



CITY OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A BETTER FUTURE. A BETTER NOW.

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Portland Curbsider

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

September 2008

This PORTLAND neighborhood RECYCLES!

New carts generate excitement and a few questions

Like any change, it took a little bit of getting used to, but word on the street is that Portland's new blue and green roll carts are a hit.

"I was looking forward to getting my carts! We keep the house cleaner now because we don't have bags of material waiting to put out in a bin—we can just take the stuff right out to the cart," says Kate Sokoloff of northeast Portland. "It's also easier for my kids to do—they don't have to figure out how to sort things, and the carts are easy for them to move around."

Kate and her neighbors agree about the benefits of the new roll carts. The big wheels make them easy to roll to the curb, the large yard debris carts make yard cleanup easier, and the instructions on the recycling cart lid make recycling simpler.

At first, the size of the carts was a concern for some people. Hugo du Coudray, Kate's neighbor, says that the recycling cart fits nicely in his garage, but he'll need to make a little more room alongside his driveway to accommodate the yard debris cart. Overall though, Hugo says he's happy with the change. "When we first got it, we did a big house cleaning and put out the recycling cart every week for a few weeks. Now, we'll probably just put it out every other week. I'm especially pleased they're taking more plastics. I think it's a smart move," he says.

Verdie Stewart recycles across the street from Hugo. Verdie says she finds the new system convenient, but adds that she would recycle no matter what. "Anything we can do to keep our environment clean, I'm for it," she says.

A few doors down, Jennifer Pratt says she especially likes the yard debris cart. "I can take it to where I'm pruning in the yard, and I love that the lid stays open while I'm loading it."

Claire Harriman says the new system got her thinking about her family's waste. "It made me think about what we put in the garbage can," Claire says. "We're trying to figure out how to produce less waste overall. A few of our neighbors have worm boxes, and we might try that for our kitchen waste."

Old yellow bins – keep one for glass



Glass needs to be kept out of the blue recycling cart. Use one of your old yellow bins for glass, and set it out with your blue roll cart on recycling day. For those who don't want to keep their extra yellow bin (or who don't need to keep their old metal or plastic yard debris cans) there's information at www.portlandonline.com/osd about where to take them for recycling.

Delivery of carts prompts some questions

After the carts were delivered, some people had questions about how to use them. City staff said they were somewhat surprised by the number of people who called asking if the new carts were for regular trash. The answer is simple:

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Feeling good about recycling: These Portland neighbors kindly agreed to be interviewed about their experience using the new roll carts.

Ask Us!

Who collects my garbage?

Q: I'm thinking of changing to a smaller garbage can. What's the easiest way to do that?

A: It's easy online or by phone. Visit www.portlandonline.com/osd/findhauler, or call OSD's Curbside Hotline, 503-823-7202, to be connected to your garbage and recycling company.

Give the roll carts some space

Q: Those automated trucks that lift the roll carts are cool! Anything special we need to know?

A: Place your recycling, yard debris and garbage in the same location where you always have. Please leave space between carts, bins, cans and other objects (cars, mailboxes, basketball hoops). New-style trucks need room to pick up your new roll carts.

Send us your recycling questions! We encourage you to send questions to wasteinfo@ci.portland.or.us or call the Curbside Hotline at 503-823-7202.

Full roll carts, bins save work

Q: I don't fill my blue roll cart every week. Should I still set out a near-empty cart?

A: Portland's garbage and recycling companies recommend that you set out your blue recycling roll cart—and your container for glass—only when full or convenient for you. Some people will only have to do this chore once a month! This will save you the hassle of having to go back and forth to the curb, while increasing efficiency and limiting costs.

Help, I've been tagged!

Q: Why do haulers leave tickets on my roll cart and garbage cans?

A: When a tag appears on your garbage can or roll cart, your garbage and recycling company is letting you know how to prepare your garbage and recycling for pick-up. For example, when items in the blue recycling roll cart haven't been rinsed out properly, or plastic bags are in the cart, you'll receive a tag.

Shirley Robinson, Lisa Cohrs and Kyenne Williams of OSD's Curbside Hotline customer service team.



