

Recycling works!
Holiday schedule changes,
tree recycling and more.

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Portland Curbsider

Office of Sustainable Development • Dan Saltzman, Commissioner • Susan Anderson, Director

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Photo: Michael Durham, courtesy of Oregon Zoo



A family enjoys holiday time together at the Oregon ZooLights.

More joy, less stuff

The holidays bring smiles to little kids’ faces and needed income to local retailers. Unfortunately, there’s also a Grinch side of the holidays that merrily creates trash, wastes resources and steals time away from being with friends and family. Here are some ways local families are keeping joy in the holidays.

Be a conscientious shopper

Dana Jeffries practices “pre-cycling,” which means not creating waste in the first place. When she shops, she applies that principle to packaging and durable gifts.

When Dana’s two daughters were young, they joined their mom in a tradition of participating in the “Adopt a Family” program. “We’d shop for the toy specified on the wish list, but if it was over-packaged or didn’t look like it would last, the girls would pick an alternative gift,” Dana says.

Dana also avoids batteries, plastics and unimaginative toys. “Batteries impact the environment, some plastics aren’t safe or don’t last, and toys with built-in personalities or that do just one thing don’t let kids use their imaginations,” she says.

She also thinks about ways to reduce her driving during the holidays. “I don’t run willy-nilly all over the place. I shop close to where I live.”

Create new expectations

Santa’s a busy man, says Pete DuBois. This year he and his wife Ingrid are telling their children, 11, 8 and 2 years old, that Santa is going to bring them one nice present each; the rest will come from family members.

“We buy the kids one nice durable present that they’ve asked for, like a bike. If a toy or present is good quality, it will stick around. If it’s junk, it ends up in the basement or in the next garage sale,” Pete says.

He has also taken advantage of the local craft fairs and bazaars that happen throughout the year. “I look at them with the holidays in mind, which helps me avoid that last-minute stress.”

Sometimes less is more

Betty and Jon Shelley discovered years ago that having a great holiday doesn’t have to be dependent on a heap of presents. When a job transition motivated the Shelleys to pare back their usual level of shopping, after the holiday Betty remembers thinking, “Wasn’t that nice?” They enjoyed spending more time with friends and family that year.

Today, Betty and Jon carry on the “less is more” tradition. “We still shop,” Betty says, “but we do it differently. We buy a really special gift for every person on our list — something they have asked for, so we’re not just giving ‘token’ presents.”



Holiday Schedule Changes

for Garbage, Recycling
and Yard Debris Service

If your regular
pick-up day is:

From Dec. 22 to
Jan. 3, your pick-
up day will be:

Monday	Monday
Tuesday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Wednesday
Thursday	Friday
Friday	Saturday

All other holidays are regular pick-up days. If you have any questions about this schedule change, please call your garbage and recycling company or the Curbside Hotline at 503-823-7202.

Tips for a green holiday

- ▶ Purchase gifts with minimal or recyclable packaging (view Metro’s waste-wise tips at www.oregonmetro.gov/holidaytips).
- ▶ Give a gift of experience, like tickets to a play, a spa service or a trip to the zoo.
- ▶ After receiving new gifts, donate older, usable items to a local charity.
- ▶ Walk or use transit and shop at local retailers.
- ▶ Buy carbon offsets for greenhouse gas emissions caused by holiday travel (visit www.CarbonCounter.org).

Oregon E-Cycles

Electronics contain hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury that can harm our health and the environment. Electronics also contain valuable materials such as copper, gold and aluminum, which can be recovered through recycling. Consumers used to pay to recycle these materials. Now, Oregon E-Cycles—a new State of Oregon program funded by electronics manufacturers—is making recycling a whole lot easier.

Effective January 1, 2009: Individuals, households, small businesses and nonprofits may recycle their computers, monitors and televisions at participating Oregon E-Cycles collection sites for FREE.

Effective January 1, 2010: Disposal of computers, monitors and televisions will be prohibited in Oregon.

What electronics are covered by E-Cycles? You can recycle up to seven of the following items per visit: Desktop computers, portable or laptop computers, monitors and televisions.

Where can I find a collection site? After January 1, DEQ's Web site will list free collection sites (www.oregoncycles.org), or call the Metro Hotline at 503-234-3000.

How do I recycle other electronics? Call the Metro Hotline at 503-234-3000 to find out how to recycle other devices, such as computer accessories (keyboards, mice, etc.), DVD players, VCRs, video game consoles, printers, scanners, fax machines, PDAs and cell phones.



Desktop computers lined up for recycling.

Ask Us!

To stop or not to stop...

Q: Can I leave my roll carts at the curb all week?

A: No. We strongly encourage residents to move their roll carts away from the curb after their pick-up day. This is to ensure drivers know when to stop to collect materials left in the carts and don't make an unnecessary stop.

Recycling and garbage — Oh my!

Q: Can I put my garbage in the blue and green roll carts?

A: No. Garbage needs to continue to go in the garbage container that you or your garbage and recycling company provide. If you have more garbage than your container can hold, contact your garbage and recycling company to learn about other options and levels of service.

