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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 Summer 2010 Butte County Recycling E-Newsletter is here!

- ♻️ Summertime! The season we often find ourselves enjoying the outdoors to the fullest and taking in all what Butte County and northern California has to offer in recreational activities. This edition of the Recycling E-Newsletter will focus on some of the ways we can reduce our impact on the local environment and leave things as good as, or better than, we found them.
- ♻️ Remember back in the 60's when every car had a litter bag hung over the window crank? (Thanks to Ladybird Johnson) Well, the window cranks are mostly gone but not the need for a litter bag. Roadside litter is a major cost of maintenance for Butte County roadways as well as roads throughout the state and nation. As it says under the map of Butte County below: **Keep Butte County Butte-I-ful.**
- ♻️ The **Butte County B-Line** has installed over 50 new bus shelters throughout the county with recycling containers attached to each shelter. A "Job well done" should go out to the B-Line and Stott Outdoor Advertising who partnered to place these shelters with recycling containers on the B-Line routes.

*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.

## Summer Feature: Recycling on the trail, in the boat or tubing down the river.

When venturing out onto the trails, waterways and open spaces of the north state, places that are normally devoid of receptacles for the depositing of trash and recycling, one phrase should be the guiding force in how you deal with the stuff you take with you: **"Pack it in; pack it out"**.

Embracing this simple concept is easy. By our act of consumption, the remaining waste and packaging we take out on the trail is both lighter and of less volume than when we started the day. So the **"pack it out"** portion of the phrase is substantially easier to accomplish than the **"pack it in"** part. Unfortunately, it seems that there is a segment of the population that can't seem to put this concept into practice. The bulk of the waste that is littered on our trails and waterways is food or beverage related. Stuff that was packed in but not packed out.



*Don't trash the Sac*

Even though it is easier to pack it out than to pack it in, there are steps you can take to make it even easier. First, eliminate the unnecessary packaging before your trip. Excess cardboard, six-pack rings, bags and other materials can be left at home and recycled before you start your day. Second, avoid single-serving packages and buy food items in bulk. Also, leave the glass containers in the fridge at home; littered or accidentally dropped bottles will eventually become broken glass; the scourge of the outdoors.

Each person should carry a bag to capture their own discards *and* the discards others before them have left behind. The benefits of this practice are obvious and gives one a sense of ownership of the places they have visited. Studies have shown that people are less likely to litter in an area that is free of existing litter.

People using waterways (Boaters, tubers, fishermen) have a special responsibility to maintain the riparian habitat that they are visiting. Fish and bird populations are more sensitive to waterborne litter as it is often mistaken for food and its effects can often be deadly. Materials such as plastic bags, discarded fishing line, Styrofoam bait tubs and cigarette butts are not only ugly to look at, but can kill fish and birds.

Tubers on the Sacramento River and Butte Creek should leave those waterways as clean as they found them. The practice of leaving your waste behind for others to clean up is both disgusting and criminal. The Butte County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies will cite those who are observed leaving litter or their floatation devices behind. Fines up to \$1,000 may be assessed to those who decide not to **"pack it out"**.

## In the Home: Once in the cart, then what? The path your curbside recycling takes.

Do you ever wonder what happens to all that recycling that you trudge down to the curb every week? Where does it go? What will become of all that stuff you separated from the trash?

The three main trash and recycling haulers in Butte County; Recology, Waste Management and Northern Recycling & Waste Services, have recycling sorting operations in Marysville, Lodi and Napa respectively. These hauling companies that operate in Butte County are part of larger operations that manage these regional Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to serve many communities in northern California.



After the recycling truck picks up your curbside recycling and deposits the load at the local transfer station, the materials are then loaded on to large transfer trailers that take the unsorted commodities to the regional MRF. The common recyclable materials that

you normally place into your recycling container are sorted over a combination of mechanized belts and manual picking stations. All three of the haulers operate what is referred to as a "clean MRF". Clean MRFs take single stream comingled recycling for sorting as opposed to "dirty MRFs" which take and sort through all trash and the recyclable materials are pulled from those loads. The advantage to the clean MRF operation is that the materials recovered are indeed cleaner. Paper products are especially vulnerable to degradation in a dirty MRF.

