

# TRASH TALK

November 2021



## RELIABLE RECYCLING

**Oregon passed legislation to work with producers on modernizing and enhancing recycling services over 2 years**

### *Reliable Recycling Labels*

It is probably fair to say that the recycling symbol on packaging can be confusing. The good news is that Oregon has passed legislation (SB 582) to work with producers on modernizing and enhancing recycling services over the next two years.

One of the first tasks in this effort is to better define the recycling symbol and how it may be used on products. **Unfortunately, right now a recycle symbol on a product does not actually mean that it can be recycled** – and has led to creative uses of the symbol on packaging that ultimately causes confusion, contamination problems, and costs to the recycling system.

Oregon, the West Coast, or even the whole country. To help, your local hauler has some tools to help you verify what can go into the co-mingled recycling bin.

1. Get the App – Search App Store for Thompson's Sanitary Service Inc.
2. Webpage – [thompsonsanitary.com](http://thompsonsanitary.com)
3. Customer Service – (541) 265-7249

### *Curbside Recycling – Doing it right*

The success of recycling is getting the product to market. Your hauler is the best resource for helping sort through what can go into (and what to keep out of) your curbside recycling. You can help make recycling a success by only placing accepted recyclable items into your co-mingled recycling roll cart.

Paper and Cardboard – Yes, put paper and cardboard into the recycling roll cart, but watch for items with wax coating, plastic layers, and that touch foods are generally not recyclable.

Plastic Bottles and Milk Jugs – Yes, only plastic bottles with a neck smaller than its base go into curbside recycling. At the curb, all the rest of plastics are trash. Even biodegradable plastics!  
Metals and Cans – Yes, tin cans and aluminum cans. For safety and preventing damage to equipment, please keep wire and coat hangers out.  
*Remember - When in doubt, toss it out!*

## In the Know

### Haul-i-days

**In 2021, Thanksgiving will be the only holiday affecting your curbside service.**

For Thanksgiving, all Thursday customers will be serviced on Friday 11/26 and Friday customers serviced on Saturday 11/27. Because Christmas and New Year's holidays occur on Saturdays this year, there will be no interruption to curbside service those weeks. However, the Transfer Station will be closed Saturdays 12/25 and 01/01/22.



## Christmas Tree Disposal

**Your decoration-free tree can go in your Mixed Compostables cart**

Whether you have a *Charlie Brown* or a *Christmas Vacation* size tree, it can go in your Compostables cart after the holidays, but please cut it down to 3' lengths before placing in cart so we can collect it in our trucks. Download our app to search other holiday items and proper disposal.

### KEY BENEFITS



**Shares and scales responsibility across the recycling system.** Producers will be brought into the recycling system to fund improvements and expand recycling services. Cost to producers will be based on what materials they use and how much they sell into Oregon.



**Creates one statewide list of what can be recycled.** The uniform collection list will provide clarity to households and businesses about what can be recycled, and create efficiencies in recycling operations across the state.



**Increases access to recycling.** The new law will provide recycling services to people who didn't previously have it, such as those who live in apartments and rural areas.



**Incentivizes sustainable products.** Producer fees will be higher for non-recyclable products and those creating more environmental pollution.



**Prevents plastic pollution.** Ensures collected materials are recycled responsibly and keeps plastic and other trash out of our waterways and communities — both domestically and overseas.



**Creates accountability to outcomes.** DEQ will permit and audit recycling processors, and a Governor-appointed advisory council will review producer program plans, the statewide collection list and educational resources.

Starting in January a state task-force will begin to address enhancing the recycling system, including developing guidelines for labeling. With that said, it will take time (a year or two) before any changes begin to take place. In the interim, instances will likely continue where labels will make claims of recyclability, but where that item is simply not recyclable anywhere in



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Community Assistance for  
Neighbors with Cancer

helping  
local  
cancer  
patients

In partnership with the Pacific Communities Health District (PCHD) Foundation, Thompson's Sanitary is helping local patients in their fight against cancer through the CAN Cancer program. This program helps cover non-medical living expenses for local residents fighting all forms of cancer. **Donation envelopes for the CAN Cancer program will be in the Thompson's Sanitary November statements;** the main lobby of Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital (SPCH); Oregon Coast Bank and Columbia Bank Newport branches.



Pictured are (l-r) Aimee and Rob Thompson from Thompson's Sanitary, Ursula Marinelli from PCHDF, and Ken Riley from Thompson's Sanitary.

"The CAN Cancer program provides incredible comfort to our patients," said Tanis Hernandez, social worker in the Samaritan Pacific Health Services Oncology Department. For example, we had a patient who received an eviction notice because she was unable to work while receiving cancer treatments, and the CAN Cancer fund made it possible for us to help her avoid eviction."

Patients can receive up to \$250 for non-medical expenses related to their care and treatment, such as fuel, travel, utilities and nutrition costs. "Since the program's inception in 2011, 287 patients have received \$67,944 in financial assistance, thanks to contributors to the CAN Cancer program.

"CAN Cancer was started in Bend, Oregon," said Rob Thompson, of Thompson's Sanitary, and a driving force behind the local CAN Cancer program. "If everyone donates just a little, we would have enough funding to significantly ease the financial burden of those battling cancer."

Donations can also be made at Oregon Coast Bank and Columbia Bank, as well as online via [www.samhealth.org/PCHDF](http://www.samhealth.org/PCHDF).

For more information, contact PCHD Foundation at [k Clem@samhealth.org](mailto:k Clem@samhealth.org) or 541-574-4912.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *Michael Kinane*



Michael with his two children, Alaina and Eli.

Michael Kinane has been working at Thompson's just over a year in our shop services. He performs a wide variety of important tasks including welding, general help with mechanics, assisting with junk removals, as well as overseeing the Recycling Center by sorting batteries and organizing the E-waste collected.

Michael was born and raised in Newport, but after high school moved to Eugene until he returned in 2020. He has two children Alaina (7 years) and Eli (4 years) and just recently became engaged to Dani Fisher.



Michael in costume during a Civil War reenactment.

He enjoys an unusual but very interesting hobby, Civil War reenactments, where he plays the part of a soldier for spectators to witness what it might've been like during that period of American history. Michael also spends time fabricating out of metal, and savors time in the kitchen cooking.

Michael is an invaluable part of our team and always very eager to help out any way he can to make our operation run smoothly. We so appreciate his willingness to do what's needed.

## *in honor of Veteran's Day November 11, 2021* **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE**



Jerry Bowers

Byron Evans

Lisa Kellenberger

Dave Reynolds

