



Waste Wise

Reduce ■ Reuse ■ Recycle

A Public Service Of Tillamook County Solid Waste • August 2018

DO YOU WISH MORE THINGS WERE RECYCLED? DO YOU WONDER WHAT HAPPENS TO THE THINGS THAT ARE? DO YOU WONDER WHY SOME THINGS ARE RECYCLED AND OTHERS ARE NOT?

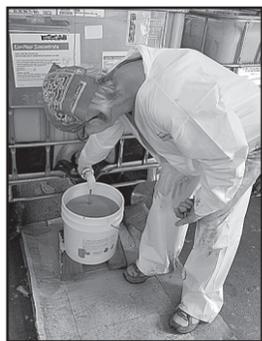
Contributed by Diane Colcord

If so, you would be a good candidate for the Master Recycler Class that will be given in early October, 2018. This two-and-a-half day class is chock full of information about Tillamook County recycling and solid waste management. This class costs you no hard cash, but just 30 hours of your time throughout the next year. And believe it or not, it is not boring. Along with a few entertaining videos and a couple of lunches, you learn about how recycling has evolved in the county, who is working to improve the process, and so much more.

- Did you know Styrofoam can be recycled at the Household Hazardous Waste collections? And that it is eventually turned into picture frames and coat hangers?
- Or that AA, AAA, C, and D batteries (non-rechargeable) can be recycled and are used in the making of Rebar?
- Or that your old paint can be recycled locally and that you can later purchase this recycled paint in seven different colors?
- You learn about the three transfer stations throughout the county where you can take your cans/glass/metal/cardboard and even Styrofoam on the days the densifying machine is at the station.
- You learn about how Europe and England are coping with eliminating plastic in packaging and how marketing affects how we deal with it in the US.
- You learn about the history of solid waste management and recycling in our county, the political influences and where we are headed for the future.

Those 30 hours? Those you can spend working on various activities like Trash-to-Treasure, to educate folks on how to re-purpose household items, keeping them from the landfill; help with efforts to educate communities about going plastic-bag-free and working with businesses towards this end; help spread the word in schools, working with kids; help mix and bucket recycled paint collected from our Hazardous Waste collections; densifying Styrofoam; helping repair recycle shacks; and, so much more.

If you think you would like to get involved and meet some very interesting, engaging people in the process, contact **Sue Owens**, Tillamook County Solid Waste Department by emailing sowens@co.tillamook.or.us, call (503) 842-3419 x 3104, or visit www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/SolidWaste.



*"As a March 2018 graduate of the class, I believe this is very much worth your time and participation."
~ Diane Colcord*

THE WRAP ON PLASTICS

Contributed by Beverly Stein, Master Recycler

Plastics were introduced in the 1950's as a substitute for heavier and more expensive materials and to find new uses for plastic products developed during WWII. There are certainly benefits to plastics --- planes and cars are lighter needing less fuel, plastics are used to create important medical equipment and foods is kept fresh longer.

But the dramatic increase in the production of plastics, especially single use plastic containers and bags, has outstripped our ability to deal with this material. Plastics do not degrade for many years or ever. Increasingly there is concern that plastics break down into smaller and smaller fragments (micro plastics and nanoplastics) that are ingested by birds and fish. And we are now suspecting that the chemicals added to plastics during manufacturing will poison our food stream. Scientists predict that there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050. Only 20% of plastics are recycled with much of the waste plastic finding its way into waterways and the ocean. China's refusal to take our plastics for recycling is a wake up call for our need to address this issue in our local communities. Around the world and here in our local community there is a desire to reduce the use of plastics to protect our oceans, wildlife and our health and to eliminate single-use plastic products.

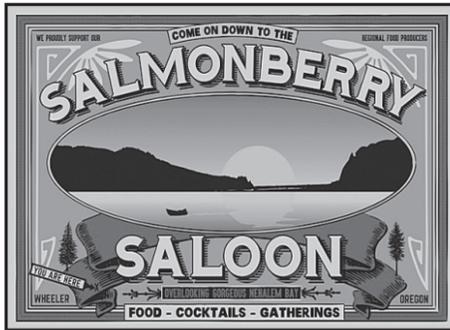
There is urgency to address this problem with many organizations, governments, and individuals stepping up to the challenge. Tillamook County Master Recycler volunteers have taken up this issue in a variety of ways. One of our projects is to work with the Surfrider Foundation to promote their Ocean Friendly Restaurants program.

Restaurants that volunteer to participate agree to various ways of reducing and eliminating plastic waste and are rewarded with recognition and encouragement to support these restaurants. We will be distributing information to restaurants about this program and encouraging them to participate.



We will acknowledge participating restaurants in Tillamook County in Waste Wise and in other ways. For more information go to www.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-restaurants.

Two restaurants in Tillamook County are already designated as Ocean Friendly. We urge you to support the Salmonberry Saloon in Wheeler and the Garibaldi Portside Bistro.



MASTER RECYCLERS ASK TILLAMOOK COUNTY BUSINESSES TO BAG IT

The Tillamook County Master Recyclers are a reasonably new concept in our county with the first class held in 2014. Since that class, many residents have attended the course and over twenty are currently active and involved.

"I'm very excited with this group of volunteers," states Sue Owens, coordinator of the Master Recycler program. "With each class, the group overall is getting more and more energetic and enthused. They are definitely one of the busiest and most fun aspects of my job."



One of the biggest, and most important things the Master Recyclers learn and promote is that there is much more to recycling than, well, recycling. What students learn is that the best way to prevent waste is to not get unwanted materials to begin with. This concept is the impetus behind their most recent project of banning single-use plastic bags in Tillamook County.

The first city in the county to take this step was Manzanita, which sparked the fire in Beverly Stein, a new Master Recycler. Stein, who has an extensive background in policy making, saw the move as an opportunity to make a difference in Tillamook County.

Gaining the support of Owens and Solid Waste Program Manager David McCall, Stein rallied the Master Recycler troops and the group began canvassing county residents and businesses for opinions on this bold step for Tillamook County. "Our efforts would never have been possible without the leadership and expertise of Beverly," states Owens. "We are fortunate to have her as one of our Master Recyclers."

Master Recycler volunteers surveyed community members at multiple avenues, including the Home and Garden show and Farmers Markets and found the responses very supportive. The primary objection to the proposed ban was from those who reuse the bags for pet clean-up. Responses from businesses has been even more encouraging. Advocates of the ban share that the proposed ban allows for continued commercial use for items such as meats, produce and fish bait and that businesses are given the choice of whether to charge for paper bag alternatives. "Ultimately, we encourage reusable bags over plastic or paper," elaborates Owens. "They are the most fiscal and environmentally friendly alternative."

County cities that have adopted or are considering adopting bans include Bay City, Wheeler, Rockaway Beach, and Nehalem. The group plans to start working on the City of Tillamook soon, as well as the unincorporated areas of Tillamook County. The Master Recyclers would like to see Tillamook County be the first to make it County-wide, as advocates work on efforts to ban the bag in the entire state.

For more information about the bag ban or becoming a Master Recycler, contact the Solid Waste office at (503) 815-3975 or visit the website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste.

For more information, call the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department at 503-815-3975 email recycle@co.tillamook.or.us or see us online at www.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste

