



# Waste Wise

Reduce · Reuse · Recycle

A public service of Tillamook County Solid Waste

Spring 2009

## New hazardous waste site to open this fall

**T**ired of storing those leftover paints, dead car batteries and burned out fluorescent bulbs in your garage until the county holds its annual household hazardous waste collection day?

Well, relief is on the way. According to Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell, plans are under way to construct a hazardous waste disposal facility at the Tillamook transfer station on Ekloff Road.

“We’re hoping to combine our fall collection event with a grand opening,” Purcell said.

Phase I of the facility will include a prefabricated cement building located on a 200-by-150-foot parcel at the transfer station.

“We’re shooting for a September opening,” she added. “We just aren’t sure how long the permitting process will take. And construction, of course, is weather dependent.”

Tillamook Transfer Station Manager Aaron Averill said the facility will be able to accept household hazardous waste at least eight days a year. In addition, appointments can be made to drop off large loads necessitated by special circumstances, such as a household move. The collection of household hazardous waste will continue to be a free service to Tillamook County residents sponsored by the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department.

The most common household items that are considered hazardous include:

- paints and stains
- pool and spa chemicals
- pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and poisons
- thinners and solvents
- household cleaners and disinfectants
- batteries
- art and hobby chemicals
- aerosol spray products
- propane tanks or bottles from barbecue grills
- compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), fluorescent bulbs and ballasts
- items containing mercury, such as thermometers and thermostats.

Purcell said the county is investigating the development of a latex paint recycling program sometime in 2010 that would allow paints collected at the hazardous waste facility to be processed for re-use.

## Economy squeezes recyclers

*Falling prices, less demand challenge local operators*

**T**illamook County recyclers are feeling the recession’s pinch as prices for recyclable commodities plummet and materials pile up on their properties.

Metals, which had been getting record high prices as recently as September, “fell off the edge of the earth in October,” according to Aaron Averill, who runs the Tillamook Transfer Station on Ekloff Road.

They’ve come back up a few dollars per ton since then, Averill explained, but they haven’t come close to recovering yet.

Plastics, he said, aren’t moving either.

“I have a whole trailer full,” he said and he’s storing even more on the site.

The same is true of cardboard, he added.

“But I did manage to get two loads of it (more than 50 tons) out of here in February.”

As of early March, Averill said, he had about 200 tons of cardboard stored at the transfer station.

“I prefer to have only 25 or 30 tons – enough for one load – here at any given time.”

Falling commodity prices coupled with high fuel costs associated with transporting recycled materials to market mean profits for recyclers are extremely low or non-existent.

A survey of commodity prices published in January by the Association of Oregon Recyclers showed that, since the summer of 2007, commodity prices have dropped dramatically. For instance, the average price per ton of cardboard fell from a summertime 2007 high of \$117.46 to \$37.38 by the first week of December 2008 – a drop of 67.3 percent. Over the same period, ferrous scrap metal prices dropped from an average of \$247.25 a ton to \$56 a ton, a 77.4 percent decline.

In good times, Averill explained, recyclers can make profit margins ranging from 25 to 30 percent. At the moment, Averill said, his margins are in negative territory.



**A growing stockpile of recyclable plastic at the Tillamook transfer station frustrates manager Aaron Averill.**

At the CARTM recycling center and transfer station in Manzanita, the situation is even worse, according to Executive Director Jan Hamilton.

CARTM, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to achieve zero waste in the communities it serves, has been forced to stockpile various recyclable materials.

Prices for rigid plastic are low and, unfortunately, staying stable, she said. For-profit recycling operations don’t take most kinds of rigid plastics – such as the materials used in children’s toys, buckets and the like – but CARTM, Hamilton said, does.

Another type of material uncommon to many recyclers is aseptic paper containers, such as “waxy” milk and soup containers. That market is also shrinking. “We will have to keep

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# Talking TRASH

By Jennifer Purcell

Tillamook County  
Solid Waste Coordinator



After one year of familiarizing myself with the solid waste industry and Tillamook County's solid waste community, I have assimilated an enormous amount of information. The business of solid waste management is far more complex than I ever could have imagined and I welcome the unpredictability of each day.

The past several months have been dedicated in large part to guiding the county's Manzanita and Tillamook transfer stations through significant capital improvement projects. If you have not visited these facilities lately, the investments are evident; increased efficiencies and capacity are notable at both operations.

The county is also wrapping up a much needed update to Solid Waste Ordinance No. 4. Following a formal public hearing process, the updated ordinance is expected to be adopted in late March, 2009.

