

May
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Make a difference! p. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

China's Green Fence



Due to a recent phenomenon in China called "operation green fence" many shipments of plastics from the U.S. and other countries that are not standard tubs or bottles or have excessive levels of contamination are being rejected.

This has had a huge negative impact on the plastic recycling industry, particularly for miscellaneous types of plastic and plastic containers #3-#7.

Evidently many of the plastic bales that they've been receiving have contained high levels of contamination or low grade plastics like toys, etc.

Since February, they have started to reject loads that contain these types of plastics so recyclers throughout Oregon and beyond are forced to curtail what they can accept. This drop in demand has also had the effect of lowering the value of what recyclers get paid for the plastics and have forced Agri-Plas to lay off many of their employees.

Hopefully this issue will get resolved, however at this point it is expected that the "green fence" will continue through November and maybe beyond.

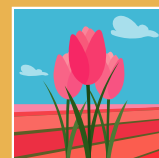
Many of the businesses that Agri-Plas previously picked up from are facing the same situation and will need to temporarily throw away plastics that they have been recycling.

While this is an unfortunate development, at least the low-grade plastics are generating electricity at a clean-burning waste-to-energy facility rather than being separated out in China for landfilling or more polluting forms of incineration.

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"Volunteering is so pervasive it's invisible. We take for granted all the things that

have been pioneered by concerned, active volunteers."

-- Susan J. Ellis

Green Fence....

(Continued from page 1)

Some silver linings to this phenomenon may be cleaner processing of plastics for recycling (good for the whole planet), incentives to build stronger plastics recycling infrastructure here in the U.S. (good for the economy), and an opportunity to educate on the benefits of avoiding packaging whenever possible since we can't always count on recycling to make our unwanted stuff "go away."

So, which plastics can you recycle?

Curbside

- No change: #1-#7 bottles and tubs

Marion County Recycling Stations

- No change: #1-7 bottles & tubs, clean film plastics

Garten Services

- #1-#7 plastic bottles & tubs
- Clean bulky rigids
- Clean clear and color film.

Cannot accept food contaminated plastics, agricultural plastics or contaminated food processing plastics.

Agri-Plas

- Nursery pots, trays and crates
- Pesticide/herbicide drums and jugs - triple-rinsed, lids off
- Drums
- Totes
- Clean clear film - basically shrinkwrap
- PET strapping and PP strapping - must be separated from film
- Clean buckets
- Baling twine

No longer accepting miscellaneous household plastic, nursery drip tape, seedsacks, supersacks, pet food sacks, nursery pot tags, or colored film bags. Greenhouse films will need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Call Agri-Plas at 503 390-2381 before bringing it in.

Brown's Island Demolition Landfill

- PVC plastics for free disposal (currently there are no available recycling processors) including pipe, lawn furniture, and some bottles (look for a number 3) and plastic flexible toys.



Promoting Better Packaging

From the desk of Bailey Payne...

Writing to manufacturers is an effective way to encourage them to “green” their products and packaging!

Last week I received an email from one of our great Master Recyclers, Joe Capella. He had recently emailed the manufacturer Tetra Pak to inquire about the recyclability of the plastic lids that they use in their aseptic containers. *I applaud Joe and others of you that contact manufacturers about their products and their packaging choices because consumer demand is important to them.* In the 1990’s, the Master Recyclers in the Portland area were able to work with non-profit Recycling Advocates to pressure manufacturers to stop using PVC bottles for packaging food products. This effort resulted in a change in the industry and now you very rarely find PVC being used for food packaging.



But back to Joe’s experience with Tetra Pak:

Joe’s Question: Why isn’t there a resin identification coding system number developed by the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.(SPI) on this spout?

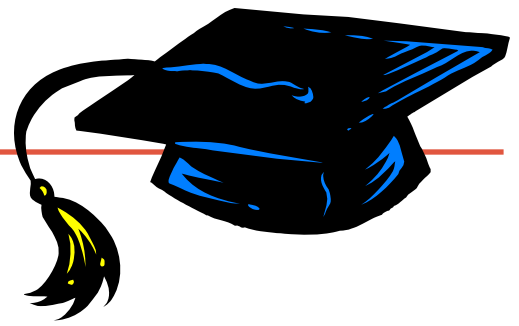
Tetra Pak’s Answer: As for resin identification, there is no generally agreed international standard used in our industry and thus, such markings are not present in our packages.

Without getting into the pro’s & con’s of using aseptic containers, I’d like to share my thoughts on the specific question about their lids as well as their answer. The plastics industry has been very lacking in their ability/willingness to correctly identify the resins used in their products. Often companies will make a mold for their product and then stamp it with whatever type of plastic they are using at the time. If at some point they change resin types and fail to make a new mold, the products are stamped with inaccurate resin codes.

