



N E W S L E T T E R

A PEEK INSIDE



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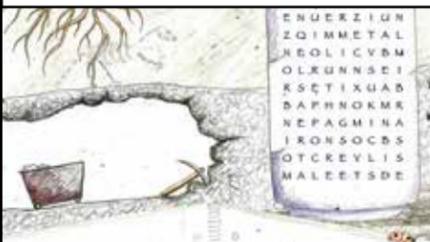
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**Big Gifts
Teeny-Tiny
Footprints****

Have you noticed those folks who look calm, cool, and collected when shopping? They seem to always give gifts that are smart, fun, and thoughtful. Well, we went in search of just those Coastal Characters and here is what we learned:

*Move Over Gift Cards
– We’ve got Tickets! –*

Find someone’s favorite local events, parks, museums, or shows and get them in! Or up the ante with an annual pass – then they can use your gift again and again, and your purchase \$ support the local places they enjoy visiting. Then, if you’re feeling clever, buy two tickets (one for them and one for you). It is kind of like having your cake and eating it too – only it is their cake and their gift, and you get to share it too.

The Gift of Good Feelings

Donate to a person’s favorite charity or group and put the gift in their name. Almost everyone has a topic they are passionate about - and so many of these ‘topics’ have interesting charitable groups behind them which also accept donations. If your person is into dogs and cats (or whales and sea otters) there are charities that support that; if they love gardening or want to support hospitals, veterans, historical societies, forests, future loggers, etc., the list goes on and on. You name it and likely there are groups out there that need donations. Not only do you help that person’s cause, but then the local group often sends out a warm ‘thank you’ to them as well. You get to check a gift off your list, they get to help their favorite cause, and you both get appreciated - sounds like a win-win.

*The Gift of Time
& Little Laughter*

Time can be precious and may make a memorable and appreciated gift for someone who could use just a little of it. This can range from donating your time to their cause, assisting in building their project,



or simply doing something that the person likes to do. It can be as simple as sitting with someone at their favorite coffee shop and spending time together in their world. Time may be gift that is a little harder to wrap with ribbons bows, but when it is done right, it can be a meaningful and memorable gift. “Remember that time Grandma spent the whole afternoon playing video games with us? That was awesome!”

*The Gift of
Another Time Around*

Retro is back! Giving vintage and secondhand items as gifts might be a whole lot cooler than you once thought. For example, who knew that in this digital age people would be so hungry for licorice pizza (another name for old vinyl records – which are quite the hot thing right now). Discovering incredible finds in antique stores, bookstores, and secondhand shops is a form of treasure hunting, where some of the best finds can be had for bargain prices. And, for those folks who not only nab a perfect secondhand item, but then add in their knowledge/ time/skill/ability to bring that relic back to its full glory – hats off to you. Vintage items often come with

stories, and people love stories. So, share its old life as it embarks on its new journey.

Something Shiny & New

Buying local is a true form of smart shopping - and it supports our community and economy. Many various places offer products that are either made locally or produced in a sustainable way, or both. Ask, and you might discover shop owners who are proud of the eco-friendly products they carry and happy to ensure your purchase has minimal packaging (remember to bring your own shopping bags).

***For those who were wondering, “Tiny Footprint” is written here to mean that rather than buying a product that is often made in a distant country with resources mined and harvested from all over the world, which is then packaged, boxed, and shipped through multiple ports, and kept in storage containers, warehouses, and trucking centers (all of which use materials, electricity, fuel, and labor)... there may be fun gifts that you can give that use less of these things.*

Home Composters Also Benefit from Curbside Services

Using curbside mixed compostable recycling and curbside yard debris recycling collection services are a great way to keep the home compost piles free of unwanted materials.

Home composting is like any recipe – great things can be achieved when the right ingredients, time, and effort are used. Because home composting is done on a small scale, some common garden debris can become problematic if it gets into the mix. If not removed from the home compost pile, these items can cause odors, slow the processing down, or germinate unwanted plants in your garden. Fortunately, most of them are not a problem for commercial composting processes. Here is a short list of materials we recommend not be put into your home compost, but instead can be placed into a yard debris/mixed compostable recycling cart:

Seed heads, Invasive Plant Species, and Weeds

Many plant seeds and cuttings can survive through the entire process of a typically maintained home compost pile. The seeds and unwanted sprouts can then spread back into your garden with the finished home compost. By removing these undesirables—placing seed heads, invasive plants, weed roots, etc. into your roll cart—your home compost will sprout far fewer unwanted plants in next year’s garden. Commercial composting operates at high temperatures and destroys almost all unwanted seed heads, so these materials are not a problem when they are placed into curbside programs.

