

Not printed on 100% post consumer content recycled paper. In fact, it's not printed at all.



www.RecycleButte.net

Your on-line Recycling Guide

Welcome to the 2nd Butte County Recycling E-Newsletter!

This is the second edition of our Recycling Electronic Newsletter and we're already expanding our outreach and content. We will cover the subjects we promised to in our previous [Summer 2009 Newsletter](#) as well as adding articles on new opportunities on what we can recycle.

Our expansion of the Newsletter is due to the valuable assistance from three Chico State student interns who are lending their time and energy in the production and distribution of this letter. Thanks to Chris Foreman, Leah Morris and Maxwell Charlton-Robb for their efforts in creating the second edition.

November 15th is America Recycles Day. This would be a good time to pledge to start recycling some item that you have previously placed in the trash. Perhaps those plastic bags going back to the grocery store or cereal boxes going into the recycling cart. Or maybe instead of tossing your old clothes, furniture and appliances, donate them (the good ones) to a worthy charity. For locations to bring all your reusable and recyclable items log on to: www.RecycleButte.net.

Steve Rodowick

Butte County Recycling Coordinator



In this issue:

In the Home – Recycling in Apartments

At the Store – The Product Stewardship Movement

County News – New programs for the collection of home generated medical sharps, CFL's and batteries coming soon.

More County News – Tire Amnesty Day to be held November 14th at the Highway 70 Industrial Park in Oroville.

Back at the Store – Refuse the bag!

*Keep Butte County
Butte-i-ful*



In the Home: Recycling in Apartments

One of the day-to-day challenges conscientious recyclers who reside in apartments face is getting your recyclables from the kitchen to the recycling cart. Many people who live in apartments are unaware of the recycling options available for them. For example, if you live in the Chico urban area, your landlord is required to supply a minimum of one recycling cart for apartments with one to ten units. Two carts for eleven to twenty and so on. If you find that your recycling cart is missing or full of trash, the trash company that services your apartment complex will make sure a clean recycling cart is delivered.

- How do I get a recycling cart for my apartment complex?

First, you should speak with your apartment manager and let them know that you are interested in recycling. Ask them to provide adequate recycling containers for your building. If this isn't enough to coax them, contact the Butte County Recycling office and let them know. They can provide assistance and explain to your manager the benefits and requirements of offering recycling to their tenants.

- What types of materials can be recycled at my building?

The same type of recyclable material that is collected at households can be collected at apartments, as well. This means all junk mail, magazines, cardboard, cans, bottles, newspaper and more. A complete list can be found at www.recyclebutte.net.

At the Store: The Product Stewardship Movement

As more and more companies are attempting to comply with the demands of their stakeholders (i.e. consumers, government officials, and retailers), a new movement in sustainable production has surfaced. In order to encourage manufacturers to come up with products that are less toxic, more durable, reusable, and recyclable, the term "product stewardship" was defined. Product stewardship simply means that the impacts to human health and the natural environment that are caused by the production, use, and disposal of a product are the shared responsibility of all participants involved in the life cycle of a product.



The importance of product stewardship is valid in many ways. First of all, this approach shines a responsible light on the areas in production that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. Areas such as consumption of natural resources in production and packaging, levels of toxins, and disposal of waste have all become a part of product stewardship. From the harvesting of raw materials to the disposal of the product when it can no longer be used, this approach encourages companies to take control of their inputs and outputs in a sustainable way.

Product stewardship's main goal rests on the basic principle that manufacturers should be obligated to improve the way in which they produce their goods in a way that keeps in mind the entire life-cycle of that product. Furthermore, consumers should be willing to buy products from manufactures that show their commitment to product stewardship. Not all

companies are willing to take on the challenge of this approach. Therefore, we as consumers should be mindful of this difference and purchase accordingly.

New Home Generated Medical Sharps Program coming soon:

One of the most hazardous items that are disposed of in our landfills every year is home-generated medical sharps. Medical sharps are items that include hypodermic needles, pen needles, lancets and any other items that are used to penetrate the skin. Even though it is illegal in the state of California to dispose of these in the trash, an estimated 400 million home generated medical sharps are put into our landfills every year in the state of California. The items are not only harmful to our environment but pose a significant risk to the workers who

collect the waste as well as landfill workers. We urge you to dispose of these items properly. In Butte County, we have several locations that sharps can be disposed of properly. Sharps must be in rigid plastic containers clearly labeled with "Sharps" and the lid taped on.