Many local governments around the country have stopped even referring to codes anymore and instead base their outreach on the shape of the container. A good example is Portland Metro’s page on plastics (which closely aligns with what is accepted in our curbside program). The American Chemistry Council has a guide that describes what the plastic resins mean, however they too are likely going to be adopting a new approach for identifying if a plastic is recyclable in the community.

Getting back to Tetra Pak’s answer, I think it’s a little disingenuous to say that there is no agreed upon standard for their lids. There is and has been for 25 years. It’s just not universally followed. That said, it could be confusing if they did put a resin number on their lids because many people assume that it is ok to put anything in the recycling bin that has a number inside the chasing arrows and this isn’t true. Plastic bags and Styrofoam are often stamped with numbers but are not accepted in curbside recycling programs anywhere. For these tabs on aseptic containers, even if they were labeled correctly they would be too small for the material recovery facilities (MRFs) to handle and would slip through the screens and eventually be landfilled. Small materials like these lids are hard for the recyclers to capture and deliver to markets.

Graduate Gallery



Congratulations to **Jessica Ramey** on completion of her payback hours!

Show her testimonial to your friends to spread the word about this great program!

The Master Recycling program gave me a good grasp of the history of recycling in Marion County, how the community handles waste, and the opportunities for reducing and reusing waste. I decided to spend my payback hours educating the community about creative reuse through monthly hands on Creative ReUse Craft Nights by partnering with the Salem Public Library. It was important for me to not simply tell citizens why reuse is important, but to allow them to experience the process themselves. I checked out Marion County's paper making kit and have shown over 800 people how to create new paper from old newsprint and junk mail. I've also co-founded a creative reuse non-profit, DIY Studio, so we can better serve the people of Marion County. This program has been an invaluable resource. It has provided me with inspiration and helped me connect with others who are passionate about the stewardship of our community. Many, many thanks!

~ Jessica Ramey

Growing the Ranks....

Congratulations and welcome to Master Recycler Class #27! They completed the course in late March and got a great start at payback during our Spring events.



TASTY TIDBITS

Time for an Update?

Need an updated Master Recycler Manual?

We have an extra manual from the last Master Recycler class that we would like to give away. If you are interested, please email Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us).

Master Recycler
Training Manual



Keep a Good Thing Going

Marion County Public Works
Environmental Services

Adapted from Metro Master Recycler Training Manual, Recycling Advocates,
Portland, and King County Washington

Tiny Cap, Big Impact



On the surface, the Greystone Learning Center in Loita Hills, Kenya is an architectural triumph, blending traditional art and design with modern construction. But the project's dazzling impact only grows with closer examination, as more than 70,000 bottle caps weave together to reveal a symbol of the local Maasai people. Created as a large-scale interpretation of Maasai jewelry, the facade of the structure is a symbol of community pride, while the learning center's computer lab connects the remote, rural area with the rest of the world.

~from Earth911.com

It All Adds Up

The little things make a difference!

Examples of savings through recycling:

- ☞ Annual aluminum can recycling in the US saves **17 million barrels of crude oil**.
- ☞ One plastic bottle saves **energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for six hours**.
- ☞ 1 ton of paper saves **17 trees**.
- ☞ 2 gallons of used motor oil **saves energy to blow dry a person's hair 216 times**.
- ☞ Recycling one glass bottle saves **energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours**.
- ☞ Retreading a truck tire saves **15 gallons of oil**.



Tsunami Dock Lives On

A section of the 66-foot Japanese dock that washed up on Agate Beach June 5, 2012 was recently



mounted outside Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. The slice of dock, weighing seven tons, is part of the HMSC educational tsunami awareness exhibit and also serves as a memorial in honor of the victims of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The section of dock on exhibit is from one of four docks moored in Misawa, Japan that were swept out to sea during the March 2011 tsunami. Admission is free with donation suggested.

Marine Plastic Scrap

Ecover, a Belgian maker of environmentally conscious cleaning products, has launched a new brand of packaging that will incorporate plastics recovered from the ocean.



"We are trying to set an example by using packaging itself to help solve a problem partly created by packaging waste, and we hope that many other brand owners will follow our lead," said Philip Malmberg, CEO of Ecover.

Ecover will work with Waste Free Oceans, a group that works on the problem of marine debris, to send out a dedicated vessel to recover plastic waste from European coastal waters. The collected material will be sent to a facility in the U.K. run by Closed Loop Recycling for processing.

Malmberg expects the bottles containing the unique feedstock to be on the shelves by early 2014.

~from Resource Recycling

Zero Percent



Zero Percent is a computer and mobile app based system designed to help businesses move surplus edible food by posting dona-

tions on our online food donations marketplace. The system automatically alerts volunteers at nearby soup kitchens and shelters, through text and email, until it can find one volunteer who accepts to pick up the donation.