Weight training for roll carts

Q: Are there weight limits for the roll carts and garbage containers I set out at the curb?

A: Yes! Drivers cannot pick up containers that are over the weight limits listed below:

Recycling and Yard Debris

60-gallon roll carts	100 pounds
Yard debris bags or bundles	45 pounds

Garbage

20-gallon mini-can (provided by customer)	35 pounds
32-gallon can (provided by customer)	55 pounds
35-gallon roll cart (provided by company)	75 pounds
60-gallon roll cart (provided by company)	100 pounds
90-gallon roll cart (provided by company)	145 pounds

Send us your recycling questions!
503-823-7202 or wasteinfo@ci.portland.or.us

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Fix-It Fairs

Fix-It Fairs are free community events designed to save you money and connect you to resources. Attend healthy home workshops and learn energy-saving tips. Workshops are offered every hour and exhibitors are on-site to answer questions throughout the day. Free lunch and professional childcare provided.

Questions? Call 503-823-4309,
e-mail fixitfair@ci.portland.or.us
or visit www.portlandonline.com/osd/fif.

Reserve your spot at a free solar workshop

Worried about energy costs this winter? Consider installing a solar water heating or solar electric system. The 2009 federal tax credits make solar more affordable than ever. Cash incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon and tax credits from the State of Oregon and the federal government can cover more than half the cost of a solar system.

Learn more and reserve a spot at www.solaroregon.org/workshops or 1-877-546-8769.

Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Parkrose High School
12003 NE Shaver St. Portland

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009
8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
George Middle School
10000 N Burr Ave. Portland

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009
and
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

New deposit starts Jan. 1



are recycled in Oregon while less than 33 percent of water bottles are recycled. Adding a return deposit to water bottles will encourage recycling and reduce plastic litter from Oregon's landscapes, rivers and the ocean.

Remember to return water bottles you buy after January 1 to the store for recycling and to receive your five cent deposit return.

Starting January 1, 2009, the five cent deposit Oregonians are used to paying for soda and beer bottles will also apply to water and flavored water containers.

This is great news for Oregon's environment!

Oregon was the first state to pass a bottle bill in 1971 and it proved to be an important tool for increasing recycling and reducing garbage. The Department of Environmental Quality says nearly 83 percent of soda and beer containers

TIP:
Save resources
and avoid the
new deposit by
using your own
reusable water
bottle!



The Curbsider

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CITY OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
A BETTER FUTURE. A BETTER NOW.
DAN SALTZMAN, COMMISSIONER
SUSAN ANDERSON, DIRECTOR

About the Office of Sustainable Development

Founded in 2000, the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) brings together community partners to promote a healthy and prosperous future for Portland. OSD advances improvements and innovation in reducing global warming emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy, biofuels, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable economic development, sustainable food systems and green building practices.

WWW.PORTLANDONLINE.COM/OSD



Recycling workers separating materials at a sorting facility.

Recycling works! Sorting less makes sense

In Portland, over 95 percent of collected recyclables are used to make new products.

Mixing materials together makes recycling easier for residents and will increase how much Portlanders recycle. Garbage and recycling companies operate more efficiently by combining recyclables in the truck, saving time and money.

Mixed recycling is taken to a sorting facility where it is separated by a combination of conveyor belts, screens, magnets, blowers and people. The materials are then sold to different markets that recycle each type of material.

Keep bags and lids out of carts

While mixing recyclables is easy and effective, plastic bags and lids still need to be kept out of curbside recycling containers. Plastic bags and lids are too small and flexible for large sorting equipment, get mixed in with paper at paper mills and clog up equipment. On average, it takes 15 to 20 labor hours per day to unclog sorting equipment.

Residents can do their part by preparing materials correctly. Keeping plastic bags and lids out of your blue roll cart helps to keep the process running smoothly.



Plastic bags jammed in sorting equipment.

Portlanders prefer the new roll carts

In October, the City of Portland hired Campbell DeLong Resources, Inc. to survey 500 Portlanders about the new recycling and yard debris roll carts. A large majority of respondents described the roll carts as:

- ▶ Convenient and easy to use.
- ▶ Simpler, with less sorting.
- ▶ Bigger, allowing carts to be placed at the curb only when they are full.

Respondents felt they could recycle more now that paper, metal and plastic all go in one container. Also:

- ▶ 91% knew plastic bags can't be recycled at the curb.
- ▶ 81% knew that plastic lids are to be discarded.
- ▶ 93% knew that glass needs to be kept on the side.

The City of Portland Auditor's Office releases an annual Service Efforts and Achievements report, based in part on a survey of Portland residents. The 2008 survey was conducted this summer, after the delivery of most of the new roll carts. In 2008:

- ▶ 86% of residents rated the quality of recycling service as Good or Very Good, a 12% increase from 2007 and among the highest ratings of all City services.

Find out more at www.portlandonline.com/osd/carts.