The locations currently available are:

Butte Regional Household Hazardous Waste Facility

1101 Marauder Street Hours: Fri. 9am-1pm & Sat. 9am-4pm
Chico, CA 95973 (530) 343-5488

Butte County Fire Station No.64, Kelly Ridge

22 Walnut Ave Hours: Sat. 9am-1pm
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-7228

Northern Recycling & Waste Services

920 American Way Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10am-4pm
Paradise, CA 95969 Must be dropped off in approved NRWS container purchased
(\$4.50 from the
NRWS office (\$4.50) with a disposal fee of \$1.00 per pound. (530) 876-3340

Recology of Butte County (Formerly Norcal Waste Systems)

2720 S. 5th Avenue Hours: Mon. – Sat. 8:30am – 3:30pm.
Oroville, CA 95966
(530) 533-5868

Starting in early 2010, Butte County will be expanding the number of locations that people can legally and safely drop off their home generated sharps. Proposed locations include the Paradise Ridge Senior Center, Feather River Senior Center, Biggs-Gridley Hospital, Veterans Affairs Medical Clinic as well as other locations.

Batteries and Compact Fluorescent Lights

Two other common products that pose a potential health risk when improperly disposed of are batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's). CFL's contain small amounts of mercury so they do need to be disposed of as hazardous material and not thrown into the trash. This mercury can leach into our environment and cause serious health problems over time. Hardware supply stores are leading the movement to recycle these products. Home Depot in Chico and Oroville, as well as many of the independent stores, will take your used CFL's. www.recyclebute.net has a list of where CFL's can be disposed of properly.

Common household batteries, both alkaline and rechargeable, need to be disposed of properly. Batteries contain many heavy metals and toxic chemicals that are dangerous to us and the environment. Most old batteries are thrown out, but these items are recyclable. Approximately 90% of all batteries can be recycled; however most don't take the time to do so. We are asking that citizens of Butte County to do their part to recycle batteries. Along with CFL's, batteries are becoming increasingly easy to recycle with stores participating in product stewardship movements. Batteries are also accepted at the Hazardous Waste Facilities in Chico, Oroville and Gridley. A complete list of battery recycling locations can be found at www.recyclebutte.net.

County to host Tire Amnesty Day on Saturday, November 14th, at the Highway 70 Industrial Park in Oroville.

Do you own property where somebody has dumped tires recently? Would you like to clean up a rural road or wild land area that has been the target of an illegal tire dumper?

On Saturday, November 14th, you can bring tires to the Highway 70 Industrial Park, 4801 Feather River Blvd, Oroville, from 8am to 2pm for no charge. (South of the main gate, at the water tank) You can legally haul up to 9 tires per load without a special waiver.

Tires from this event will be refabricated into a crumb form to create all weather track and park surfaces or used as fuel to power various industrial operations. Members of the Chico State Men's Rugby Team will once again help participants unload tires from their vehicles.

Refuse the Bag!

An item that is commonly associated with a roadside litter is the plastic bag. Whenever a landfill is pictured, the plastic bag is usually an omnipresent part of the landscape.



While plastic bags are a convenience, most people and retailers tend to over utilize them. How often does the store clerk place one item in a plastic bag? These bags come at a cost far exceeding their cost to the retailer. It costs the state approximately \$25 million a year to remove windblown plastic bags from areas surrounding landfills, and another \$300 million by all California public agencies in litter cleanup, much of which are those ubiquitous plastic bags. This is not just a problem of visual blight. Plastic bags blow into grazing areas and waterways causing significant harm to the grazing stock and wildlife that ingest all or parts of these bags. It's not just the money involved; it's also the increasing rate at which we use these bags. In the state of California we are using 600 bags per second, and we only recycle approximately 1-4% of them. To compensate for all of this the state has enacted a law requiring that stores need to take these bags back to be recycled. Now at large supermarkets or pharmacies you can find the bag take back bins near the front doors. Recycling these bags is free and one of the best things you can do to combat this problem. However, instead of recycling, a better approach would be to reduce, reuse and **refuse**.

We are urging all to "Refuse the Bag". This means that whenever possible, refuse having your items put into bags. Why not bring your own reusable bags with you or simply carry them by hand. Not only will you get the satisfaction of helping with this waste problem, but most stores are offering a discount when you bring your own reusable bags. It's also really easy to have these reusable canvas bags around because you can just keep them in your car. If you are able to handle items without a bag, don't use it. Most supermarkets are now selling these reusable bags in their stores. Here in Butte County, we have a company that specializes in these bags; Chico Bag Co. They make reusable bags that are very portable and attractive. You can look at their lines of reusable bags at www.ChicoBag.com Change starts with you, so "Refuse the Bag!"

Tour our 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 2010 Issue:

- **Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility update.**
- **Illegal Dumping: The causes and the cures.**
- **Butte County's Recycling Report Card.**
- **An Interview with a Recycling leader.**
- **The proper disposal of Pharmaceuticals**

Questions, comments, suggestions? Email us at recycle@buttecounty.net. We will try to respond as soon as possible.

Thanks.



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