



News to Reuse

Spring 2012

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For more information about the event, visit GreshamOregon.gov/EarthDay or call Recycling & Solid Waste at 503-618-2694.



Earth Day free recycling event

The City's annual Earth Day Recycling Collection Event, free for Gresham and Wood Village residents, is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, (rain or shine) in the Gresham City Hall parking lot, 1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway.

Items that will be collected:

Plastics that can't go in your regular curbside collection

Examples:

- Plastic lawn chairs and rigid plastic pools
- Hard plastic toys (no metal pieces)
- Plastic to-go containers and cups (washed, no Styrofoam™)
- Plastic blister packs
- Plastic grocery bags
- Plastic bottle caps and tub lids

- DVDs, VHS tapes and related plastic cases.

Plastics rules:

- Households only, one car trunk load per household.
- Please bag all small plastics together in an untied plastic or paper bag.
- All plastics must be clean and dry, without any metal pieces.
- Soft plastics such as inflatable toys and curbside recyclables will not be accepted at this event.
- Plastic bags and plastic wrapping must be clean, dry and have a stretchy quality.

Curbside collection reminder: You can place plastic tubs, jars buckets, plant pots and bottles anytime in your blue roll cart.

Block Styrofoam™

- Block Styrofoam™ is white, hard brittle and loud if crushed.
- Coolers and packaging material accepted.

Styrofoam™ rules

- Households only.
- The Styrofoam™ must be clean and all tape and labels removed.
- No soft, stretchy or spongy Styrofoam™.

Paper shredding

The City is partnering with AccuShred NW to provide residents with free paper shredding.

Paper rules:

- Each household may bring up to four boxes (or equivalent amount) of paper.
- Cardboard boxes will be returned to residents to break down and recycle at home. Staff cannot recycle cardboard boxes on site due to volume.
- Businesses may not participate. AccuShred NW provides year-round shredding service to businesses. Call 503-665-2424.



Fluorescent lights and bulbs

- Accepting fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.
- Fluorescent ballasts from retrofits are also accepted.

Free boxes for packing and safely transporting fluorescent tubes may be picked up at the City Hall front desk from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Fluorescents rules

- Residents and businesses may participate.
- We are not accepting standard incandescent bulbs.

Cell phones

Cell phones will be collected as a fundraiser for Oregon Green Schools.



Cell phone rules

- Cell phones may be working or not.
- Donors with T-Mobile, AT&T or Singular may remove the SIM card from the phone, which removes stored phone numbers. Or, do a manual reset to erase all numbers. Neither is required.

This year electronics will not be accepted for recycling. TVs, computers and monitors can be recycled for free year-round at E-Cycles sites in Gresham. Call 503-234-3000 for more information.

Bring your clean plastic to-go containers to the event for recycling.

One school's trash is another school's adventure!



Who knew that sorting through trash could be so fun... and educational? Students from Alpha High School and Centennial Learning Center have formed waste audit teams and visit local elementary schools to join forces with younger students to analyze their schools' garbage. As the local Oregon Green Schools (OGS) Coordinator, Jan Rankin recognizes that "the connection and interaction between older and younger students is priceless."

School waste audits are part of the OGS certification process. Each audit features a waste reduction presentation by the

older students followed by the entire group, all gloved-up, sorting through samples of trash from various areas of the school to determine what categories it falls into and where it originated. Discussion and brainstorming follow, resulting in waste reduction goals and action plans. Afterward, the high school students tabulate the numbers and provide a report to each school.

Andy Thompson, AmeriCorps Conservation Projects Manager at Alpha High, recognizes the value of sorting trash. "For all students involved, a major objective is raising consciousness

about waste streams and resource conservation. Leading the audits also gives students an opportunity to practice public speaking, community engagement, and leadership."

For more information about Oregon Green Schools: www.oregongreenschools.org or contact Jan Rankin, Schools Recycling Coordinator, City of Gresham at Jan.Rankin@GreshamOregon.gov

Quench your thirst on the go with TapIt



Find out more at GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling or by visiting TapItwater.com.



There are many reasons to drink water from the tap instead of single use bottles, including waste prevention and a lighter impact on your wallet. The network of TapIt locations can help you easily find fresh tap water for a refill while you're on the go.

TapIt is a network of cafés and eateries that make tap water available to people who carry a reusable bottle. Local Gresham businesses participating in the TapIt network include Boccelli's Ristorante, Café Delirium, Lillian's Natural Marketplace and The Hoppy Brewer. More businesses are signing up all the time. Look for the TapIt window decals.

Now it's even easier to make this choice while on the go and still have the convenience of bottled water. TapIt's smartphone tool lets you find locations wherever you are away from home. You can help decrease waste by bringing your reusable bottle on outings.



Metro's natural gardening resources

More and more gardeners are using natural, nontoxic methods at home and around the region, and Metro has many resources to help you join in the fun. New this year is natural gardening publications and advice through OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ clinics at farmers' markets, Blue Lake Park and the Oregon Zoo.

The Blue Lake Natural Discovery Garden in Fairview hosts the Master Gardener clinics from 1 to 5 p.m., weekends, June through August. Fun, family gardening programs are also featured at the same time, plus on Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Also from June through September, the Oregon Zoo Backyard Makeover exhibit hosts the Master Gardener clinics, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends, and ZooGuides leads hands-on learning activities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and Mondays.

For more information on these and many more great natural gardening resources, call Metro at 503-234-3000 or visit www.oregonmetro.gov/garden.