Plastics accepted at curbside



Bottles with a neck 6 oz. or larger



Margarine-type tubs 6 oz. or larger



Rigid flower pot 4 inches or larger



Buckets 5 gallons or smaller



**No plastic bags
No lids**



CURBSIDE RECYCLING QUESTIONS?
Call OSD's Curbside Hotline | 503-823-7202

Holiday Tree Recycling

Holiday tree recycling is easy! **Just make sure to remove all your special ornaments and lights.** Here are some options for recycling your holiday tree:

Put out the whole tree with your yard debris (\$4 to \$6 per tree; all decoration must be removed)

Cut up the tree and put it in your green roll cart or in cans or bundles next to your cart (no charge for roll cart pickup; \$2.50 per additional can or bundle; all decoration must be removed)

Donate your tree to a nonprofit organization to recycle. Call the Metro Hotline at 503-234-3000 for drop-off or pick-up information (recycling fees usually range from \$4 to \$8).

Trees will not be accepted with garbage and will only be accepted with yard debris.

For more information: Call your garbage and recycling company, visit www.portlandonline.com/osd/carts or call the Curbside Hotline at 503-823-7202.



REMEMBER:

No plastic bags, no lids and glass on the side

Plastic bags and lids are small and flexible and clog up sorting equipment. Glass can break and poses a hazard for recycling workers, and must be kept on the side. To find a recycler for plastic bags, lids and other non-curb-side items, contact the Metro Hotline at 503-234-3000 or www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling. **Improve recycling by getting the right materials in the roll carts—use the Curbside Recycling Guide below.**

CALL:

Your Garbage and Recycling Company

- About rates, billing or account information.
- With questions on how to prepare your garbage, recycling and yard debris.
- To request special pick-ups, yard debris schedules, and glass only or yard debris stickers.
- To report a missed pick-up of garbage, recycling or yard debris, and lost or stolen recycling or yard debris roll carts.

Phone:

(Fill in your garbage and recycling company's number here. You can find the number on the side of your roll cart, call 503-823-7202 or visit www.portlandonline.com/osd/findhauler.

City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development

- For help in resolving service and/or billing problems with your garbage and recycling company.
- To find out your garbage and recycling company's name and phone number.
- To request recycling and yard debris preparation information.
- To comment on the curbside program.

Curbside Hotline:
503-823-7202

E-mail: wasteinfo@ci.portland.or.us

Web:
www.portlandonline.com/osd/recycle

Metro Recycling Information

- About reuse, waste reduction and recycling of non-curb-side items.
- For transfer station locations, rates and hours.
- To request home composting and natural gardening information.
- For household hazardous chemical use and disposal.

Metro Recycling Information:
503-234-3000

E-mail: mri@oregonmetro.gov

Web:
www.oregonmetro.gov

**CURBSIDE
RECYCLING
GUIDE**
PORTLAND RECYCLES!

RECYCLING

Recycling is picked up every week. However, we recommend you wait until the roll cart is full to bring it to the curb.



Mix these items together in the blue roll cart.



**NEWSPAPERS
MAGAZINES
CATALOGS**

Include ads, inserts, postcards and miscellaneous paper.

CARDBOARD

Flatten cardboard boxes.

**MILK CARTONS
DRINK BOXES**

Rinse to remove food particles.

**SCRAP AND
SHREDDED
PAPER**

Scrap paper includes: junk mail, envelopes, office paper, greeting cards, paper egg cartons, paper tubes, wrapping paper and cereal boxes. Place shredded paper into paper bags.

**PLASTIC TUBS
AND BOTTLES**

Tubs include: yogurt-type containers (6 ounces or larger), rigid plant pots (4 inches or larger) and buckets (5 gallons or smaller). Rinse containers.

METAL CANS

Cans include: aluminum, tin and steel food cans; empty, dry, metal paint cans. Rinse to remove food particles. Place metal lids inside cans and crimp closed.

AEROSOL CANS

Cans must be empty.

ALUMINUM FOIL

Remove food from foil. Crumple into loosely-packed balls.

SCRAP METAL

Include scrap metal that is smaller than 30 inches in any direction and less than 30 pounds.

Do not include rubber bands or plastic bags.

Do not include wax-coated cardboard or pizza boxes.

Do not include plastic straws that come with drink boxes.

Do not include bath tissue, paper towels, freezer boxes, coffee cups or paper coated with food, wax, foil or plastic.

Do not include lids. Do not include bottles that have come in contact with motor oil, pesticides or herbicides. Do not include plastic "clamshell" take-out food containers.

Do not flatten.

Do not include plastic caps. Do not flatten or puncture cans or remove nozzles.

Do not include metal that has plastic, food, or other non-metal materials attached.

Do not include light bulbs, broken glass or lids.

GLASS Place in your old yellow recycling bin. Mix all colors together. Labels are OK.

MOTOR OIL Put in a clear plastic bottle with a screw-on lid. Don't mix with other liquids. Place next to roll cart or bin.



Over 95 percent of all properly prepared recyclables are used to make new products.

Spanish, Russian & Vietnamese

For instructions in Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese, visit www.portlandonline.com/osd/guide or call 503-823-7202 to request a copy.

Do you know someone who is visually impaired?

Tell them they can listen to a recorded message about garbage and recycling at 503-823-1261.