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# Butte County

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot

## Recycling E-Newsletter



[www.RecycleButte.net](http://www.RecycleButte.net)

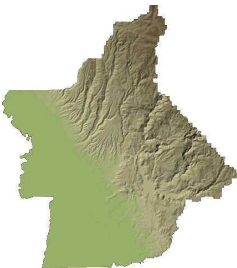
Your on-line Recycling Guide

### The Fall/Winter 2010 Butte County Recycling E-Newsletter has arrived!

- Daylight Savings Time has ended. Time to change the batteries in your smoke alarm. But what if your smoke alarm needs changing? Most smoke alarms carry a trace amount of a radioactive isotope (Americium 241) and are considered hazardous waste. Because of the radioactivity, most household hazardous waste facilities are not permitted to accept them. What can you do? Smoke alarm manufacturers are required to accept them back via U.S. mail for proper disposal. For a list of manufacturers click: [here](#).
- For those considering the purchase of a new television, computer or other electronic devices for the holidays, remember that you can donate your old equipment to Computers for Classrooms in Chico. Computers that are donated have their hard drives wiped clean with new operating software loaded. It is completely secure and there are potential tax benefits. For more information call: 895-4175.
- A program for the collection of home-generated medical sharps is now in place. For location, go to: [www.RecycleButte.net](http://www.RecycleButte.net).

*Steve Rodowick*

Butte County Recycling  
Coordinator



*Keep Butte County  
Butte-i-ful*



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The Butte County Recycling E-Newsletter is published three times per year by the Butte County Public Works Department Solid Waste & Recycling Division.

## Seasonal Feature: The things that some people throw away.

Mostly it is people who are too busy to really assess what exactly they are tossing out. However, some will readily admit that they don't care what it is they are heaving out the back of their pickup; they just want it out of their garage. What ends up as waste at Neal Road often boggles the mind and makes one wonder how, in this economic downturn, perfectly good and highly valuable stuff is discarded as trash.

A good portion of this stuff gets recycled; computers, other electronics, fixtures and the like. However, when an individual bypasses the recycling area of the Neal Road Facility, as well as the dozens of thrift stores in the community that would gladly accept most of these items, there is not much recovery that can be done at that point. Some of the items found randomly at Neal Road are listed below.

- New weed whacker (Still in the box)
- Change machine (with \$50.00 in quarters)
- Box of candles (still in the cellophane wrapper)
- Full set on Ping golf clubs in the bag with a half dozen golf balls (Still in the box)
- New mountain bike with the price tag and users manual still hanging from the handlebars.
- Truckload of clean dimensional lumber
- Loads of compacted cardboard (From the same discount department store)
- Lawn mowers (First pull start)
- 100' roll of new coaxial cable
- 50' roll of new 3/8" copper tubing
- A first edition printing of the "Bobbsey Twins go to the Seashore" (Copyright 1904)
- A 1909 Al Jolson Grafonola pressing (One of the first two-sided records)
- A new 50 tooth, 10" titanium tipped table saw blade
- An entire uneaten Thanksgiving dinner, still in the oven (Turkey, stuffing, empty bottle of wine, oven)

There are many non-profit organizations in Butte County that would greatly benefit from the donation of items like the ones mentioned above (Maybe not the turkey dinner). Before you decide to purge the garage of unwanted items, plan it so that the materials with value and those are recyclable are dropped off before you take the rest to the Neal Road facility. You will likely realize a tax benefit from the donation, the organization will benefit from your donated items and you will ultimately pay a lower disposal fee at the Neal Road facility.

## In the Home: Reducing your junk mail

### Junk Mail Facts

- More than 100 million trees' worth of bulk mail arrives in American mail boxes each year – that's the equivalent of deforesting the entire Rocky Mountain National Park every four months.
- The production and disposal of direct mail consumes more energy than 3 million cars.
- Citizens and local governments spend hundreds of millions of dollars per year to collect and dispose of all the bulk mail that doesn't get recycled.
- 250,000 homes could be heated from a single day's junk mail.



There are a number of ways you can reduce your junk mail intake. You can place a 5-year stop to credit card applications by going to: <http://www.optoutprescreen.com> and filling in the short on-line form. You should do this for each member of your household. This will also prevent potential identity theft as intercepted pre-approved credit card applications are a major way for criminal types to steal your identity.

