner bins or to learn more about event recycling. You can also contact Stafki at stafki@co.thurston.wa.us or 709-3053.

Free community presentations

If you belong to a service organization or club, invite Thurston County Solid Waste to your next meeting. We provide presentations to groups on a variety of waste reduction topics. Our presenters are happy to tailor the information to audiences of all ages and large or small groups. We also answer your questions and direct your group to helpful resources for recycling, composting, and trash concerns.

We travel anywhere in Thurston County. Call us at 360-754-4938 or contact Loni Hanka at loni.hansa@co.thurston.wa.us.

Build a green team

Green teams are changing the way companies and organizations impact the environment. A green team is a group of volunteers, students, or members of a congregation that works to improve sustainability at an organization. Green teams can tackle recycling, responsible purchasing, energy efficiency, carbon footprints, and more.

If you want to start a green team, these tips will get you started.

• Find your core green team members. They’re the ones picking recyclables from the trash or going through the office turning out lights after everyone’s left for the day.
• Green teams work best when they represent your entire group. Be sure to include one member from each organizational level.
• Be sure to establish a regular meeting schedule and stick to it. Moving the meeting time or date each month will make the meetings harder to schedule and easy to forget.
• Find out which issues are important to employees and customers. Have your green team tackle these first.
• Celebrate your successes publicly. Use your website, social media, and newsletter to let people know what your green team is doing.

Whether your green team wants to improve the work environment, develop a sustainability policy, or improve customer satisfaction, Solid Waste staff are happy to help. Businesses and organizations can contact Emily Omes at 360-708-2098 or omesec@co.thurston.wa.us for assistance. Faith groups can contact Lori Kinsman at 360-754-4938 or hanka@co.thurston.wa.us.

For more information about waste prevention, visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org.

Trash Flash

Loafer bins make event recycling a success! Thurston County residents and organizations that borrowed our bins for events in 2011 collected 1,802 pounds of recyclables and 1,794 pounds of compostable materials!

Event recycling made easy

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Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Bins to request loaner bins or to learn more about event recycling. You can also contact Stafki at stafki@co.thurston.wa.us or 709-3053.
Think recycled for building projects

If you plan to build or remodel this summer, consider using recycled products. It’s a great way to prevent waste and can earn you points toward LEED building certification. There are innovative products made right here in Washington that close the loop by turning our waste into new materials.

NewWood™ is 100 percent recycled composite construction material made from post-consumer and post-industrial plastic and wood waste. NewWood™ is waterproof, highly elastic, and can be nailed and cut as easily as wood. Some of the ingredients in NewWood™ travel a short distance to NewWood Manufacturing, inc.’s plant in Elma. Construction and demolition recyclers, like Recovery 1, Inc. in Tacoma, supply some of the wood waste. Customers can purchase NewWood™ in retail outlets throughout Washington. Visit www.NewWood.com for more information.

Renovators can replace old countertops and other surfaces with PaperStone®. Heat and pressure fuse the waste paper and petroleum-free resins in PaperStone® into a durable, non-porous surface. This heat and stain resistant product is made by Panatelic Products, Inc. in Hoquiam, WA. For more information, visit www.paperstoneproducts.com.

For more green building resources, visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning and click the “Climate Change” link.

Local partners in green building

Thurston County Solid Waste is collaborating with the Olympia chapter of the Northwest EcoBuilding Guild to promote green building efforts. Green building techniques can reduce costs, save resources, and keep waste out of the landfill. Nearly 23 percent of waste disposed in Thurston County is from construction and demolition activity.

The Code Innovation Database project will allow building officials and builders to share information about green design, techniques, and materials. Like any construction, green building approaches require permits and building codes must be met. All builders have the time and resources to research these approaches and apply for approval.

Another project is the Sustainability Symposium Series. These eight interactive sessions will take place quarterly to offer education and discussion about green building topics. The series is coordinated effort between the guild, Thurston County, Thurston Action Team, and The Evergreen State College.

Find more information about these projects at www.ecobuilding.org/guild/clatscoparma.org. You can also contact Chris Van Daele of the EcoBuilding Guild at 789-9669 or cvan@thelandentgroup.com.

Special needs students need life skills and help their school prevent waste

This past November, Tenino High School went from throwing everything in the trash to recycling and composting throughout the school. By joining the Food to Flowers program, Tenino became one of only four high schools in the county to compost lunch waste. When the program launched, Tenino’s Leadership class did a great job promoting the program and the entire school community was supportive. But even with a initial support, the program needs daily attention.

That’s where Tenino’s Life Skills class comes. Life Skills is for students between the ages of 12 and 21 with significant physical and mental challenges. In this class, students learn self-care and everyday skills like telling time, counting money, cooking, and job skills. When Food to Flowers began in November, the school was looking for new vocational opportunities for Life Skills students.