The legislative and economic environments have also been hallmark. Historic economic conditions have had tremendous impacts on recycled commodities markets and, consequently, solid waste professionals nationwide. Significant legislative mandates have also influenced the industry this year, including a statewide framework for handling electronics waste and an expansion of Oregon's historic Bottle Bill.

As Tillamook County's wasteshed coordinator, I have enjoyed establishing collaborative relationships with a variety of organizations.

A partnership with the City of Bay City brought a countywide shoe drive in November, collecting shoes to resurface the Bay City sportcourt. Over a one-week period, we collected used athletic shoes at various locations, including all Tillamook County schools. We collected 1,123 pounds of shoes to be recycled as part of the innovative NikeGrind© process, which grinds shoe materials into high quality sports surfaces. We are approximately halfway towards meeting our goal of 2,500 pairs of shoes. The City of Bay City is exploring options for continued shoe collection sites. For more information, call the City of Bay City at 503-377-2288.

As Oregon Green Schools coordinator for Tillamook County, I continued the relationships established with county schools by encouraging participation in the green schools program.

Two schools took advantage of the Oregon Green Schools recognition; Tillamook Junior High and Nestucca High School were presented with Green School certificates. In addition, these schools qualified for incentive award grants offered to new Oregon Green Schools in underserved areas. Each school was awarded a \$500 grant to begin its energy conservation and waste reduction programs. These Tillamook County schools earned two of only seven grants awarded statewide. Way to go!

For more information about Oregon Green Schools, contact me at 503-815-3975 or visit [www.oregreenschools.org](http://www.oregreenschools.org).

# Reducing the environmental impact of pharmaceutical waste

Oregon environmental authorities have for years recognized that pharmaceutical drugs making their way into the state's waterways are a serious threat to human and animal health and to the environment.

According to the state's Department of Environmental Quality, pharmaceutical compounds are found in the state's waterways because of improper disposal of unused drugs and because they are excreted by humans and animals. A DEQ fact sheet distributed in 2008 noted that, in one study, scientists analyzed streams for 95 organic wastewater contaminants, including pharmaceutical compounds.

"One or more of the organic wastewater contaminants were found in 80 percent of the streams," the DEQ fact sheet reported. "The risk posed to aquatic organisms by long-term exposure to various pharmaceutical compounds is unknown."

The report noted that, since neither wastewater treatment plants nor septic systems treat or even partially treat for pharmaceuticals, those chemical compounds pass into our rivers and groundwater.

In 2006, the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies and DEQ began looking into the possibility of developing a statewide drug "take back" program in Oregon. The result was a report to the state Legislature recommending that Oregon establish a program similar to one that has operated in British Columbia since 1996. The report called for the state to ask pharmaceutical manufacturers and over-the-counter drug companies to voluntarily set up a convenient system for consumers to dispose of unwanted medicines using a mail-back or drop box format or a combination of the two.

The report further suggested that, if the industry is unable or unwilling to develop such a program on its own, legislation requiring an industry-funded "take-back" program be introduced in the Legislature this year.

According to the DEQ fact sheet, the best way to dispose of unwanted or unused pharmaceuticals currently is to get them to a permitted solid waste incinerator. But, DEQ added, because that option is not widely available in Oregon, disposing of them in the trash or garbage is recommended. Pharmaceutical compounds, DEQ said, should break down over time in a landfill.

DO NOT flush prescription drugs down the toilet or



drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so, said Tillamook County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell.

In early 2009, the Office of National Drug Control Policy released the following Federal Guidelines for the "Proper Disposal of Prescription Drugs" if designated collection sites or events are not readily available in your community, as is the case in Tillamook County:

1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. Put this mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.
4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including the prescription number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
5. Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

"I am working with Tillamook Estuaries Partnership to bring a speaker forum to Tillamook County on the topic of pharmaceutical waste and the impact on our waterways," Purcell noted. "We are aiming for June and hope to couple that with a pharmaceutical collection event. Watch for more details to come." For more information, contact Purcell at (503) 815-3975.

## Recyclers

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taking them, even though the market is probably going to go away," she said. Manufacturers, she added, will probably switch to plastic containers.

CARTM, according to Hamilton, is having somewhat better luck handling cardboard. That's because it has built a relationship over time with Far West Fibers, a material recovery facility in Portland.

"Cardboard prices are low," Hamilton noted, "but they're steady. We're still shipping cardboard."

But, she added, recycled newsprint is a problem because of reduced demand.

Paper mills are making less newsprint as financially struggling newspapers reduce the width of their pages and the number of copies they print. As a result, there's not as much demand for recycled newsprint.

"Prices, though, have held steady," Hamilton said.

