



Waste Reduction, Recycling, & Other Value-Added Programs for Citizens and Businesses

Some of the programs that Marion County sponsors through the solid waste fund include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Expanded curbside collection opportunities for non-traditional recyclables such as *latex paint, household batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, cooking oil, and metal spray cans*
- Free mercury thermometer exchange for digital thermometer at transfer station 7 days a week
- Free household hazardous waste collection events and a permanent facility in Salem
- Annual free PVC disposal day
- Free Styrofoam drop-off location for recycling
- Accept yard debris from annual “City Cleanups” (such as the Salem Fall Leaf Haul) for composting at Brown’s Island at no cost to the jurisdiction
- Free household hazardous waste collection events and a permanent facility in Salem
- Major event recycling at numerous festivals and events (eg., Salem Art Fair, County Fair, State Fair, etc), including sponsorship of the Earth Day Fair at the Oregon Garden
- Annual subsidized cost home compost bin truckload sales
- Fund full-time Recycling Educator in the Salem-Keizer School District for education of elementary and middle school children on waste reduction & recycling principles
- Provide waste reduction grant opportunity to support waste reduction projects that directly reduce the amount of waste going to Marion County disposal facilities
- Built and maintain two Home Composting Demonstration sites, at the Oregon Garden in Silverton and at the Historic Deepwood Estate in Salem
- Hold a Master Recycler training class twice a year. This 8 week class educates citizens in matters related to solid waste management in Marion County, who in turn provide volunteer service hours to pay back the County
- Sponsor annually a Student Art Calendar contest, with winning illustrations being used in the calendar for the following year. Winning students receive prizes for their selected artwork
- Sponsor an AmeriCorps volunteer, who currently is performing a pilot study of the effectiveness of various recycling opportunities in multi-family housing units
- Publish a county-wide distributed 8-page tabloid twice a year. The “Waste Matters” tabloid contains information about various waste reduction and recycling programs currently going on in the County.
- Perform significant education, promotion, and outreach media campaigns on television, radio, and in print, educating the public about ongoing and upcoming waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and disposal options
- Promote and participate in Green School Summit, as well as assist schools in getting Green School certified
- Publish a 46-page Waste Reduction & Recycling User Guide for distribution to the public, as well as a Construction and Demolition Guide, typically used by building designers and contractors.
- Conduct free resource efficiency evaluations for businesses (EarthWISE program), certifying businesses that meet certain criteria
- Hold green building workshops for contractors and the public
- Provide a much lower tip-fee for medical waste generated within Marion County (same rate as regular garbage), than for out-of-county customers (they pay 3 times as much)

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