Pumpkins

There are a few garden items, such as pumpkins, that just smell bad when they decompose and may not be the best fit for all residential home compost piles. Pumpkins are an example of an optional item to keep out of the home compost pile, especially if your compost pile is upwind of a neighbor’s window. Pumpkins can go into commercial composting without issue, and hence can be placed into curbside programs.

Too many greens

One dilemma of home composting is maintaining a proper mixture of greens (grass clippings and plant clippings) and browns (old sticks, dry brown grass, etc.). The ratio is about 1:4 (1 part green to 4 parts brown). Many home composters struggle with keeping

enough browns to prevent issues. Having too heavy of a mix of greens, such as a large pile of only grass, can lead to some troublesome results and foul odors. The roll cart serves as an outlet for overages of excess greens.

Branches Larger Than A Thumb’s Width

For the home compost pile, larger branches need to be chipped, chopped, or shredded for them to successfully decompose in a timely manner. Commercial composting can handle branches without issue because they shred the woody debris in commercial tub-grinders. The roll cart offers home composters a convenient outlet for branches up to 4” in diameter, which only need to be cut down in length to fit the cart and close the lid. This goes for holiday trees as well.

The Never List

Below is short list of items that NEVER go into home compost*:

- Meats, bones, and fats
- Dairy and buttery items
- Breads, pastas, and rice

**Thompson Sanitary Service and North Lincoln Sanitary customers may place meats, dairies, and breads into their Mixed Compostable Recycling Cart. The commercial compost process is set up to accept these items*

Lastly, Keep Plastic Out!

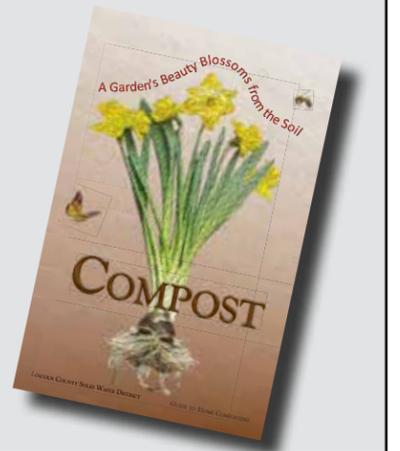
Critical to the success of composting keeping all plastics out of it. Even so-called “Bio-Degradable” plastics may cause problems in compost.

Do not put plastics or use plastic bags in your home compost, and do not put any plastics into your mixed compostable roll, or yard debris roll cart. Current packaging products can have misleading or incorrect information. Never place plastics into compost.



An informational booklet with quick tips on home composting, is available in PDF form online in both English and Spanish. Go to our page at: <https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/solidwaste>

Also a limited number of paper copies may be available at your local library, hauler, or nursery.



Why Composting is Important to Our Community

Leaves, branches, fruits, vegetables and yard clippings do not need to be wasted.

Instead, they can be composted into a rich garden soil amendment. Each year, composting helps our community divert significant tons of waste from being sent to the landfill.

Rather than throw nutrient-rich materials away, you can help make them into compost. Place yard debris and other organic items any one of these systems:

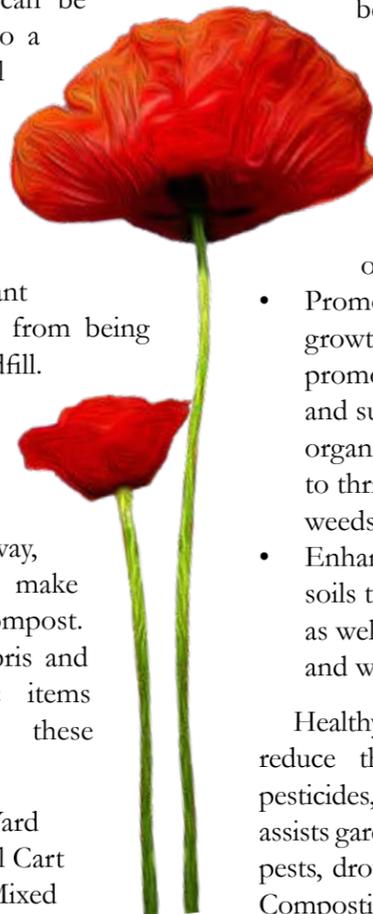
- Curbside Yard Debris Roll Cart
- Curbside Mixed Compostables Roll Cart
- Yard Debris Depot
- Home Compost Pile

