

# Trash Talk

MARCH 2016



## The Science behind Recycling



After touring the Garten Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Salem February 26th, Newport could have some burgeoning garbologists on it's hands.

Newport Middle School's seventh grade Earth Science classes (a total of 140 students), taught by Sean Bedell, cycled through the facility to learn where Newport's recyclables are hauled, how they're handled, and witness the volume of those materials. Bedell had this to say about the visit, "This field trip was important to my students because it reinforced what we've been learning in class. We did a big unit on chemistry and that built a good base knowledge of how plastics and other materials are made and where they come from."

Prior to the field trip, students prepped by working in groups to study recyclable materials in depth and then presented on those assigned recyclables. Bedell went onto say, "We then started learning about the the impact it has on society. Recycling

amount of waste we produce and is a big part of reducing that impact. I wanted students to see firsthand what happens to materials when they're put in the blue recycling bin and how they're actually recycled. One thing students kept commenting on was how much material was in the recycling center and how much they (Garten MRF) process. I hope what the students take away is how important it is to recycle to keep useful materials out of the landfill and environment."

The field trip to Garten MRF was sponsored by the Lincoln County Solid Waste District, and Thompson's Sanitary Service. After the tour, the students visited Western Oregon University for a campus tour and lunch sponsored by Gear Up Oregon. Gear Up's goal is to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary programs. They support middle and high schools in their efforts to set high academic expectations, promote early awareness of college opportunities, and engage students in college and career planning.

## In the Know



### Free Compost

**In celebration of Earth Day, we'll be giving away compost April 23**

Swing by the Agate Beach Transfer Station (8096 NE Avery, Newport), **Saturday, April 23, 9am-5pm**, and receive free compost for your garden. Limit to one load per household. Self haul and while supplies last, so get there early with a truck or trailer. TSS will be hauling directly from Pacific Region Compost, the facility where Thompson's trucks all Newport's Mixed Compostables recycling.

### Earth Day is April 22

**The first Earth Day was celebrated April 22, 1970**

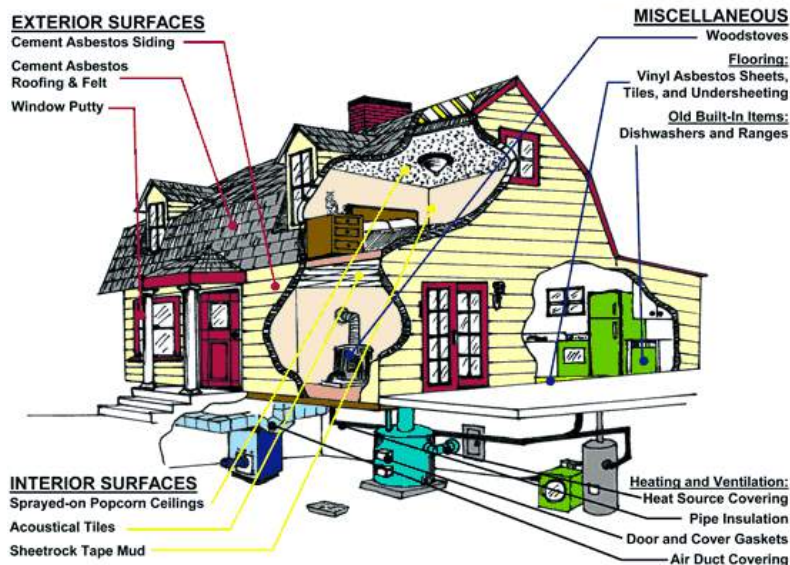
The first Earth Day had participants and celebrants in two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States to bring awareness to environmental concerns and how changes in human behavior can effect our planet.

It is now a truly global day being observed in 196 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, chaired by the first Earth Day 1970 organizer Denis Hayes. Visit [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) and click on "Take Action" to learn what you can do to protect the Earth for future generations.



# ASBESTOS

CALL DEQ BEFORE RENOVATING OR DEMOLISHING.  
Don't put yourself or others at risk of exposure.



## Asbestos Disposal Issues

There are changes in the way that residents must deal with asbestos-containing materials. In 2015, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 705, requiring the “... Environmental Quality Commission to adopt rules requiring accredited inspector to perform asbestos survey for purpose of determining whether asbestos-containing materials are present at residence or residential building before demolition.” The DEQ convened a workgroup to draft the rules, and both SB 705 and the rules became effective on January 1, 2016.

Ensuring asbestos is handled appropriately is a health and environmental issue for all of us – if you are living in a home going through remodeling, you want to make sure you are not exposing yourself and your family to asbestos; for us, we want to make sure we don't expose anyone to asbestos, and that we handle it appropriately in order to protect the community and the environment.

We are all still learning what this means for residential customers (for business customers, the laws and rules on asbestos protections were already in place). If you are considering demolition or remodeling, take a look at DEQ's website on what you need to do. You can find that link here: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/asbestos/house.htm>.

Thompson's Sanitary Service is working with DEQ and others to ensure there are protective and practical solutions for properly disposing of asbestos-containing materials. Going forward, if changes are made in the law and rules, we will alert our customers and provide as much information in advance as possible. We all have the same goal – doing what is right for our families, our workers, our community and the environment. If you have questions, please contact us, 541-265-7249.

Volunteer Registration Now Open!

## SOLVE SPRING OREGON BEACH CLEAN-UP



Saturday,  
March 26,  
10am-1pm

Join SOLVE and thousands of volunteers on March 26th as we clean up litter and marine debris from the entire Oregon Coast! Since 1986, this home-grown tradition has benefited

people and wildlife alike, supporting clean seas and healthy communities for present and future generations.

Last year 5,150 volunteers cleared over 68,000 pounds of debris from the Oregon Coast.

**Thompson's Sanitary Service provided the disposal for 2,020 pounds of debris collected from volunteers at our local Newport beaches.**

If you'd like to volunteer, please go to [solveoregon.org](http://solveoregon.org) and sign up!

## SWAC discusses Emergency Debris Management

At the March Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting, Lincoln County Emergency Director Jen Demaris came to discuss an Emergency Debris plan. She shared with the group how the County will work through a process that will directly involve SWAC in actual Emergency Debris Management exercises over the next several months in the event of a major Cascadia Subduction event.

As we go through this process, Thompson's Sanitary will be sharing any information pertinent to our customers to aid in their own emergency preparedness planning.

If you would like to learn more about what you can do to prepare, visit: <http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/emergencymanagement>