The Curbsider

Published by the City of Portland
Office of Sustainable Development
721 N.W. 9th Ave., Suite 195
Portland, OR 97209
Tel: (503) 823-7222



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Attend a free solar water heating workshop

Heating water is the second largest home energy expense. Cash incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon and tax credits from the State of Oregon and the federal government can cover as much as half the cost of a solar water heating system. **Attend a free solar workshop or visit www.SolarNowOregon.org to learn more.**

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008

Natural Capital Center
(Ecotrust Building, 2nd floor)
NW 9th Avenue, Portland

Fix-It Fair season begins in November

Fix-It Fair is a free event designed to save you money and connect you to resources. Join your neighbors and talk to experts about how to spend less and stay healthy. Workshops are offered every hour and exhibitors are on-site to answer questions throughout the day. Free lunch and childcare provided.

8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Lent School
5105 SE 97th Avenue, Portland

Organized by the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development in partnership with other City bureaus, Burgerville, Energy Trust of Oregon, Pacific Power, Portland General Electric and the Portland Development Commission.

North and Northeast Portland neighborhoods will host Fix-It Fairs in January 2009. **Questions? Call 503-823-4309, e-mail fixitfair@ci.portland.or.us or visit www.portlandonline.com/osd/fif.**

Don't Kill Your Television (Just Yet)



The waste prevention community hopes you won't toss the tube just because of the upcoming federally-mandated switch to digital. All television stations in the United States are required to switch from analog to digital-only broadcasting by February 17, 2009. The switch will free up airwaves for public safety communications (i.e., police, fire and emergency rescue) and wireless services.

Consider these options for the switch to digital:

- ▶ **Don't replace perfectly functional televisions.** Keeping your existing TV is the best option, both environmentally and financially.
- ▶ **A cable or satellite subscription** will allow your analog or digital television to receive digital broadcasting.
- ▶ **If you prefer to use an antenna,** you can purchase a converter box that easily hooks up to your television and will allow your analog TV to receive digital broadcasting. (A good antenna is necessary.)
- ▶ **Until March 31, 2009, households can request up to two \$40 coupons** from the federal government to buy eligible converter boxes. Call 1-888-DTV-2009 or visit www.dtv2009.gov.
- ▶ **If you choose to replace your TV,** please give your old one to a friend or charity.
- ▶ **If the television is broken, please recycle it responsibly.** A new state law, effective January 1, 2009, requires that manufacturers pay for electronics recycling in Oregon and makes it illegal to throw away your TV. This means that you will be able to recycle them for free at many recycling depots in Portland.

For additional details, visit www.deq.state.or.us/lq/electronics.htm.

This Portland neighborhood, continued from page 1 ▶

put your trash where you always have, either in your own trash can or in a hauler-provided cart, and consider using a mini-can to save money. By keeping garbage and other non-recyclable material out of your blue roll cart, you help ensure that everything that can be recycled, gets recycled.

Sorting less, recycling more is good for the environment

Portland's Office of Sustainable Development, with input from citizens and garbage and recycling companies, implemented the new system to accomplish several goals. Overall, the City wants to increase Portland's recycling rate. The new roll cart system is expected to increase residential recycling by as much as 33 percent: that's an additional 25,000 tons of recycling. Other benefits include preventing over 800 garbage trucks from making the trip to the landfill each year and reducing carbon emissions by an additional 10 percent—the equivalent of keeping 35,000 cars off the road.

Everyone makes a difference

The northeast Portland neighborhood where Kate, Verdie, Hugo, Claire and Jennifer live—like countless others in the city—can be proud of its recycling efforts. Every blue cart loaded with recyclables and green cart full of yard debris represents more natural resources being conserved. And that's something we all can feel good about.

Make it a habit: reduce waste, save money

The word “reduce” in the phrase “reduce, reuse and recycle” is first and most important for a reason. Reducing what you consume will save energy, save money and reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

“Portlanders continue to be recycling leaders, and we’re very proud to make that claim. The next step is to reduce waste by reusing items and giving more thought to what we buy,” said Commissioner Dan Saltzman, founder of the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development.

Three simple questions

In cost-conscious times, taking stock of product options, packaging, and alternatives is important for reducing waste and saving money. Your purchasing decisions are important because most products cause carbon emissions during production and distribution. By using reusable products, you save energy needed to produce new products.

Ask yourself these questions before you buy:

- ▶ “Do I need it?”
- ▶ “What happens when I’m done with it or it is worn out?”
- ▶ “Can I borrow or rent it instead?”

Three simple changes

Begin by changing a few habits:

- ▶ Take a reusable bag to the grocery store.
- ▶ Carry a reusable water bottle or to-go mug.
- ▶ Reduce your junk mail—visit www.catalogchoice.com.

What system works for you?