When you order something from a catalogue, you will automatically be placed on a mailing list. To get off that companies list, as well as other lists of companies that may have purchased your mailing information, you can go to: <http://www.catalogchoice.org>.

Give your stop requests about 90 days to take effect. The trees and your mailperson will thank you.

## **Partners in Recycling: Recycling etiquette 101**

Recycling is easy. At home and at the recycling center, there are simple practices that people should follow to allow the recycler to efficiently and safely sort and ship the recycled materials to market. As more and more people get into the recycling habit, a refresher on the best practices might not be a bad idea. Below are some ways to make recycling work better and more effectively.

### **Curbside Recycling Containers:**

At your house or apartment, those recycling carts will accept a wide variety of materials. Those containers which once held a food product should be rinsed to keep odors down and not to degrade the other recyclable materials. Once rinsed, small amounts of moisture and dried food are acceptable. Lids and caps should be removed from everything. Labels are acceptable. Cardboard should be flattened with any liners removed. Loose paper should be placed in a paper bag. And plastic grocery bags do not go into the curbside container, they should be brought back to the grocery store.

### **The Recycling Center:**

Taking your stuff in to a recycling center offers the opportunity to get some cash for your CRV (California Redemption Value) items and in many cases drop off larger volumes of other materials. The rinse rule still applies as does the taking the cap off suggestion. Sorting by type and color is required if you want to receive the cash payment. It is a good idea to pre-sort at home so you're not slowing down the process. Not all Recycling Centers take everything so it is a good ideal to call first; or you can look up the items they take at [www.RecycleButte.net](http://www.RecycleButte.net).

## **Recycling Profile – The Sierra Nevada Brewing Company**

It's known worldwide as one of the premier craft brewers; is the second largest craft brewer in the nation; and it's right here in Butte County.

Reducing consumption and reusing and recycling raw materials are basic operating principles of Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. Office paper, cardboard, glass, stretch wrap, plastic strapping, construction materials, pallets, and hop burlap are just some of the many materials collected for recycling at the brewery.

Sierra Nevada has received the WRAP Award (Waste Reduction Awards Program) from the State of California for 10 years running for the company's extraordinary waste reduction awareness programs. In 2008, Sierra Nevada was recognized by the California Resources Recovery Association with the Zero Waste Achievement award and in 2009 by Food Engineering Magazine as Sustainable Plant of the Year. Sierra Nevada was also just informed that they are the 2010 EPA Region 9 Green Business of the Year.

Year to date in 2010, Sierra Nevada has diverted a total of 32,000 tons of materials from landfill through creative reuse, recycling, and composting efforts – 99.5%% of the total waste generated at the facility. Diverted materials include 575,000 pounds of cardboard, 470,000 pounds of glass, 34,000 pounds of paper, 80,000 pounds of plastics, 169,000 pounds of wood and scrap metal, and 5,500 tons of concrete have been recycled into road base.

In 2008, Sierra Nevada began utilizing spent vegetable oil from the Taproom and Restaurant as an alternative fuel source for their fleet. Sierra Nevada purchased a biodiesel processor to process the used vegetable oil into biodiesel for their fleet of trucks.

The most recent investment made by Sierra Nevada to reduce their waste going to landfill is a large in-vessel composting system called a HotRot. The HotRot takes in 5,000 lbs of organic material every day and turns what otherwise would have gone to the landfill into fantastic compost for their 9 acre organic hop field, 32 acre organic barley field, and 2 acre organic restaurant garden. Sierra Nevada's investment is right in line with their pioneering efforts and is the first HotRot in the country.

## Upcoming Recycling Events

- Christmas Tree Recycling at various locations.
- Styrofoam recycling at various locations

For more information on these and other recycling events, log on to: [www.RecycleButte.net](http://www.RecycleButte.net)

## Tour the Neal Road Facility

Would your club, classroom or organization like a tour of the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility? Give us a call during regular business hours to schedule a day and time. Call us at 879-2352.

## Coming in the Spring 2011 Issue:

- **Spring Cleaning – Ways to reduce your impact on the environment**
- **Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility update**
- **Special Waste – Batteries, batteries and more batteries**
- **Recycling Profile – The Habitat for Humanity Re-Store**

Questions, comments, suggestions? Email us at [recycle@buttecounty.net](mailto:recycle@buttecounty.net). We will try to respond as soon as possible.



*Consider the trees and those over-priced ink cartridges. Please don't print this newsletter.*