Prevent waste at home

You've probably heard of the term "zero waste," but is this even feasible? It can be, if you think of it as a gradual journey to reduce the amount of waste generated at home.

Start with a couple small steps and add new ones each year. Here are a few ideas to get you started just in time for Earth Day.

- Pay close attention to packaging. Ask yourself: is it recyclable in my blue roll cart, can I take it to a nearby recycling depot, or can I buy this without the packaging?
- Try reusable containers when shopping. These are becoming more common for buying from bulk bins, the deli counter at grocery stores and for taking home restaurant leftovers. If you are unsure if a business will let you use a reusable container, just ask.

- Share and exchange items with friends. Clothing parties are quickly gaining in popularity. You can gather with friends, family and neighbors to exchange clothing, jewelry, accessories, or even baby or children's clothing.
- Choose products and practices that support sustainability. For example, focus on quality over quantity; is it durable, or can it be repaired after some wear and tear?
- Reduce your food waste and save money by learning new food storage tips at LoveFoodHateWaste.com. Try the food waste diary challenge.

- Remember your waste free lunch essentials: a reusable mug for tea/coffee, durable containers and dish ware, reusable lunch sack and cloth napkin.

Whether you are new to waste prevention, or if you've been working at curbing your trash for several years, small steps will help with your success.

Reusable mesh produce bags help reduce the amount of packaging you bring home.



Reuse, reuse ... and re-use

The three R's takes on new meaning as more reuse stores and thrift organizations open in the region. Many Gresham residents are



finding new purposes for their old clothes, furniture, gear and equipment; even a tax deduction!

In past years many would rent a dumpster and throw everything away when moving, renovating or redecorating. Today, many families are in need of donated items. Donating your reusable goods provides a better option to paying to have these items dumped in a landfill.

Buying used is also back in fashion, as you can obtain anything from computers and couches to clothes and dishes at local shops. Not to mention

the money you save buying used and the fashion points you receive by having something "vintage."

Check your local business directory for thrift stores to shop at or donate to.

Reuse reminder

If you have bulky items that cannot be donated for reuse, please note that placing them at the curb with a free sign is considered illegal dumping. Please contact your residential garbage hauler for proper disposal options. Hauler contact information is available at GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling.

Enrollment open for yard debris exemptions

Residential customers receive weekly curbside yard debris collection as part of the recycling and waste services. However, some people prefer forgo yard debris collection year-round. You can call 503-618-2518 for information on a yard debris exemption. This is a deduction of \$2.85 per month on your garbage bill. Applications are received during the open enrollment period, April 1 through Aug. 31, or within 30 days of opening a garbage account.



You can stop Junk Mail!

Stop the waste and clutter of unwanted mail and phone books.

Save natural resources and help our community save money.

Join for free at <https://oregonmetro.catalogchoice.org>



Find a recycler

Metro's online Find a Recycler tool, offering sustainable solutions for unwanted materials from packing peanuts to propane tanks, has gotten a makeover. The searchable online directory of more than 400 local recycling and reuse sites is now mobile-friendly and even easier to use. Check it out today for newly-added reuse options, easier keyword search, convenient driving directions and interactive maps to quickly find a match for your items.



www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler

 Metro | Making a great place

For more garbage and recycling information

Accounts, collection services, missed pick-ups

- Arrow/American Sanitary 503-257-1331
- Gresham Sanitary 503-665-2424
- Hoodview Disposal 503-668-8300
- Rockwood Solid Waste 503-666-3488
- Waste Management 503-249-8078

General information

- City of Gresham Recycling & Solid Waste Program
 Phone: 503-618-2656
 Fax: 503-661-5927
 E-mail: recycle@GreshamOregon.gov
 Website: GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling

Recycling drop-off locations, disposal facilities, household hazardous waste

- Metro Recycling Information Center 503-234-3000 www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling

Recycling at your community event

Last year the City loaned ClearStream® containers to 35 different events in our community. This helped send approximately 33,500 bottles and cans to be recycled. The City also has several resources and guides to help you move toward a zero waste event. Whether this is your first year organizing an event, or if you've been organizing your event for years, we have resources to help you with your recycling and resource conservation goals. It's easy to participate, just contact the City's Recycling & Solid Waste Division at 503-618-2525 to reserve recycling



containers. Or, if you are completing a Street Closure Application for your event, just include your ClearStream® containers request on page two of the form. For more details visit GreshamOregon.gov/Recycling

Curbside recycling guidelines

In the cart



Plastic (no lids)

- ✦ Plastic bottles and tubs - 6 ounces or larger
- ✦ Rigid plastic nursery plant pots - 4" across or larger
- ✦ Plastic buckets

No plastic bags please



Paper

- ✦ Flattened cardboard
- ✦ Cereal, cracker and shoe type boxes
- ✦ Magazines and phone books
- ✦ Mail and office paper
- ✦ Paper egg cartons
- ✦ Newspapers
- ✦ Paper bags

Put your small scrap paper items and shredded paper in a paper bag before placing in the cart. This will help reduce litter when the cart is emptied on windy days.

Cardboard boxes should be placed inside the cart. Flatten and cut boxes to a size that will fit.



Metal

- ✦ Clean metal cans and lids
- ✦ Clean foil items
- ✦ Empty aerosol cans
- ✦ Other small metal items



Near the cart

Equipment at Oregon and Washington paper mills is damaged when glass shards are mixed in with recyclable paper. Always keep glass bottles and jars out of the cart.



Glass

Place all colors together in a bin to the side.



Motor oil

Put in a transparent jug to the side.



Printed with soy ink on 30% post-consumer recycled paper