

Wastewise offers recycling tips for electronics, other holiday items

Before people know it, the winter holidays will be over and it will be time to pack up the reusable items and pack out the recyclable ones.

The Lane County Master Recycler Program has collected some handy tips to help you take care of the most common items generated during the holidays.

For a list of additional holiday recycling tips, go to www.lanecounty.org/wastefreeholidays.

Electronics Recycling

Recycling and reusing electronics saves the energy used in mining and processing of raw materials, conserves natural resources, and reduces environmental degradation, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for every million cell phones that are recycled, 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered.

Donating unwanted electronics not only helps to protect the environment, it can also provide technical job skills and ensure access to contemporary technological tools for others, regardless of income.

Locally, residents can recycle electronics at NextStep Recycling in Eugene — and residential drop-off is free.

NextStep staff and trainees will refurbish it and safely remove your data and personal information before giving it to people who otherwise wouldn't have access to technology.

If they can't fix it, they will recycle it for you by working with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality approved processors.

NextStep's Donation and Training Center is located 245 Jackson St. in Eugene.

Donations are accepted Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local businesses can call to schedule free pick up of

unwanted computers and other workplace electronics.

To find out more about the items NextStep accepts, visit www.nextsteprecycling.org/residential-recycling.html or call 541-686-2366.

The EPA also provides a list of companies that offer electronic recycling options.

The list can be viewed at www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling.

Packaging Recycling

St. Vincent de Paul is Lane County's source for recycling white block #6 polystyrene (commonly known by the brand name Styrofoam) and Styrofoam packing peanuts.

It shreds block Styrofoam and compresses it into logs, making it more cost-effective to transport it to recyclers.

Styrofoam peanuts are used at Aurora Glass or resold in thrift stores.

Households in Eugene and Springfield can recycle small quantities of Styrofoam at no charge at any St. Vincent de Paul store location. Keep packing peanuts and block foam separate.

No food containers, cups, etc.

St. Vincent de Paul charges a modest fee for businesses; click here to read more about the Styrofoam recycling program for businesses.

Many area businesses also reuse clean packing peanuts and bubble wrap, but especially the pack-and-ship outlets.

Check with a business you usually frequent to find out if they want your excess, clean packing materials.

WasteWise Lane County offers education, tools and resources that residents, schools and businesses can use to reduce waste, conserve resources and live more sustainably.

To find out what can be reused or recycled, visit www.lanecountyor.gov/garbageguru.

Florence Food Share

Ask us about volunteer opportunities.
2190 Spruce Street • P.O.Box 2514
Florence, Oregon 97439
(541) 997-9110
info@florencefoodshare.org

Habitat for Humanity

ReStore processing volunteer needed to help with donation sorting process. For more information contact Floyd at 541-997-5834

Helping Hands Coalition

We are in need of volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. We need volunteers to serve food, set up for meals and also prepare meals beginning at 11:00 am and finishing at 2:00pm.
New Location: Community Baptist Church, 4590 Hwy. 101, Florence
(Across from Fred Meyer)

Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60

Meals on Wheels are available to people over the age of 60 who cannot get out much due to illness or advanced age and who are not eating properly, regardless of income. Cafe 60 is available for those who prefer to make new friends in a dining room setting.
1570 Kingwood, PO Box 2313, Florence
541-997-5673
lanesenior meals.org

Memory Care Respite of Florence

Come join the team! Memory Care Respite of Florence is looking for new volunteers to spend time socializing, playing games, listening to music, and having coffee and lunch with our participating senior citizens. Our program depends on volunteer power to stay afloat and time is running out! If you're at all interested in socializing and relaxing with seniors while their loved one takes a break, please email us for more information. We need more volunteers like YOU to keep our program going. Contact us at memcarerespite@gmail.com

Oregon Coast Humane Society

relies heavily on volunteers.
There are many opportunities to volunteer and a variety of skills and talents are always in need. Volunteer interest forms may be found online, at the shelter and at our Thrift Shop on Bay Street.
www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/volunteer/

Peace Harbor Volunteers

Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers, you will find an area of interest in a caring organization.
400 9th Street, Florence
541-997-8412 ext. 2218

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