Tenino High School Principal Brad Ramsey says the Food to Flowers program helps the school meet an important need. By federal law, high schools must provide youth transitions program for students that helps them develop job skills. “These students need to learn critical skills to be full participants in society after they leave school,” says Ramsey.

Life Skills students participate in Food to Flowers by collecting recycling from classrooms and hallways each day. During lunch, they monitor the sort lines and make sure their peers put everything in the correct bins. Life Skills teacher Jill Statler says her students’ reaction to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. “It’s all done on a voluntary basis, and all of the kids are volunteering,” says Statler. “We now have to have a schedule of who’s recycling when, and they are so excited to do it.”

In helping with the Food to Flowers program, Life Skills students learn responsibility, what it means to be a good employee, and how to keep track of the hours they work on the job. “They feel they are important and participating in the school community,” Statler says. “They go home and they talk to their families about it, and it’s just so important for them to have something to share.”

To learn more about Food to Flowers, visit www.TeninoSolidWaste.org/FloditsFlowers. You can also contact Peter Gutachten at guttchps@co.thurston.wa.us or 705-3913.

Trash Flash

Get updated on Food to Flowers news and information. Sign up for the Food to Flowers e-newsletter! Email Carrie Ziegler at zieglec@co.thurston.wa.us to sign up now.

New middle school presentations

Solid Waste offers three new classroom presentations for sixth through eighth grade students in Thurston County. The Marketing to Teens lesson helps teenagers develop an awareness of marketing tactics by creating their own mock advertising campaigns. In the Bottled Water Taste Test presentation, students conduct a blind taste test to see if they can tell the difference between bottled water and tap water.

The Battle to Ban the Bag lesson introduces students to the controversy of banning single use solid waste. By assuming different roles, students present and debate their viewpoints regarding a potential plastic bag ban in their community.

Food to Flowers spotlight: Tenino School District

Pizza crusts, apple cores, and napkins no longer go in the garbage at any of the four schools in the Tenino School District. Today, each of Tenino’s 1,167 students participates in Food to Flowers, a zero waste composting and recycling program.

This makes the Tenino School District the first kindergarten through twelfth grade school district in Thurston County to have each of its schools participating in Food to Flowers. The district is saving money, teaching students to make a positive impact on the world, and helping the environment.

To learn more about Food to Flowers, contact Peter Gutachten at 705-3913 or guttchps@co.thurston.wa.us.

Activities for scouts

Attention troop leaders! Did you know that Thurston County Solid Waste has opportunities for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to earn patches, badges, pins, and service hours? If your troop has an idea for a waste reduction or recycling project, we are happy to provide guidance. We also offer “learning by doing” activities where a whole troop can help educate the public to recycle and compost at public events.

We can also provide information and presentations on what you can recycle in your community, how you can recycle at home, and where you can learn more. Let us know if you have troop members.

Troops interested in participating in a community service activity or scheduling a presentation should contact Colleen Minson at 786-5269 or email minsonc@co.thurston.wa.us.

Trash Talk for students

Fourth and fifth grade students in Thurston County can get their own Trash Talk newsletters delivered to the classroom. The quarterly newsletter is informative and offers word searches, crossword puzzles, and other games to make learning fun. Students will learn about recycling, reuse, household hazardous waste, yard waste, waste prevention, and more.

To receive a free set of newsletters for your students along with a Teacher’s Guide, contact Colleen Minson at minsonc@co.thurston.wa.us or 786-5269. Find an online version at www.TeninoSolidWaste.org/Schools.
Olympia Farmers Market reduces waste!

Over the past four years, the City of Olympia and the Olympia Farmers Market have worked together to divert organic waste, produce, and food-soiled paper from the downtown Farmers Market for composting. These efforts are paying off!

In 2016, the market diverted roughly 16 tons of organic waste for composting and reduced onsite garbage by 6 tons from the previous year. Successful waste reduction and cost savings have been a community effort. Thanks to the many restaurants, farmers, and vendors who divert organic waste for composting, and the public who use the waste centers to separate their organics, recycling, and trash.

With your help, the Olympia Farmers Market staff, volunteers, and neighbors are keeping organics separated and diverting as much as possible.

Want regular updates from Thurston County Solid Waste? Stay informed on the latest recycling and waste prevention news by signing up for our newsletters. We’ll send different topics tailored to your specific interests, including general waste news, news for businesses and organizations, and information regarding discussions about plastic bags. Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org to sign up now!

Proper disposal of noxious weeds

Spring has sprung and noxious weeds are sprouting up everywhere. Before you uproot these yard invaders, make sure you know the rules for proper disposal.

You can dispose of most noxious weeds at the Waste and Recovery Center. However, you must dispose of them as garbage, not yard waste. There is a short list of noxious weeds that the WARC accepts free of charge from April 15 through August 31. You will have to pay the regular garbage rate to dispose of any noxious weeds not on this list.

