

Butte County Recycling Newsletter - "News you can reuse"



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Spring 2016 Edition

News you can Reuse - Spring Wildflower Edition

Items of Interest:

We're burying less stuff. Butte County residents discarded an average of 4.25 pounds of garbage per day in 2015. This is compared to the 4.34 pounds of garbage we tossed daily in 2014. So by reducing our disposal by about an ounce and a half per day, we collectively reduced our annual county wide landfill disposal by over 2,700 tons. Every little bit does indeed help. Good job Butte County!

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

Bottles & Cans - Where have all the Shopping Center Recyclers gone?

You may have noticed that many bottle and can redemption centers have recently shut down their operations lately. Many have had signs posted that say something to the effect: "Due to the decline in commodity pricing and reduction in State subsidies, this Recycling Center is now closed."

So what is happening? The primary reason is due to a rapid and steep drop in prices worldwide for most every commodity. In the past, when commodity prices fluctuated relatively gradually, the State of California Redemption fund would offset those drops with increased subsidies to the recyclers from the fund. (The CRV* charge you pay when you buy beverages) The recent drop was so severe, the fund was



not calibrated to keep the recyclers profitable. The amount of the subsidy is set by a twelve month rolling average of scrap values. That subsidy will eventually catch up with offsetting the drop in the market values but that will take a few months. The rate is updated quarterly.



The good news is that most of those redemption centers are still in place; just shuttered until operators can realize a profit and start back up.

Sustainability has three main components: Environmental, Social and Economic. Remove any one of those three components, in this case economic, and the endeavor becomes unsustainable.

The larger recyclers in the County are still in operation. They are listed below.

- Fair Street Recycling/Work Training Center, 2300 Fair St, Chico
- Northern Recycling & Waste Services - 920 American Way, Paradise
- COVE at Skyway and Wagstaff, Paradise
- Chico Scrap Metal, 878 E. 20th St., Chico
- Crown Metals, 4801 Feather River Blvd, Oroville
- AS Chico Recycling Donation Center, Corner of W. 4th St. & Cherry St., Chico

*California Redemption Value



Recycle your books locally at one of the *Little Free Libraries*

If you're an avid reader, you've likely got piles of great books you won't read again. But you don't want to just toss it in the recycling bin, because it's a good book!

You can bring it to one of sixteen Little Free Libraries located in Butte County. Leave a book

Composting Recipe for Backyard Gardeners

Saving both landfill space and water

Backyard composting will reduce your garbage output and increase your garden output. All the while saving you water by increasing the your soil's moisture retention abilities.



- take a book. It's as simple as that. It is best you only bring a few books at a time so these little libraries don't get overwhelmed.

Little Free Library locations can be found at: [LittleFreeLibrary](#) The one pictured above is at the Terry Ashe Recreation Center in Paradise. Locations are sponsored by the Butte County Library.

Remember, Friday April 22nd is Earth Day.

You can celebrate by planting your feet firmly on the earth (the only one we got) and work to ensure the next 100 generations will want to do the same.



Identify a place in your yard that is out of the way but accessible to deposit yard and food waste. Make sure you can reach this location with a garden hose. There are many ways to construct a compost bin ranging from the very simple, (A pile on the ground) to fancy (A store bought composting bin with aeration holes and turning mechanism).

Most people choose to construct a simple box from old lumber or pallets with slats spaced apart for adequate ventilation. This is cheap and keeps with the reuse theme.

Now start creating a pile of vegetation. Try for a 2 to 1 ratio of brown materials (dried leaves, woody material) and green materials (Food scraps, grass, etc. - **No meat, bones or grease**) Add enough water so that the pile is evenly moistened. (Like a damp sponge) Turn the pile weekly or when you notice the top layer start to dry out. Pitchforks are easier to use than a shovel.



Depending on temperature, moisture content, and how often you turn the pile, you can make a rich compost material as soon as a month or as long as a year.

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities What, Where and When

Butte County has several locations where you can take the materials commonly referred to as household hazardous waste (HHW). Items like paints, oils, caustic cleansers, herbicides, insecticides and generally toxic or poisonous substances. When these items accumulate 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.

Got a recycling question or idea? Let us know what you're thinking. Email us at the address below.

Steve Rodowick, Recycling Coordinator
srodowick@buttecounty.net
530.879.2352

For questions related to any reuse or recycling matter, call the number above or log on to:

[RecycleButte.net](#)



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