Find a system to help you remember to bring the reusable items with you to the store or coffee shop. Return bags to your bike or car for your next shopping trip, or store bags and mugs near your house keys.



Bottling and transporting water—then disposing the empty bottles—wastes resources. A to-go mug or reusable water bottle is a good option.



As part of the Portland Recycles! Campaign, OSD is distributing reusable grocery tote bags at events around Portland. OSD asks residents to pledge to use the reusable bags instead of paper and plastic bags.

Resources

The New American Dream
c3.newdream.org

OSD’s waste reduction resources
www.portlandonline.com/osd/reducewaste

Metro’s waste prevention information
www.oregonmetro.gov
(search on “waste prevention”)

“I Only Drink Tap Water” Campaign

The Portland Water Bureau encourages residents to join the “I Only Drink Tap Water” campaign.



Celebrate Portland’s drinking water – for your health, to save money and to protect the environment.

- ▶ **Tap water is good for the wallet.** Four gallons of Portland’s tap water costs only one penny and 360 gallons of Portland’s tap water costs about 99 cents (about the price of a single serving of bottled water).
- ▶ **Tap water is clean, healthy water.** Portland’s pure drinking water meets or surpasses both federal and state drinking water standards.

Visit www.portlandonline.com/water/blog or call 503-823-7510 to learn more and request your “I Only Drink Tap Water” sticker.

Plastics accepted for curbside pick-up



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



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

BEYOND THE CURB

Where to take non-curbside plastics

Plastic grocery, dry cleaner and produce bags

Many grocery stores take bags at collection containers located near the entrance.

Portland-area recycling centers:

- ▶ 1520 NW Quimby, Portland.
- ▶ 2005 N Rosa Parks Blvd, Portland.
- ▶ 341 Foothills Rd, Lake Oswego.

Call 503-228-5375.

Visit www.portlandrecyclingcenters.com.

Rigid plastics and bags

Far West Fibers:

- ▶ 6440 SE Alexander, Hillsboro.
- ▶ 10750 SW Denney Rd, Beaverton.
- ▶ 4629 SE 17th Ave, Portland.
- ▶ 12820 NE Marx St, Portland.

Call 503-643-9944.

Visit www.farwestfibers.com.

Packaging peanuts

Many mailing/shipping businesses reuse polystyrene packing peanuts. Some may also accept clean and dry cornstarch peanuts.

One-stop option for hard-to-recycle plastics

Master Recycler Plastics Roundups collect all sorts of plastic you can’t recycle anywhere else. Visit www.masterrecycler.org for a list of sites and dates.



Non-curbside Recycling Questions?
Call Metro 503-234-3000
www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling

CALL:

Your Garbage Hauler

- Changes to, or problems with, rates, billing or service.
- How to prepare your garbage, recycling, and yard debris.
- Special services — tires, bulky items, special pickups.
- Cleanup containers.
- Yard debris calendars, stickers, and rollcart subscriptions.
- Garbage, recycling, or yard debris that didn't get picked up.
- Overweight containers.
- Missing or stolen recycling bins.

Phone:

(Fill in your garbage hauler's number here; if you don't know the number, you can find it 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

- Assistance in resolving service and/or billing problems with your hauler.
- Get your hauler's name and phone number.
- Receive recycling and yard debris curbside preparation sheets.
- 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

- Reuse, waste reduction and recycling of non-curbside items, appliances.
- Transfer station locations, rates and hours.
- Home composting, organic gardening and grasscycling.
- 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. We recommend that 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.

Do not include rubber bands or plastic bags.



CARDBOARD

Flatten cardboard boxes.

Do not include wax-coated cardboard or pizza boxes.



MILK CARTONS DRINK BOXES

Rinse to remove food particles.

Do not include plastic straws that come with drink boxes.



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.

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



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.

Do not include lids. Do not include bottles that have come in contact with motor oil, pesticides or herbicides.



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.

Do not flatten.



AEROSOL CANS

Cans must be empty.

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



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 metal that has plastic, food, or other non-metal materials attached.

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

Do not include light bulbs, broken glass or lids.

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 more illustrated details, or for instructions in Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese, visit the Residential Curbside Recycling section at www.portlandonline.com/osd/guide. You may also call the Curbside Hotline at 503-823-7202.

No Plastic Bags, No Plastic Lids

Plastic bags get tangled in recycling equipment and lids are too small to be sorted at the processing facility. That's why we give size guidelines for curbside plastic recyclables. Call Metro at 503-234-3000 or visit www.oregonmetro.gov/recycling.

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.