There are some noxious weeds, like Japanese Knotweed, that you should never transport. Plants like these easily reproduce from even a small piece of root or stem. If you still want to cut down these weeds, stack the stalks onto another. Use tarps to make sure they stay dry and don’t touch the ground. You can assume they are dead when they turn completely brown and dry. You can then chop them up or let them decompose naturally.

Follow outdoor burning rules. Before you burn any yard debris, make sure you know the outdoor burning rules. Check with your local fire department to see if burning is allowed in your area, and get the proper permit. You are only allowed to burn natural vegetation – burning anything else is illegal. Never burn toxic plants or any plants that are still green. Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Burn for more information.

Trash Flash

For more information about control and disposal of noxious weeds, visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/oweds and click the “Assistance” link.

Free WARC disposal

- Tansy Ragwort
- Poison Hemlock
- Common Fennel
- Wild Chervil
- Butterfly Bush
- Spurge Laurel
- Gorse
- Orange Hawkweed
- Meadow, Spotted, and Duffine Knapweeds

Olympia news
City of Olympia residential and multifamily customers

Visit www.olympia.gov/waste/tease to preview the revised 2012 accepted materials list.

- Recycle
- Organic
- Garbage

Print a copy to hang on your refrigerator as a helpful reminder.

Got plastics? You should ONLY recycle the following items: plastic cups, single-use plastic bags, dairy tubs, and rigid flower pots.

Please do not place any other shape or kind of plastic in your recycle cart. It cannot be effectively separated and contaminates the mix.

Recycling presentations for neighborhoods, apartment complexes and condominiums

Are you confused about what to recycle? Do you often wonder why we can’t recycle everything?

Our recycling talks are fun and encouraging. We’ll speak to your group’s specific needs or concerns.

Contact Ron Jones at 753-8599 or rjon@co.olympia.wa.us.

Tips for safe spring cleaning

Many chemical drain openers contain a strong base, while others contain a very strong acid. Homeowners may have waste products to dispose of, such as household hazardous materials. Before spring cleaning, be aware that many household cleaners require caution when using, storing, and disposing.

Don’t mix bleach or bleach products with other cleaners, as these chemicals can combine and make the mixture toxic.

Use products as directed.

Dispose of unwanted chemicals at HazoHouse. Residents can safely dispose of household hazardous products for free at HazoHouse (hours and location on the back page). Transport materials in leak-proof tubs according to their hazard class. Questions? Call the Hazardous Waste hotline at 867-2664 for more information.

Revive your spring lawn

All of that snow, rain, and yes, patchy sun have triggered hearty grass growth. It’s not exactly lush green, nor is it weed-free. Follow these steps to achieve the healthy green play area of your dreams.

1. Start with a soil test to determine fertilizer needs. The Thurston Conservation District offers soil tests for $25. Test instructions can be found at www.thurstoncd.com.

2. Choose a slow-release, organic fertilizer. Soil temperatures warm up and microbes become active in early May, so wait until then to fertilize. To tell if a fertilizer is slow-release, look at the label. The amount of water-insoluble nitrogen should be at least half the total amount of nitrogen. If the fertilizer contains 8 percent total nitrogen, water insoluble nitrogen should be at least 4 percent.

3. Remove weeds by pulling or cultivating, not by spraying. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program also provides prescriptions for common home and garden nuisances from black ant to yellow jackets. These are available at local gardening centers or online at www.co.thurston.wa.us/hort/shipments.html or call 867-2664.

4. Aerate every year or so. This will break up compacted soil and help water, air, and nutrients get to the roots of the grass.

5. After aeration, add compost and over seed with a Pacific Northwest lawn blend.

6. Only one inch per week. Over-watering and over-fertilizing can lead to weeds and disease.

Visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehecg or call us at 867-2674 for more lawn care ideas!

New life for used cooking oil

Thurston County residents can recycle used cooking oil for free at HazoHouse! Please strain your oil through a coffee filter or cheese cloth to remove food solids. General Biosolids of Seattle reﬁnes your cooking oil into biofuel and distributes the product regionally. Thurston County’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program also provides prescriptions for common home and garden nuisances from black ant to yellow jackets. These are available at local gardening centers or online at www.co.thurston.wa.us/hort/shipments.html or call 867-2664.

Follow these steps to reduce the risk of nitrogen contamination:

- Maintain and regularly pump septic systems.
- Keep livestock waste covered.
- Use slow-release fertilizers at or below recommended rates.

Volunteers do more than sort recycling

The first Thurston County Master Recycler Composters (MRC) volunteer class graduated this past fall. Many MRC volunteers actively contribute at work, in schools, and in the community.

