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Butte County



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot

Recycling E-Newsletter

www.RecycleButte.net

Your on-line Recycling Guide

Welcome to the Butte County Recycling E-Newsletter!

This publication is Volume 1, Number 1 of the paperless Butte County Recycling E-newsletter. We will be publishing this letter three times a year to keep the public and business community informed on waste issues and recycling opportunities in Butte County.

In this issue we will cover some of the basic program offerings that are available to County residents and businesses and specific ideas on how you can decrease your waste output and ensure a more sustainable future for us all.

In future issues we will examine these programs in more detail and bring you news on upcoming events and new programs that will help us all in reaching our goal of reducing waste to a minimum.

Please take the time to look over these articles. Hopefully this newsletter will raise more questions than it answers. If it does, we're always available to answer any questions you may have.

Please feel free to forward this letter to friends and associates. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the recipient list for future letters, email us at srodowick@buttecounty.net.

Steve Rodowick

Butte County Recycling Coordinator



You are here... Keep it Clean

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- In the Home – Backyard Composting**
- At Work – Waste Reduction & Recycling opportunities**
- County News – Neal Road Landfill update**



In the Home: Backyard Composting (Rot, the 4th "R")

Probably one of the greatest amounts of wastes we produce in the home is organic matter. Food waste, lawn clippings, leaves and other organic matter that far too often end up in the landfill. Backyard composting allows you to recycle your yard waste and vegetative food waste into a rich soil amendment right in your own backyard. It is a great way to save money, reduce the waste that goes to the landfill and improve the quality of your vegetation.

Getting Started

Identify a place in your yard that is out of the way but accessible to deposit yard and food waste. Make sure you can reach this location with a garden hose. There are many ways to construct a compost bin starting from the very simple, (A pile on the ground) to the fancy (A store bought composting bin with aeration holes and turning mechanism).

Most people choose to construct a simple box form out of old lumber or pallets with slats spaced apart for adequate ventilation. This is cheap and keeps with the reuse theme.

Now start creating a pile of vegetation. Try for a 2 to 1 ratio of brown materials (dried leaves, woody material) and green materials (Food scraps, grass, etc.) Add enough water so that the pile is evenly moistened. (Like a damp sponge) Turn the pile weekly or when you notice the top layer start to dry out.



Depending on variables such as temperature, moisture content and how often you turn the pile, you could get rich compost material as soon as a month or as long as a year.

For more information log on to www.RecycleButte.net or contact the County Recycling office for a free compost guide.

At Work: Waste Reduction and Recycling opportunities

Much of today's discarded material, especially paper, comes from businesses. Commercial sources like office buildings, schools, and institutions, make up about 35 to 45 percent of all municipal solid waste. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over 90 percent of all office waste by weight is paper. Most of this could be recycled.

Even in these tough economic times, there is a viable market for recycled cardboard and paper. The permitted commercial haulers are always willing to work with businesses to divert these commodities from the waste stream to the recycling markets. The business will not only know that they are extending the life of the landfill and conserving resources, but will also be lowering their operation expenses by reducing their disposal costs.

Other ways to reduce the waste that is produced is to work with your suppliers to limit packaging that comes with your purchases. Much of this is unnecessary and only adds to your disposal and shipping costs. Discarded materials, furniture, or electronics can be donated to worthy non-profits instead of disposing of them. You get a possible tax benefit and the non-profit gets your usable material.

For a free waste stream analysis to see how your business can reduce waste, call us at 879-2352.

Neal Road Landfill Update:

Many changes will soon be coming to our landfill. This summer we will be commencing excavation and construction on a new module toward the northwest section to give the landfill added capacity. This project is part of a long range construction plan that will give the County waste capacity for several decades.

The Landfill gas to energy project is currently awaiting final permit approvals before construction on the generation system and grid tie-in begin. When completed, we anticipate a production of up to 4.5

megawatts of electricity from methane gas collected at the Landfill. Anticipated start date is mid 2010.

County staff is currently working on preliminary plans for the new Construction & Demolition/Public drop off facility that will substantially increase the volume materials that are recycled at the landfill. The time frame for this project will be determined by the availability of funding.

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

**** Block Styrofoam recycling now available in the County. Hwy 70 Industrial Park, 4801 Feather River Blvd, Unit 21, Oroville.**

Next Issue: Recycling in Apartments, The Product Stewardship movement and new programs for the collection of home generated used medical sharps, compact fluorescent lights and batteries.

If you have recycling subject you like us to cover, please send an email to Steve Rodowick at srodowick@buttecounty.net

Thanks.