It is currently live in four communities across United States. If you would like to bring Zero Percent to your community, visit <http://zeropercent.us/>

Master Recycler Call to Serve



Monday, June 17th or later

Crayon Recycling &/or Papermaking

A Master Recycler is needed to do a crayon &/or paper making activity with a group of elementary aged kids in Mt. Angel. If you can help with this, please contact Nan Helmig (nanhelmig@aol.com -or- 503-634-2760). When you have settled on a date, please contact Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us -or- 503-588-5169 x5991).

June 24 - August 9th (choose a day in this range)

The City of Donald has a popular free lunch program that they offer to children from 12:00 - 12:30 at their town park. They would like a Master Recycler to come do a simple activity, such as the sorting game, to teach the children why it's important that they recycle & not litter. The date is flexible, but they would prefer someone to come closer to June 24th if possible. If you can help with this activity, please contact Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us -or- 503-588-5169 x5991).

Monday, August 12th

A Master Recycler is needed to lead a tour of the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station and the Earth Walk. There will be approximately 20 students ages 7-9 and their parents. They would like to do the tour for approximately an hour between 10:00 - 12:00. If you would like to lead this tour, please contact Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us -or- 503-588-5169 x5991) so that he can let the school know, notify the transfer station and give you tips on how to lead the tour.

Monday, August 12th

A Master Recycler is needed to teach approximately 20 children ages 7-9 the basics of how to recycle using our recycling sorting game at a school in south Salem between 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. If you would like to help out with this, please contact Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us -or- 503-588-5169 x5991).

Flexible Date

Community Action Head Start (4611 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem) would like someone to come teach 20 young children about recycling. Ideally, they would like someone to come sometime Monday - Thursday sometime before noon. One possible activity is to briefly talk about what composting is and read them a story about worm composting that is geared for their age (Bailey has a book). Another idea is to do a simplified waste sort activity (we have the kit here at our office). If you would like to help out with this, please contact Jennine Osorio (lunaleo27@yahoo.com or 503-991-3381) and then let Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us) know so that he can arrange to give you the materials.

Saturdays through October

Salem Saturday Market

Downtown Salem

Zero Waste Station volunteers needed! Volunteers educate shoppers about how to sort their items and keep containers free from contamination. Hours are 9 am to 3 pm. Volunteers will receive a market gift card usable at any Salem Farmers Market. Email info@salemsaturdaymarket.org to sign up.



Events & Occasions



Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Painting party at the new DIY Studio location!

Salem Center Mall, by Made in Oregon, Salem

Wowza, 3,300 sq feet is a lot of wall to paint. So they'd love your help! Please bring any brushes and rollers you might have. They'll have some on hand too. Call 971-208-5869 or visit their Facebook page for more info.

Wednesday, May 15 , 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

Toxics in Everyday Products Salem Community Forum

Kroc Community Center, Fir/Maple Room, at 1865 Bill Frey Drive NE, Salem

This community forum is sponsored by Jane Orłowski, RN, Oregon Environmental Council and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. Light snacks will be provided. Registration is not required. We hope you'll join us! Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/ZHOB5I>

Sunday May 19th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Presentation & Workshop - *From Me to We: Five Transformational Commitments Required to Save the Planet*
First Congregational Church of Salem, 700 Marion St NE, Salem

Presented by Bob Doppelt of The Resource Innovation Group, a nationally-recognized expert on systems theory and behavioral and cultural change relating to the global threat of climate change. The Resource Innovation Group (TRIG) is affiliated with Willamette University Center for Sustainable Communities. Call (503) 363-3660 for more information.

Monday - Wednesday May 20-22: Deconstruction and Materials Reuse: Strategies, Tactics, & Tools

Thursday May 23: Why Decon and Reuse? A Future Imperative (Professional Development & Networking Day)

The non-profit Jardin Portland Foundation, announces an interactive training and practicum on sustainable deconstruction skills and opportunities. Proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit Foundation work locally and internationally promoting understanding of Portland's culture, livability, and environmental best practices.

For more information on registration or sponsoring the training, visit the event page at www.pmlrdecontraining.eventbrite.com or contact Dillon Braich at dillon@jardinportland.org or 503-880-8809.

May 23, 2013 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Friends of Straub Lecture Series - *Globalization and Contests over Natural*

Resources: The Search for Wellbeing at Local, Regional and International Scales

Salem Public Library

This lecture examines the multiple contradictions which local communities and nation-states face as they mediate the insertion of their domestic economic interests into the global economy, and explores the outcomes of cases in Oregon and Latin America where communities have attempted to shape these outcomes. Veronica Dujon is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at Portland State University, in Portland, Oregon.

June 7, 8, 9

Association of Oregon Recyclers Annual Conference

Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, OR

Registration is now open for the 35th annual AOR Conference. Get all the details at <http://aorr.org/conference.html> or call 503-233-3056. Earlybird rate ends 5/10.



The Back Page

Recently there has been an explosion of creative reuse ideas floating around thanks to “pinterest” and other visual social media sites.

Quick! Run to your favorite ReStore and look for an old style entertainment center and let it entertain in a whole new way....



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