

Butte County Recycling Newsletter - "News you can reuse"



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Summer 2016 Edition

News you can Reuse - Late Summer Edition

Items of Interest:

Pharmaceutical Disposal Two new locations in Butte County now accept all **home-generated medications** for **proper disposal**. **Walgreens**, at 860 East Avenue in Chico and at the **Feather River Pharmacy** at 5125 Skyway in Paradise will accept all classes of expired or otherwise unwanted medications from the public. Please do not let these unwanted medications reside in your medicine cabinet where they may be accidentally or intentionally misused. Flushing these materials is not recommended. Our waste water treatment facilities are not set up to remove drugs from waste water.

Don't forget, mattresses and box springs can now be recycled for free for County residents. Got a mattress or box spring you need to recycle? Bring it to the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility for no charge. This program is for individual residents and not for waste haulers or retailers. For more information visit ByebyeMattress.com.

Got Tires? - Amnesty by Appointment is Coming

Butte County will conduct its **Tire Amnesty** differently this fall; instead of a one-day event where we accept everyone's tires at once, we will make appointments for residents to drop off their tires. The first set of appointments, for up to 140 customers, are scheduled from 9 am to 2 pm on Friday October 21 and Saturday October 22. This process is more convenient for customers than trying to participate in a single-day event. We will coordinate future appointments later this year pending the availability of funds.

Up to nine tires can be scheduled to be brought to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, for no charge, when an appointment is made in advance. State transportation regulations prohibit hauling more than nine waste tires without a special permit.

Tires can be on or off the rim, but tires over 36" in diameter are not eligible for the free drop-off.



Funding is made available through a grant from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

To make an appointment, please call Steve Rodowick at 879-2352 during regular business hours. (M-F, 7:30 to 4:00).



September is *Take a Tomato to Work Month*

If you grow your own vegetables, you may wonder how much of your harvest you will actually eat. Yes, homegrown tomatoes taste far better than the store bought variety. But if you don't eat them, they taste the same.

Zucchini, peppers, onions and other home-grown bumper crops will likely be scooped up by appreciative co-workers who either do not have the space, sun or green thumbs.

Many food banks will accept perishable food under certain conditions. This also is true for tree fruit.

Click on the [Help Central Resource Directory](#) for a list of agencies that may be able to use your late summer harvest.

Green waste: The challenge of recycling organic material.

Due to economic constraints beyond its control, effective December 1, 2016 the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility can no longer divert and recycle green waste for a reduced fee.

Green waste diversion at the NRRWF began over 20 years ago, prompted by State waste diversion goals. Since 1990 Butte County achieved great success to meet State these goals. As a whole our community diverts a whopping 58% of waste from landfill disposal.

Historically, green waste and wood waste brought to the landfill was ground up and sent to cogeneration facilities to produce electricity. The revenue from that power production, in large part, subsidized the grinding operation. Many of these facilities have been closed and the remaining power plants are currently overwhelmed with the glut of dead or diseased trees coming from the our forests as a result of consecutive years of drought. Therefore, there is no demand for this material collected at the landfill. This material still must be ground up before being buried in the landfill, a cost that is no longer subsidized.

At its August 23, 2016 meeting, the Board of Supervisors authorized NRRWF staff to eliminate the green waste disposal fees which are presently \$5.00 per minimum load and \$12 per ton for bulk loads. Effective December 1,



Food Fact:

Did you know that the U.S. throws away over to 95 tons of food waste each day?

To learn more, go to [Feeding America](#).

2016, bulk loads of green waste will be charged \$42.11 per ton, the same rate as general garbage.

Residential yard waste collection programs within Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville and Paradise are not affected by the NRRWF's change in operation. For customers who cannot participate in a residential yard waste collection program, consider recycling your yard waste at one of many locations available to you. For a list of alternate facilities, their operating hours, and prices, click [RecycleButte.net](#). Customers may find that these facilities are nearer to home and more cost effective than driving to the NRRWF.

NRRWF appreciates its customers and we're disappointed that we can no longer provide this service. A silver lining is that green waste can be processed into compost; a more beneficial use than filling up our landfill.

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities What, Where and When

Butte County has several locations where customers can take materials commonly referred to as household hazardous waste (HHW). These items include paints, oils, caustic cleansers, herbicides, insecticides and generally toxic or poisonous substances. When HHW accumulates in your garage or under the kitchen sink, they pose a danger to children and pets. They can also be a potential fire hazard.

Three facilities in Butte County will accept these materials for no charge. They are:

- Butte Regional HHW Facility, 1101 Marauder St. (Chico Airpark) Hours are Fridays from 9:00 to 1:00 and Saturdays from 9:00 to 4:00.
- Recology HHW Facility, 2750 S. 5th Ave, Oroville. Hours are 9:00 to 2:00 on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the Month. More info at: [Recology HHW](#).



- Northern Recycling & Waste Services, 920 American Way, (off lower Clark), Paradise. Hours are 9:00 to 1:00 on alternating Wednesdays and Saturdays. More info at: [NRWS HHW](#).

More information visit: [Butte County HHW](#)

Also, paint, motor oil, anti-freeze and batteries can be taken to the Ord Ranch Transfer Station between Biggs and Gridley (just off Hwy 99) on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 9:00 to 4:00.

Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility staff is available to give presentations on HHW management to schools or civic groups. Contact [Steve Rodowick](#) or [Eric Miller](#) for more information.

Summer 2016 Agricultural Chemical Container Recycling Program a Success

On August 1st the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility hosted its 12th agricultural chemical container recycling event. The event, coordinated by Green Planet Plastics of Chico, was launched 6 years ago as part of a program to not only reduce the amount of plastics sent for landfilling but to provide a necessary service for Butte County growers who would otherwise accumulate containers at their farms. The Chico News and Review recently profiled the program, [read it here](#).

Just over 17 tons of agricultural chemical plastic containers were collected, ground into plastic pellets, and sent for recycling. All containers were triple rinsed. Nearly 90 customers participated. The pellets will eventually be manufactured into plastic pipe, pallets or fence posts-not into food containers. The next event is tentatively scheduled for mid February 2017. For more information visit [Green Planet Plastics](#).



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For questions related to any reuse or recycling matter, call the number above or log on to:
[RecycleButte.net](#)



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