



Trash Talk

MAY 2018



Recycling AfterShock

What do we do now?

Since January 1, 2018, a lot has changed in the waste arena. The Republic of China, the largest importer of waste in the world, enacted legislation which banned 24 recyclable items from being imported in their country. This has hit the West Coast especially hard, as well as the rest of the United States, the European Union, United Kingdom, and Japan.

The ban is not necessarily bad news because China desperately needed to clean up their environment and this is a step towards cleaning up their polluted air and waterways, but it leaves a major waste crisis for exporters like the United States. Greenpeace East Asia plastic campaigner Liu Hua said in a statement. ***"This regulation will send shockwaves around the world, and force many countries to tackle the 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude we've developed toward waste."*** Many of us put our carts to the curb and don't give it another thought. It's time for us to rethink our waste. On average, Americans generate 4.5 pounds of waste per person per day (according to the EPA), adding up to millions of tons of waste per year of

which haulers have to find places for in the form of landfills and mixed recycling or composting facilities. "Right now, the recycling markets have crashed, and recyclers are trying to find markets other than China," says TSS President Rob Thompson. That directly effects the market prices, and currently Oregon Material Recovery Facilities (where haulers take their recycling for sorting) are paying three times the price to move those items as it would be to landfill them.

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WHAT DO WE DO?
Remember the 3R's (now 4) in this order:

- **REDUCE** your waste by using your consumer power to purchase items with less packaging, bring your reusable produce and grocery bags to the store. Avoid buying one-time use plastics whether it's packaging or holiday chatzki's. Think about what you use every day and modify.
- **REUSE** by bringing a reusable water bottle and refilling it, pack a lunch in reusable containers, pass on clothes.
- **REPAIR** by repairing a broken item, like a hose, instead of discarding it.
- **RECYCLE** Review the current recycling guide and buy items that can be recycled or have less environmental impact.

Acceptable Plastic:
Bottles and Jugs Only
Check the Neck! Opening must be smaller than the base. No tubs/clamshells



In the Know

Free HHW Waste Event July 21st

Dispose of your Household Hazardous Waste for Free.

The Lincoln County Solid Waste District and Lincoln County Haulers provide a free annual Household Hazardous Waste disposal event to for Lincoln County residents.

When: July 21st, 10am-2pm

Where: Toledo, location TBA

List of items accepted include:

- **Poisons** - pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other poisons.
- **Heavy Metals** - mercury and products containing elemental mercury
- **Corrosives** - acids, bases, and reactives

Why No Shred?

One of the materials no longer accepted in your Mixed

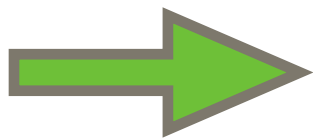
Recycling is shredded paper - why?



After Mixed Recycling is picked up at the curb, TSS

hauls it to Garten Material Recovery Facility in Salem where it's machine sorted and sent to markets. It goes through a series of conveyor belts where the shredded paper literally falls between the cracks of the sorting equipment, is contaminated by other recycling that once contained liquids, thus making it not recyclable. If collected separately, shredded paper can be recycled. Consider iSecure, a document shredding service TSS contracts with. Call our office for shred service, business and personal options available.

How can you reduce your waste?



TRY STARTING WITH ONE THING...



Reusable Produce Bags - available to purchase at most grocery stores. Also practical because you can take home and rinse your produce in these mesh bags. Saves thousands of plastic bags from ending up in our landfills.



Reusable Grocery Bags - Start by leaving them in the front seat of your car so you see them and get in the habit. Soon you'll wonder why you didn't do this sooner!

Reusable Water Bottles - End one-time use plastics. Refilling your water bottle saves you money and thousands of plastic bottles.



Buy local - There are many products produced locally (even in our small town) saving shipping emissions and supporting local economy and families.



Less Packaging - This can be a tough one depending on what lens you look through. Use this rule of thumb: try to buy in larger quantities with as much recyclable packaging as possible. Also, bring your own containers and buy in bulk when you can.

Happy Retirement **SCOTT LUCAS**



Scott Lucas here with office staff (l-r) Lisa Kellenberger, Dianne Rockholt, and Carol Walker.

After 22 years working at Thompson's Sanitary Service, Scott Lucas retired April 27 and we wish him the best! Not only is the Thompson's team

going to miss him, but many customers on his route have shared the same sentiment after he serviced their accounts for years. Enjoy your retirement Lucas!

Rob Thompson and Ken Riley congratulating Scott on his retirement.



Newport Middle School is in the process of becoming an Oregon Green School and has been working toward a number of changes at their school to become a certified Oregon Green School. Thompson's Sanitary sponsored the Newport Middle School Green Team to attend the Green Schools Summit in Gresham April 20th. The students attended seminars and exchanged ideas with other schools from around the state.