say no to unnecessary take-out items — they belong in the garbage

- Take advantage of the discounts local businesses offer for bringing your own coffee mug and reusable shopping bag.
- For to-go orders, take only what you need.
- If you don’t need the straw, fork, spoon, cup, condiments, containers, or a bag, say so! Hundreds of Portland restaurants and bars have switched to offering straws only upon request or asking if you need single-use items.
- Another step to reduce single-use waste is to have what you need when you need it. Make a to-go kit for your car, day bag or bike bag that includes grocery bags, a coffee mug, silverware or small containers for leftovers.

A costly habit

Single-use items — from paper napkins and coffee cups to straws and plastic bags — have been in the news a lot lately, and for good reason. We use many items for just a few minutes before throwing them away. Disposable products may provide convenience and ease at home and on the go, but they require natural resources, energy and water, which increases carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

In Portland, all plastic and paper to-go items should be tossed in the garbage. They do not belong in the recycling or compost bins, even if they claim to be compostable.

With a little effort we can reduce the disposable stuff we throw away to prevent waste and save money. Find ideas to reduce and reuse at home, work or on the go at www.resourcefulpdx.com.

When is “compostable” or “biodegradable” not compostable?

Items labeled “compostable” or “biodegradable” belong in the garbage. The labels are well-intentioned, but they’re not always accurate. Many products that are labeled “compostable” or “biodegradable” don’t break down at our local composting facilities. Do not put them in your recycling or compost bins.
GARBAGE every-other-week or every-four-weeks

- Coffee cups/lids/plates, paper/plastic plates, take-out food wrappers, containers, drink cups/lids, cutlery, foam food packaging/trays, plastic "clamshells," plastic caps/lids, plastic bags, facial tissue, painted/stained wood, plywood, incandescent light bulbs, garden hoses.

- **Must be bagged:** Pet waste, cat litter, diapers, feminine hygiene products, ashen, sawdust, packaging peanuts, broken glass.

- Place in sealed container: Kitchen fats, cooking oil, grease.

- **No:** Computers, monitors, TVs, compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), hazardous waste, chemicals, batteries.

COMPOST every week

- Food scraps: Meat, poultry, seafood, bones, cheese, eggshells, bread, pasta, grains, beans, nuts, fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, spoiled food.

- **Recipe:** With a neck (6 oz. or larger), tubs (6 oz. or larger), plant pots (4" diameter or larger), buckets (5 gal. or smaller).

- **Yard debris:** Weeds, leaves, vines, grass, small branches, flowers, house plants, plant clippings.

- Place in sealed container: Kitchen fats, cooking oil, grease.

- **No:** "Compostable" or "Biodegradable" containers, household garbage, pet waste, diapers, plastic bags, number, dirt, ashes, rocks, branches larger than 4" thick and 36" long.

RECYCLE every week

- **Plastic** with a neck (6 oz. or larger), tubs (6 oz. or larger), plant pots (4" diameter or larger), buckets (5 gal. or smaller).

- **Metal** aluminum, tin, and steel food cans, empty dry metal paint cans, empty aerosol cans, aluminum foil, scoops, metal (longer than 30" long and less than 30 lbs).

- **Paper** newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, flattened cardboard boxes, scrap paper, cartons (milk, juice, soup), shredded paper (in paper bag).

- **Glass bottles & jars** place in yellow bin or other plastic container with a "glass only" sticker.

- **Motor oil** put in a leak-proof, clear plastic jug with lid and place next to carts for recycling.

- **Other** paper napkins, paper towels, coffee filters, tea bags, pizza delivery boxes.

- **No:** Plastic bags, plastic caps/lids, diapers, propane cylinders, coffee cups/lids/pods, plastic "clamshells" Styrofoam, plastic containers under 6 oz., prescription medicine bottles.

GLASS every week

- **Glass bottles & jars** place in yellow bin or other plastic container with a "glass only" sticker.

- **Other** paper napkins, paper towels, coffee filters, tea bags, pizza delivery boxes.

- **No:** Plastic bags, plastic caps/lids, diapers, propane cylinders, coffee cups/lids/pods, plastic "clamshells" Styrofoam, plastic containers under 6 oz., prescription medicine bottles.

Q&A

**Q:** Who’s my garbage company?

**A:** Look on the side of your roll carts or visit garbagedayreminders.com to find your company (subscribe to email reminders while you’re there). If your container wasn’t emptied on garbage day, or you have a question about your bill, contact your company.

**Q:** Do the numbers on plastics mean they’re recyclable?

**A:** No. Plastics accepted at the curb are determined by size and shape. The numbers are used by manufacturers to mark what the product is made of.

**Q:** Has recycling changed?

**A:** No. The list of materials accepted in your blue recycling cart has stayed the same since 2008 (see above). There is still global demand for the materials on Portland’s list for the manufacture of new products. Portland has one of the highest rates of recycling in the country—and that’s thanks to you!

Have another question for our Hotline?

[www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/curbsidequestions | wasteinfo@portlandoregon.gov | 503-823-7202]
A CLEAN ENERGY FUND FOR PORTLAND

In November 2018, Portland voters approved Measure 26-201, dubbed the Portland Clean Energy Fund, which won 65% of the vote. This was a major milestone for a unique coalition, the likes of which Portland has never seen. The measure marks Oregon’s first-ever environmental initiative created and led by people of color.

The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund is a 1% surcharge on billion-dollar retailers with over $500,000 in Portland sales. It is estimated to create $54 to $71 million each year for living-wage jobs and job training in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Half of the money will be used to retrofit homes, schools, and businesses, a quarter will be allocated for job training and apprenticeship programs, and the remainder will focus on green infrastructure and future innovation. The program will prioritize low-income households and people of color, since those communities are on the front lines of climate change.

The City of Portland is now focused on establishing the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund, following the lead of the coalition who created it. Money will become available in mid-2020. BPS would like to acknowledge and celebrate the community’s vision and leadership in creating an initiative that will provide direct community benefits while reducing carbon emissions.

Get involved and stay up to date on the program
/PDXCleanEnergy
- or -
www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/cleanenergyfund
MORE HOMES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

In March, the Planning and Sustainability Commission voted in favor of the Residential Infill Project. The proposed project will allow more housing units to be built in residential neighborhoods – but only if they follow new limits on size and scale. City Council must make a final decision on the proposals before they can go into effect. To stay informed, visit www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/infill.

INSIDE:
- 2019-2020 garbage collection schedule
- Your curbside guide for garbage, compost and recycling
- A clean energy fund for Portland

GARBAGE BILLS ARE CHANGING

Portland City Council approved a garbage and recycling bill increase in May to cover higher fees for processing yard debris and food scraps and a surcharge for the voter-approved Portland Clean Energy Fund. Rates for most customers will go up by 2% to 3% beginning July 1.

Find the new rates online at portlandoregon.gov/bps/rates or call your garbage and recycling company.

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