

ASK A MASTER RECYCLER

Recycling is never out of season



SUSY LACER, MASTER RECYCLER
A MONTHLY COLUMN OF RECYCLING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
FLORENCE MASTER RECYCLERS
For the Siuslaw News

Q. I know it's a little out of season, but is there any place to recycle Christmas lights that don't work?

A. You're in luck. The Real Food Co-op has again arranged for NextStep Recycling to offer an electronics collection event in Florence. They will be at the Co-op on Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Real Food Co-op is at 1379B Rhody Drive, just off Highway 101. NextStep will accept almost all electronic devices, from toasters to computers, including your nonworking holiday light strings; see www.NextStepRecycling.org for details.

In addition to the drop-off location for this event, NextStep is offering pick-up for businesses that may have larger quantities of electronics to recycle. Contact Lena Mitson, Business Relations Coordinator, at 541-686-2366 ext 118, for more information or to schedule a business pick-up.

Also, on a year round basis, you can always take items to NextStep's donation center in Eugene, at 2101 W 10th Ave.

Q. What can I do with things that still work, but that I don't need or want anymore? I hate to just pile them next to the garbage can.

A. In addition to the NextStep option above for electronic items, working or not, Florence is fortunate to have several reuse options, better known as thrift stores:

- The Habitat ReStore, 2016 Highway 101, is a great place to take unneeded building materials, appliances, furniture and home accessories. Contact them first to determine what is acceptable by visiting www.florencehabitat.org.

- The Florence Area Humane Society Thrift Shop, 1193 Bay St., and adjacent Paws Boutique, accept donations of household items, clothing, books, furniture and more. They also welcome holiday items to supply their seasonal

Christmas Store. Visit www.florencehumane.org for details.

- St. Vincent de Paul, 2315 Highway 101, welcomes a wide variety of donations, including books, clothes, kitchenware, appliances, beds, housewares, furniture, toys, sports equipment, crafts, decor and more, as well as some surprising items such as single shoes, fabric scraps and fire extinguishers. Visit its website at www.svdps.us for a full list.

- St. Vinnie's does an amazing job of recycling, repurposing and remanufacturing donated items, including mattresses, candle wax, window glass and pet beds, among others.

- Goodwill, 1665 Highway 101, accepts clothing and most household items in good condition. Visit www.goodwill.org for details.

Donating and shopping at thrift stores, especially those

that recycle, repurpose or remanufacture products, is a wonderful way to help "close the loop" with recycling by purchasing items made with recycled content.

Q. My friend told me that the glass I put curbside for recycling ends up being thrown away. Is that true?

A. There has been a lot of confusion regarding glass recycling. Green, brown and clear glass bottles and jars are collected curbside in Florence — in a separate container, please, not in the commingled recycling bin. Both of our two local trash haulers presently send their curbside glass to EcoSort, a material recovery facility located in Eugene.

EcoSort sends more than 400 tons of curbside glass each month to a recycler in Portland, Glass to Glass.

Lane County Waste Management also sends their collected recycle glass from Transfer Stations to Glass to Glass, over 45 tons per month.

Glass to Glass opened in 2013 as a joint venture of Owens-Illinois, a leading man-

ufacturer of glass packaging, and eCullet, a recycled glass processing company which uses laser technology to sort recycled glass by color.

The Glass to Glass facility supplies recycled glass to the Owens-Illinois plant also located in Portland. The plant manufactures over a million bottles per day, primarily in support of Oregon's thriving microbreweries.

Owens-Illinois states they welcome the supply of recycled glass to make containers, which are 100 percent and infinitely recyclable, because it reduces the use of virgin raw materials and lowers their costs and environmental impact.

They report that every 10 percent of recycled glass used in their manufacturing process

reduces energy costs by 2 to 3 percent and greenhouse gas emissions by 4 to 10 percent.

Visit www.o-i.com for more information.

Florence Master Recyclers (MR) are part of the Lane County Master Recycler Program, a service of the county's Public Works Waste Management Division since 2002. The mission of the MR program is to bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste.

This monthly column, written for the Siuslaw News, answers commonly asked recycling questions. For more recycling information, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/building/recycling or www.lane-county.org/Departments/PW/WMD/Recycle.

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