Bobby Poppe of City Sanitary Service, which handles commercial and residential recycling in the central part of the county, worries about what could happen if demand drops further.

"Prices are about half what they were a year ago," he said.

That's about the only thing, though, that could cause any changes in his company's operations. For now, he said, he's still able to ship newsprint to a recycler in Newberg.

Despite the current situation, County Solid Waste Coordinator Jennifer Purcell encourages the community to continue recycling.

"While industry experts differ on their opinions regarding when, and even if, the markets will rebound, it is important that we do not undo all of the good work we've done to encourage recycling," Purcell said. "It is important to remember that recycling is the third component of the three Rs (Reduce, Reuse, then Recycle).

"Waste reduction will be inevitable during a downturn in the economy," she added. "Consumers are purchasing less and, therefore, creating less waste. I encourage residents to consider the waste they will generate when they make purchasing decisions. The most direct way consumers can affect the amount of waste being sent to our landfills is to generate less waste in the first place.

"While Tillamook County recyclers are taking a direct hit during these difficult times, residents can rest assured that the solid waste community is dedicated to continuing our recycling and waste reduction efforts."

# Buy, save, recycle at Habitat's new ReStore

*Bay City store features building materials, home items at bargain prices*

Where can you go to keep old or unwanted items out of the landfill, help support affordable housing for Tillamook County's low-income residents and potentially save a bundle on home improvement materials?

The answer is the new Habitat ReStore in Bay City, where Tillamook County's Habitat for Humanity chapter sells everything from excess building materials donated by contractors and retailers to pre-owned furniture and household items.

"We will accept donations of almost anything we can sell," explained Habitat Executive Director Kathleen Tyler, "and every dime we raise goes right back into the community to build our Habitat homes."

The ReStore is located in the 3,000-square-foot building formerly occupied by Gold Coast Antiques just off U.S. Highway 101 in Bay City near Tillamook Country Smoker.

Habitat opened the operation in late 2008.

"We bought the building from the previous owner and planned to open around December," said Tyler. "But even while we were building shelves and getting the building ready, people were coming in and buying things right off the floor."

Tyler said the store already does a brisk business. "We get new stuff in daily and much of it goes right out the door again."

Tyler said Habitat's staff of volunteers regularly works the phones to get donations of leftover building materials from local and regional contractors, as well as excess and odd-lot merchandise from building supply retailers and wholesalers.

Recently, for instance, a building supply business in the Portland area delivered a truckload of 26,000 square feet of tile flooring.

"Normally, it sells for \$75 a box. We're selling it for \$20. We had a couple come in and buy 4,000 square feet of it to tile their home," Tyler said.

The store also accepts donations of used furniture, which it sells at modest prices.

On a recent day, for instance, there was a stack of Mid-Century Modern Formica coffee and end tables priced at \$100 for the set. There was also a full bedroom set, assorted occasional chairs, a dining table and chairs and scores of items ranging from televisions to lamps.

Habitat will even pick up your donations, if you don't have a vehicle large enough to transport them.

"A lot of young people with no furniture come in to buy when they are just starting out. Or they might need a desk and chair. We had one person donate a car that we scrapped. The car was not worth saving, but it had a new set of tires on it that had sold for \$400 new. We sold them for \$100," Tyler said.

Among the most plentiful items at the ReStore are interior and exterior doors. Scores of doors new and old line the walls. On any given day, you can also find windows, cabinets, electrical items, plumbing, hardware, siding, roofing and new and used appliances.

Tyler said the ReStore will accept almost anything in donation, except for items beyond their useful life or items that cannot be reused for sanitary reasons, such as old toilets, carpeting and used mattresses. At present, the store cannot accept old aluminum windows, due to a lack of storage space. And staff cannot accept partially used cans of paint or other hazardous materials that have been opened. Unopened paint and stain are welcome.



**Above: Habitat's ReStore at 6500 Williams in Bay City**

**Right: Some of the tile flooring donated for sale at Habitat's ReStore.**

**Below: Windows and doors are plentiful.**



## Recycle with Habitat

- You may drop off aluminum cans and items that have a deposit value at the Habitat office, 2610 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Tillamook.
- To recycle ink and laser toner cartridges, call Habitat at (503) 842-7472.
- To donate cars, boats and other vehicles to Tillamook Habitat, call the main office at (503) 842-7472.

In addition, Habitat hopes to establish itself as the county's drop center for used printer and copier cartridges. Habitat will take them and send them to recyclers, who pay Habitat a nominal fee for each one.

Tyler said Habitat will also accept cell phones, plastic bottles with a deposit value, and aluminum cans with or without a deposit value.

