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Butte County



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot

Recycling E-Newsletter



www.RecycleButte.net

Your on-line Recycling Guide

The Summer 2012 Butte County Recycling E-Newsletter has arrived!

- ♻️ Do you change your own oil? Oil drain container/pans and oil funnels are now available for free at both the Recology HHW Facility and the Butte Regional HHW facility during regular Hazardous Waste Facility hours.
- ♻️ Don't forget to visit the Butte County Recycling booth at the Butte County Fair. You can get recycling information, learn about our landfill gas to energy project or pick up a free oil drain container and funnel. The Fair runs from August 23rd thru the 26th.
- ♻️ Backyard Composting Guides are available upon request. Email us at 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.

Steve Rodowick
Butte County Recycling
Coordinator



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



Archives

To review past edition of the Recycling E-Newsletter, go to www.RecycleButte.net

In this issue:

State News – California's new Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program

Seasonal Feature – Clean Boating: Oil and water really don't mix

Neal Road News – Landfill Gas to Energy has arrived

Household Hazardous Waste – The new Paint Product Stewardship program

State News: Mandatory Commercial Recycling is now the law

As of July 1, recycling became mandatory for all California businesses that generate more than four cubic yards of waste per week. Up until now, recycling has been optional for business owners, but under Assembly Bill 341 it is now required. It is an effort at the state level to reduce, recycle, or compost 75 percent of the generated solid waste by the year 2020.

According to a 2008 Statewide Waste Characterization, businesses generate approximately 68% of the solid waste disposed of in California, which contains a high percentage of recyclable materials. AB 341 requires businesses generating four or more cubic yards of solid waste per week and multi-family complexes of five or more units to recycle. The law also requires waste collection companies to promote and provide recycling opportunities to these customers.

Butte County, along with the municipal jurisdictions, are now required to monitor the rate of compliance among the qualifying businesses and report the results to the State annually. Currently there is no enforcement provisions associated with these new requirements, instead, the County and the haulers will be working with the business and rental housing communities to educate and encourage participation.

For those businesses that would like to have a waste audit to see what they can do to ensure that they are in compliance, contact your waste hauler or call the County Recycling Hotline at 879-2352.

Seasonal Feature: Clean Boating: Oil and water really don't mix

Butte County is a haven for boaters. Between the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, Lake Oroville or the Forebay/Afterbay complex, there is no shortage of water to float your boat. When powered watercraft come into contact with water there is always the potential for some of the oil, gasoline or cleaning compounds to be transferred into the water, endangering the aquatic habitat.

There are ways to minimize the transfer of petroleum materials into the water.

- Fill fuel containers on land to reduce the chance of fuel spills into the water.
- Avoid overfilling fuel tanks by leaving the tank 5 to 10% empty or use a catch device for the overfill discharge from fuel tank.
- Perform all major engine maintenance away from surface water. Any maintenance work on engine must be done in compliance with rules and regulations governing the marina.
- Avoid fueling boats from portable fuel containers while in the marina.
- Use petroleum absorption pads while fueling to catch splash back and the last drops when the nozzle is transferred back from the boat to the fuel dock.
- Keep engines properly maintained for efficient fuel consumption, clean exhaust, and fuel economy.
- Routinely check for engine fuel leaks and use a drip pan or absorbent pads under engines.
- Do not pump any bilge water that is oily or has a sheen on it. Use materials that either capture or digest oil in bilges. Examine these materials frequently and replace as necessary.
- Exchange used oil absorption pads if possible, or dispose of them in accordance with petroleum disposal guidelines.
- Report oil and fuel spills to the marina office and Office of Emergency Services 800.852.7550 in your jurisdiction immediately.

The discharge of fuel, oil, oily wastes and hazardous substances is absolutely prohibited into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or the waters of the contiguous zone if such discharge causes a film or sheen upon, or discoloration of the surface of the water, or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water. Violators are liable for the cost of the clean up and are also subject to substantial civil penalties and/or criminal sanctions. One ounce of oil or gasoline has the potential to contaminate up to 7,500 gallons of water.

If you are a boater and would like oil absorption pads to keep on your watercraft, Come by the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility to pick up a free clean boating bag.

Neal Road news: Landfill Gas to Energy coming soon!

The Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility will soon be a power plant. In the next few months, the methane gas that is produced by decomposing waste at Neal Road will be powering an engine generator that will produce 2.2 megawatts of electricity. This is enough power to supply power to approximately 1,400 households.

The company that is building and managing the power plant, Ameresco Energy, along with P.G.&E., are going through the final tests before going on-line. The initial 2.2 megawatts will increase as more methane gas is tapped and the power plant expands.

As part of closing the older unlined portion of the landfill, the County installed a gas collection and control system at its Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility to comply with federal Clean Air Act standards. Methane gas is a potent green house gas and is created as a result of decomposing organic material, i.e. municipal solid waste. Approximately 1.2 million cubic feet of methane gas collected per day is currently “flared” (combusted) to destroy the methane.

County staff felt there was a better use of the landfill gas, researched options to flaring methane and ultimately entered into an agreement with Ameresco Energy to develop a landfill gas to energy project. The project has a 25-year term with the County receiving a percentage of the revenue generated from the sale of electricity.

Household Hazardous Waste – The new Paint Product Stewardship program

One of the highest volume and costliest materials that is handled at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility is paint. Highest volume because most everybody paints something at some time, (and they usually purchase too much); and costliest because paint is hard to transport and hard to handle.

PaintCare, is the organization that will soon be responsible for managing the collection and recycling of the paint in California. It was established by the American Coatings Association, a paint industry trade group that has taken a leadership role in product stewardship.

California is the second state in the U.S. to enact industry supported paint stewardship legislation. This model legislation ensures environmentally responsible end-of-life management for post-consumer (leftover) architectural paint while relieving local and state governments of the economic burden of post-consumer paint management. PaintCare’s California Program begins October 19, 2012. All three Household Hazardous Waste facilities in Butte County (Chico, Paradise & Oroville) will be partnering with PaintCare.

For more information log on to: <http://www.paintcare.org/>

Temporary Recycling Containers are available for your next event!

If you are community or non-profit organization holding an event and need temporary recycling containers to help reduce your event’s waste and make money for your organization, the County has the Clearstream Containers available to loan.

If it looks like a trash can, it will be used as a trash can. The Clearstream container will result in much lower contamination using these clear bins. The clear bag, restricted openings and powerful signage shows what goes where.

For more information or to reserve the containers for your next event call 879-2352.



Coming in the Fall/Winter 2012 Issue:

- **Recycle that bicycle**
- **C.O.V.E. recycles the Ridge**
- **Recycling profile: The greatest generation**
- **The dark side of recycling: The trade in stolen materials**

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

 **Consider the trees and the critters that live in them. Please don't print this newsletter.**