

Butte County Recycling Newsletter - "News you can reuse"



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Spring 2017 Edition

News you can Reuse - Spring Wildflower Edition

Bottle/Can update: When are the Recycling Centers coming back?

The once plentiful recycling centers adjacent to many grocery stores where customers could take their bottles and cans have all but disappeared. Depressed markets for glass, aluminum and plastic along with a structural imbalance in the payment structure to recyclers have caused many of the recycling centers to close. Additionally, outlaw recyclers have been bringing non-California bottles and cans into the state and claiming CRV deposits fraudulently. The state has cracked down on this activity but the overall program is in need of major restructuring.



CalRecycle is looking at a variety of options to restructure the program to make it more sustainable and to streamline the whole payment system. This would include possibly expanding the types of beverage containers included in the CRV system and to establish higher payments to more rural collection centers to offset the lower volumes they receive.

In the meantime, below is the current list of Bottle/Can redemption centers in Butte County.

Chico

- Chico Scrap Metal, 878 E 20th St.
- Fair Street Recycling, 2300 Fair Street.

Durham

- Chico Scrap Metal South, 766 Oro-Chico Hwy.

Paradise

- Cove Recycle Center, 8279 Skyway
- Northern Recycling & Waste Services, 920 American Way

Oroville

- Crown Metals. 4801 Feather River Blvd.
- Crown Metals Recycling, 1245 OroDam Blvd.
- Empire Steel, 1508 Parker Ave.
- Joe Verni Recycling, 4980 Lincoln Blvd.
- Nor Cal Recyclers, 1855 Kusel Rd.
- Savior Earth Recycling, 2680 5th Ave.

Gridley

- Sparks Recycling, 1364 Hwy 99

Neal Road gets a makeover for the Spring

Neal Road, a two-lane stretch of roadway that connects Paradise to Highway 99, used to have a reputation of being a linear extension of the landfill. Often times bags of trash, litter, various bulky debris never made it through the landfill gates, not a pretty sight.



Now, with the help of some Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Public Works staff and Inmate work crews, Neal Road has upgraded its look. Also, a charge for un-tarped loads give customers an incentive to haul trash more responsibly. A recent County Public Works project to widen Neal Road to create bike lanes on both sides of the roadway have made Neal Road a favorite route for bike enthusiasts.

And springtime, like it does for many locations in Butte County, brings out the best of Neal Road. So remember, when traveling to the landfill on any roadway, remember to properly cover your load so we can all keep Butte County clean.



Propane Tanks - Don't Trash it, Trade it



At the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility, customers deliver a lot of stuff that does not belong here. One of the most common items are five gallon propane tanks that are commonly used for gas barbeques and travel trailers.

Propane tanks, unless the valves are completely removed, still have residual propane gas and are not allowed for landfill disposal or scrap metal recycling. They are considered hazardous waste.

The alternative to disposal is trading your old propane tank in for a clean, reconditioned and full propane tank at one of many locations around Butte County. These are usually found outside grocery stores or home centers.



refilled if it meets the specifications of the propane company. Otherwise it will be properly recycled.

The price for swapping your empty tank for a full one is only a few dollars more than getting your old one refilled. And you get a clean, certified and safe propane tank that has been inspected and works properly. Your old tank will be cleaned, re-certified and

Smoke Alarms - A classic case of a ban without a plan

The Problem: Smoke alarms, a device that undoubtedly saves thousands of lives each year. They are an absolute must-purchase for every home. At least one alarm for every level in your residence is a standard practice.



Most of these devices have a trace amount of a radioactive material, Americium 241. They are not permitted for disposal at most household hazardous waste facilities.

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, exposure to small amounts of radioactive material in smoke alarms poses no threat to human health. Natural radiation exposure averages about 310 millirems annually for an individual. (A millirems is a unit of absorbed radiation dose) A smoke detector adds another .5 millirems annually, about the same as a X-ray on your hand. However, it is still deemed radioactive waste by the Department of Toxic Substance Control. And since it's electronic waste, it is also prohibited in landfills.

There are no local options for smoke alarm disposal but three companies will accept them by mail for a fee.

[Curie Environmental Services](#)
[EZ on the Earth](#)
[JMAC Smoke Detector Recycling](#)

The Solution: There is no local solution yet.

What to do: In the meantime, hold on to any old or broken smoke alarms until there are



Happy Grilling!

programs in place to safely and conveniently dispose of them properly. Don't let the lack of disposal options prevent you from replacing old or broken alarms.



Would you like to have a recycling/solid waste presentation for your club, organization or school? Contact us at the number below for details or to schedule a presentation.

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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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