Once the material travel through a series of shakers, magnets, blowers, screens and hand sorting, the now sorted materials are made ready for transport to the appropriate mill, smelter, processor or container ship. Each MRF maintains relationships with a variety of markets and dealers to gain the highest price for the commodities it deals with. Depending on market conditions and transportation costs, materials may stay locally or be shipped cross county or overseas for additional processing, refining and ultimate reuse.

With the collecting, sorting, transporting, processing and marketing of these materials, these operations employ tens of thousands of workers nationally in good steady green jobs. So, when you roll your recycling can down to the curb, know that you are not only saving trees, oil, land and other resources, but you are also helping to stimulate a large and growing sector of the local, national and international economies.

## **Special Wastes: Where to take your used motor oil and filters.**

Summertime is often referred to as "Driving Season". It often seems that we put more miles on our cars in the summer than the other three seasons combined. With the fair weather and an open road, people tend to get their car in shape for some long distance traveling. This includes the obligatory oil change that should be done about every 5,000 miles.\*

To save money, many vehicle owners prefer to change their own oil and filter. Doing so can save about half the cost of taking it in for an oil change. However, one service that is provided by the businesses that perform oil changes is the recycling of the used oil and filters. Do-it-yourselfers should also recycle the used oil and filters by taking them to one of many Certified Oil Collection Centers located throughout Butte County. Customers can get a 40¢ per gallon refund when they take their used oil to a Certified Collection Center. Businesses displaying the Oil Drop symbol shown below will collect the oil for recycling and pay you for it. Used oil and filters should never be placed in the trash or poured down the storm drain. One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. As we have seen in the Gulf of Mexico, oil and water don't mix.

Some of the locations that will accept used oil are:

- All Auto Zone Auto Parts stores
- All Kragen Auto Parts stores
- All Jiffy Lubes
- Pep Boys
- Northern Recycling & Waste Services
- Waste Management
- Ord Ranch Transfer Station



For a complete list of those locations that will accept your used oil and oil filters for recycling, click on the Oil Drop symbol above. For more information on used oil recycling and the 3,000 mile oil change myth, log on to: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/OilChange/>

\* Check your vehicle owners' manual for specific oil change interval recommendations.

## **Recycling Profile – The Chico State Associated Students Recycling Program**

Chico State University is home to over 18,000 students, faculty and staff who occupy 119 acres in the center of Chico. Like any entity of this size, this *city within a city* produces a significant amount of waste

and recycling. The campus organization whose responsibility it is to minimize the amount of material that ends up in the landfill is the Associated Students Recycling Program.

Last year, AS Recycling diverted over 300 tons of materials away from the landfill. This includes the basic recyclable items like cans, bottles, paper, cardboard and other materials from throughout the campus that they collect, but also food waste from the Bell Memorial Union cafeteria and Whitney Hall kitchen (on campus residence hall) for composting at the University Farm. This reduction in waste that would normally be directed to the landfill is estimated to have saved the University close to \$30,000 last year in disposal costs.

As if this wasn't enough of an accomplishment for this student run operation, AS Recycling also works with the community and area schools in recycling education and outreach. The R.A.R.E. Program (Rubbish and Recycling Exhibit) conducts in-classroom recycling and composting lessons for elementary schools as well as hosting recycling field trips at the R.A.R.E. exhibit located at the Recology warehouse in south Chico.

Among the other programs AS Recycling conducts are composting workshops, organizes the annual *Diversion Excursion* program that diverts tons of reusable furniture, appliances, and personal items away from the landfill and to area non-profits during student move-out. Also, it operates a free school and office supply exchange where people can get free stuff that would otherwise be tossed. A Donation Drop Off center is open to the public at their warehouse on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Cherry street every Saturday from 10am to 2:30pm. You are welcome to donate any of your clean recyclables.



For more information on AS Recycling programs and what they offer to the community, contact them at 898-5033, or visit their web site at: <http://www.aschico.com/recycle>.

## Upcoming Recycling Events

- ♻️ Agricultural Plastic Recycling Day - July 22 @Neal Road
- ♻️ Tire Amnesty Day - October 9 @Neal Road

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 Fall/Winter 2010 Issue:

- **The things some people throw away**
- **Recycling Etiquette 101**
- **Reducing your Junk mail intake**
- **Recycling Profile – The Sierra Nevada Brewing Company**

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.*

