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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 Spring 2011 Butte County Recycling E-Newsletter is in your inbox!

- ♻️ Spring has sprung! Time to clear out the garage, get the yard in shape and clean up that cold weather grime that has collected over the last few wet weather months.  
In this issue we will discuss lower impact ways to accomplish your annual spring cleanings tasks. We can call it **Greening your Spring Cleaning**.
- ♻️ Do you have an idea for a recycling subject? Or would you like to submit an article for this E-newsletter? Send in your ideas to: [recycle@buttecounty.net](mailto:recycle@buttecounty.net).
- ♻️ Backyard Composting Guides are available upon request. Email us at [recycle@buttecounty.net](mailto:recycle@buttecounty.net) or pick up a copy at the County Public Works office at 7 County Center Drive in Oroville or at the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility.
- ♻️ **April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day.** We can do a lot to make sure the Butte County portion of the earth (and beyond) is well cared for. Locally, we can minimize the waste we produce and reuse or recycle what we can. We can also adopt our favorite county road or volunteer to clean up some public space. Contact us at [recycle@buttecounty.net](mailto:recycle@buttecounty.net) for information on Butte County cleanup programs.

*Steve Rodowick*  
Butte County Recycling  
Coordinator



### Archives

To review past edition of the Recycling E-Newsletter, go to [www.RecycleButte.net](http://www.RecycleButte.net)



**Keep Butte County  
Butte-i-ful**

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**EARTH DAY**  
**APRIL 22**

## In the Home: Greening your Spring Cleaning

The sun is making a more consistent appearance in the skies and the thermometer has ceased crouching in the fifties and made its way to reporting more agreeable temperatures. Spring has sprung! With spring upon us, also comes our innate desire to clear out our accumulated stuff and clean up the residual cold weather grime. There are ways to reduce our impact on the planet when we take on these spring cleaning projects. Some of them are:

- ♻️ **Don't dump, do donate.** What you may regard as trash could very likely be the treasure that somebody else is looking for; and willing to pay for. Good stuff can be taken to a local non-profit thrift store for the benefit of the organization and a potential tax deduction for you.
- ♻️ **Know your hauler.** When hiring a third party to haul away your debris, make sure you know that the stuff they haul away gets to the right location. A good practice would be to insist on a receipt from a permitted landfill or transfer station before final payment is made. Also, request that any recyclable materials that they take away gets recycled. The Neal Road facility maintains drop-off areas for recyclable materials like metal, concrete, cardboard, greenwaste, wood and all electronics. Loading a truck or trailer by segregating recyclable material from non-recyclable will make it quicker and easier to properly recycle.
- ♻️ **Clean green.** There are several ways to use less toxic (and cheaper) cleaning agents when scouring your home. You can make a variety of cleaners from common household items. Some of them are:
  - **All-Purpose Cleaner:** Mix 1/2 cup vinegar and 1/4 cup baking soda (or 2 teaspoons borax) into 1/2 gallon (2 liters) water. Store and keep. Use for removal of water deposit stains on shower stall panels, bathroom chrome fixtures, windows, bathroom mirrors, etc.
  - **Furniture Polish:** For varnished wood, add a few drops of lemon oil into a 1/2 cup warm water. Mix well and spray onto a soft cotton cloth. Cloth should only be slightly damp. Wipe furniture with the cloth, and finish by wiping once more using a dry soft cotton cloth.
  - **Scouring Powder:** For top of stove, refrigerator and other such surfaces that should not be scratched, use baking soda. Apply baking soda directly with a damp sponge.
  - **Window Cleaner:** Mix 2 teaspoons of white vinegar with 1 liter (qt) warm water. Use crumpled newspaper or cotton cloth to clean. Don't clean windows if the sun is on them, or if they are warm, or streaks will show on drying.

## Special Waste: Batteries, batteries and more batteries

Nickel metal-hydride, Lithium ion, Nickel Cadmium, Carbon-Zinc and the popular Alkaline - our electronically wired and mobile society is awash in many and varied types of batteries. Battery usage has skyrocketed in the past decade and continues to increase as more electronic devices are produced that require a consistent and reliable source of energy. It is estimated that there are more than three billion batteries sold in the United States annually.

Batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, which can contaminate the environment when they are improperly disposed. As such, all batteries, even the common alkaline types, must be handled as Special Waste. They can not be tossed in the trash. So where can they be taken?

Most large electronic retailers will accept rechargeable batteries for recycling. Best Buy, Staples, Home Depot and others will accept most rechargeable batteries. For a complete list, log on to [www.call2recycle.org/](http://www.call2recycle.org/) and enter your Zip Code. As for cell phone batteries, all cell phone retailers will accept any type of cell phone battery for recycling.

Alkaline batteries pose a special problem as they are the most popular and the least recyclable. There are a few locations in Butte County that will accept them for either recycling or proper disposal. These locations include the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, all Household Hazardous Waste Facilities, and two local battery retailers; Batteries Plus and Energy Masters.

Since Alkaline batteries pose the greatest impact to the environment, consider as an alternative, rechargeable batteries if your electronic device can operate effectively with them. Additionally, It will also cost you less in the long run to use the rechargeable types.

## County news: Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility update

The Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility (The Facility) has made it through this wet winter weather quite well. As you can imagine, trash, dirt and heavy equipment mixed with buckets of rain usually do not work well together. The result can often result in a real quagmire. However, with a well engineered drainage plan and staff working diligently to keep drain paths clear, the facility weathered this rainy winter with little trouble. Our storm water retention basin is now a convenient rest stop for migratory waterfowl and a haven for other wildlife.

With the spring season also comes classroom tours. Classes ranging from elementary school to college can schedule tours to learn about landfill daily operations and what we can do to increase the lifespan of the Neal Road Facility. If the timing is right, tours can also witness a grand display of wildflowers that grace the slopes of the Facility.



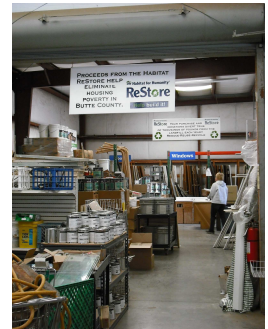
*Springtime at Neal Road*

## Recycling Profile – The Habitat for Humanity Re-Store

Springtime usually means that the slate of household projects that have been put off during the winter have come due. Whether it's replacing a shower stall, painting the kitchen or refurbishing a rental property, the Habitat for Humanity RE-Store offers reliable, low cost fixtures and supplies to get the job done with a benefit to the environment and your wallet.

The Re-Store is an arm of Habitat for Humanity and revenue from the sale of materials goes to benefit the many home building projects in the area. They have a wide variety of materials including countertops, garden supplies, tile, paint, doors, lumber and more.

They accept donations of materials during regular hours (Mon-Sat, 10-6, Sun 11-5) and will provide you with a receipt for items donated. They are located at 220 Myers Street (Off Park Ave) in Chico.



For more information call 895-1271 or log on to: [www.buttehabitat.org/](http://www.buttehabitat.org/)

## Recycling Road Show

Would your club, classroom or organization like a presentation about current trends in recycling and waste management? Our staff will speak at your school or function about local recycling and waste issues and be happy to answer questions about local and national waste trends. Call 879-2352.

## Coming in the Summer 2011 Issue:

- **Inside CalRecycle: California's Department of Recycling**
- **Cash for Cartridges: There is money in your printer**
- **Recycle a beverage container – Buy a fish: The Paradise Lake Recycling Project**
- **Recycling on the trail, in the boat or tubing on the river (2011 edition)**

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.**