"We even plan to set out a jug on the counter so people can get rid of their old pennies," she added. "We will take anything that will help us raise money for our housing projects. It's important, because at the moment we are the only builder of affordable housing in the county."








If you don't have merchandise to contribute, Tyler said Habitat also is looking for more volunteers to help staff the store.

"We currently have three volunteers who operate the store, but we could use more," she said. No retail experience is necessary.

The ReStore's hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations may be scheduled by calling the ReStore at (503) 377-0204. The store is at 6500 Williams in Bay City, with entry off U.S. Highway 101. Tillamook Habitat's Web site is at [www.tillamookhabitat.org](http://www.tillamookhabitat.org).



# Your Guide to Recycling in Tillamook County

	FACTS	HOW TO PREPARE FOR RECYCLING	WHERE TO TAKE IT
 <p><b>ALUMINUM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Americans use over 200 million aluminum beverage cans a day.</li> <li>✓ Using recycled aluminum uses 95 percent less energy.</li> <li>✓ Aluminum cans can be recycled into new cans and back on store shelves in 60 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> <li>✓ No other preparation required.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)  “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County.
 <p><b>STEEL CANS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Most metal food containers are made of steel.</li> <li>✓ Ferrous metals containing iron are attracted to a magnet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> <li>✓ Remove labels.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling), Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts
 <p><b>PAPER</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Paper is the No. 1 material that we throw away; it makes up 35 percent of our waste by weight.</li> <li>✓ One ton of paper made from recycled fibers instead of virgin fibers saves 7,000 gallons of water, 17-31 trees, 4,000 kWh of electricity, and 60 pounds of air pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Anything that comes in the newspaper can be recycled with the newspaper.</li> <li>✓ Shredded paper can be recycled with mixed paper.</li> <li>✓ Cereal boxes, brown paper sacks, egg cartons, and other non-waxy cardboard packaging can be recycled with corrugated cardboard.</li> <li>✓ Flatten boxes.</li> </ul>	<b>Newsprint</b> is accepted at the following: City Sanitary, Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts <b>Magazines and catalogs</b> are accepted at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Tillamook <b>Mixed Paper</b> is accepted at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) <b>Hi-grade office paper</b> (white office paper only) is accepted at: City Sanitary <b>Corrugated cardboard</b> is accepted at: City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
 <p><b>PLASTIC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Plastics are coded by material type, not recyclability or recycled content.</li> <li>✓ By weight, plastics make up about 11 percent of America’s municipal solid waste; 25 percent by volume.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ We recycle bottle-neck plastics #1-7; containers with a bottle-neck, regardless of plastic type.</li> <li>✓ Remove lids.</li> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County. Other plastics such as food containers, butter and yogurt tubs, and rigid plastics are not readily recyclable in Tillamook County. Contact your recycling center for more information about what is accepted.
 <p><b>GLASS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Glass containers are 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly.</li> <li>✓ Recovered glass is the main ingredient in new glass containers.</li> <li>✓ An estimated 80% of recovered glass containers are made into new glass bottles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Remove lids.</li> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> <li>✓ No need to remove labels.</li> <li>✓ Sort glass by color - clear, green, or brown.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Service Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts  “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County.
 <p><b>ORGANICS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Yard debris and food waste (“organics”) make up approximately ¼ of the average household’s waste.</li> </ul>		There is no food waste collection system available to the public. Backyard composting is a great way to reduce your waste and produce a fertile soil amendment. Composters are available for sale at the Tillamook County Public Works office. Call 503-842-3419 for more information. Yard debris (excluding grass clippings) is accepted for recycling at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
 <p><b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE</b></p>	Many products can hurt people, fish and wildlife. Never dispose of household toxics down the drain, on the ground, in a storm drain or garbage can.		Tillamook County has traditionally sponsored an annual collection event offered free to the public. A permanent household hazardous waste collection facility is expected to be open this fall at the Tillamook Transfer Station. (See story, Page 1.)

For additional information on recycling in Tillamook County, please visit our website at [www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste).

**City Sanitary**  
 (Operated by City Sanitary Service)  
 2303 11th Street, Tillamook  
 (503) 842-6262  
 Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Manzanita Transfer Station**  
 (Operated by Cart<sup>™</sup> Recycling)  
 34995 Necarney Rd., Manzanita  
 (503) 368-7764  
 Thurs.-Sun, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Tillamook Transfer Station**  
 (Operated by Averill Recycling)  
 1315 Ekloff Rd., Tillamook  
 (503) 842-2431  
 Open daily, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Pacific City Transfer Station**  
 (Operated by Nestucca Valley Sanitary)  
 38255 Brooten Rd., Pacific City  
 (503) 965-6898  
 Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.