They also commit to ﬁve hours of continuing education each year to keep their skills and knowledge up-to-date. MRC volunteers also host free composting workshops in Olympia and Lacey. Visit http://county.wsu.edu/thurston and click the “Master Recycler Composters” link to see the workshop schedule.

For more information about volunteering, call Brian Stafki at 709-3053 or email staffki@co.thurston.wa.us.

WSU Thurston County Extension’s Master Composters combined forces with the Master Recyclers of Thurston County Solid Waste last year. Fifty-ﬁve volunteers take part in the merged program. Training for the 2012 Master Recycler Composters class starts this fall. An application will be posted online in August. For more information, contact Cori Carlton at 867-2162 or ccarlton@co.thurston.wa.us. You can also visit http://county.wsu.edu/thurston and click the “Master Recycler Composters” link.

Other volunteers

You don’t have to be a Master Recycler Composter to volunteer with Thurston County Solid Waste. We offer internships, help with senior-cultivating projects, and regular or one-time volunteer opportunities.

For more information about volunteering, call Brian Stafki at 709-3053 or email staffki@co.thurston.wa.us.

Research presentation from Thurston County Solid Waste? Stay informed on the latest recycling and waste prevention news by signing up for our newsletters. We’ll send different topics tailored to your specific interests, including general waste news, news for businesses and organizations, and information regarding discussions about plastic bags. Visit www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org to sign up now!

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3. Remove weeds by pulling or cultivating, not by spraying. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program also provides prescriptions for common home and garden nuisances from black ant to yellow jackets. These are available at local gardening centers or online at www.co.thurston.wa.us/hort/shipments.html or call 867-2664.

4. Aerate every year or so. This will break up compacted soil and help water, air, and nutrients get to the roots of the grass.

5. After aeration, add compost and over seed with a Pacific Northwest lawn blend.

6. Only one inch per week. Over-watering and over-fertilizing can lead to weeds and disease.

Visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehecg or call us at 867-2674 for more lawn care ideas!
Garbage and recycling resources

The information on this page is correct through 12/31/12

Contacts

Talkin’ Trash is produced by Thurston County Public Works.
Phone: 867-2491 or TDD 754-2933
Email: ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us
WasteLine: 786-5494
(24-hour recorded information)
Website: www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org
www.WhereDoTakeMy.org
Join the conversation online!

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 (530) 736-4769 (long distance)

The above companies are owned by Harold LeMay Enterprises, which has been purchased by Waste Connections. Compost yard waste collection service is also available in many of the service areas. Call for more information or visit www.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. Olympia provides its own trash, recycling and organics collection service.

Public Health and Social Services, Environmental Health

Phone: 867-2674 or TDD 867-2603
Solid and Hazardous Waste section: 867-2664
Web: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/vehdm
Hazardous waste web: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/vehhw
Integrated Pest Management: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/vehpm
Gardening guides: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/vehcg
Healthy home advice: www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/vehhm
Address: 412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia, WA 98506

Compost bin sales

The Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation sells compost bins at reduced prices. Visit www.compostbinsthurstoncounty.com or call 481-4204 for more information.

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 12/31/2012)

- One ton = 2,000 lbs.

Garbage

- 300 lbs or less ........................................... $18
- More than 300 lbs . . . . . . . $119 per ton, prorated
- More than 10 yards . . . . . $37 per ton, prorated

For refrigerated appliances, add a $18 handling fee to the rate above. Rates include 3.6 percent state refuse tax.

Computers, Monitors, Laptops, TVs, E-Readers

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

Yard Debris

- 300 lbs or less ........................................... $9
- More than 300 lbs:
- Less than 10 yards . . . . . $45 per ton, prorated
- More than 10 yards . . . . . $37 per ton, prorated

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.

Satudays 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.

HazoHouse

Take household hazardous products to HazoHouse. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone 867-2912. HazoHouse is located next to the recycling area of the Waste and Recovery Center. 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.

Reuse websites

The following websites provide an excellent way to sell or give away useable 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/oly
- Freecycle: www.freecycle.org

Where Do I Take My...?

Thurston County maintains a database of locations where residents can reuse and recycle many items. Visit www.WhereDoTakeMy.org.

Are we missing any locations? Call 867-2491 or email ThurstonSolidWaste@co.thurston.wa.us.

Recycle drop-off bins

Recycling drop-off locations:

Lacey: Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center (WARC), 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.

Items accepted at the locations

Thurston County’s recycling drop-off locations accept:

- Newspapers.
- Glass bottles and jars.
- Tin and aluminum cans.
- Mixed paper.
- Plastic dairy tubs, bottles, jars, jugs, rigid plastic pots and buckets.
- Corrugated cardboard.
- Plastic film bags – must be clean and empty.
  (WARC only)
- Foam (polystyrene) 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 recycling sorting facility.