Healthy Soils

Compost is a critical ingredient for healthy soil. Compost benefits soil structure and plant growth by:

- Adding organic material into the soil, increasing biological activity, and storing critical organic nutrients.
- Promoting healthy plant growth by loosening clay soils, promoting root development, and supporting beneficial organisms which help plants to thrive and resisting against weeds, disease, and insects.
- Enhancing the capacity of soils to retain more moisture, as well as reducing erosion and water run-off.

Healthy soil not only helps to reduce the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and water in a garden, it assists garden plants to resist against pests, drought, weeds and diseases. Composting can be an important part of keeping your yard and garden vibrant and productive.



A Closer Look at Why Recycling is Valuable

There still is and always has been real hope for recycling. When we recycle, property prepared recyclables become resources manufactures use to make new products. Moreover, many of these recycled materials are a significant benefit to manufacturing processes.

For example, aluminum is a true recycling success story. Aluminum can be melted, processed, and then turned back into more aluminum over and over without any change in quality. Better still, recycled aluminum is significantly easier to work with (it is simply remelted) and cheaper (requiring 95% less energy) than producing aluminum from bauxite (the ore/natural resource). As a result, recycled aluminum is continuously sought after by manufacturers. And it is the long-term manufacturing ‘desire’ that makes a stable recycling ‘market.’

Items which have stable recycling markets at competitive prices are what make up the backbone of the curbside recycling program. Currently we have stable markets for

- Paper & Cardboard
- Metals
- Plastic Bottles (where the neck is smaller than its base) and milk jugs

These clean recycled materials become competitive resources in the world market for making new products.

So recycling something that has a competitive and stable recycling market—rather than discarding it into the trash—does a lot of good things:

- It saves landfill space.
- It often reduces the energy needed to make a new product, saving costs and natural resources used to power that process.
- It reduces the number of, and kinds of raw materials that go into new products from natural resources. It also reduces the processes needed to mine/extract/grow and transport those natural resources all over the world.
- It reduces potential carbon emissions from energy used to make power manufacturing and to transport raw materials.



Going Just a Little Further

Reduce and Reuse are also worth mentioning as well. The good things mentioned in the bullets above are amplified when we reuse an item or repair it. Better still is finding ways to eliminate waste in the first place. Making a difference can be as simple as:

- Making effective and efficient purchases for just the things you need.
- Using a shopping list – and sticking to it - to reduce impulse purchases on items that seldom get used.
- Avoiding products with excessive packaging.
- Carrying reusable shopping bags.

Reliable Recycling Labels

It is probably fair to say that the recycling symbol on packaging can be confusing. The good news is that Oregon has passed legislation to work with producers on modernizing and enhancing recycling services over the next several years.

One of the first tasks in this effort is to better define the recycling symbol and how it may be used on products.

Unfortunately, right now a recycle symbol on a product does not actually mean that it can be recycled locally

Manufacturers have some creative uses of the symbol on packaging that ultimately causes confusion, contamination problems, and costs to the recycling system.

Starting in January of 2022, a state task force will begin to address enhancing the recycling system, including developing guidelines for labeling. With that said, it will take time (a year or two) before any changes begin to take place.

For a while, instances will likely continue where labels will make claims of recyclability, but where that item is simply not recyclable anywhere in Oregon, the West Coast, or even the whole country. In the interim your local hauler is there help if you have questions as to which can go into your commingled recycling cart, and which simply get tossed into the garbage.



Reusable Bag Trees Spring-up Around County

Businesses Can Sign Up For One

The Lincoln County Solid Waste District has 6 reusable bag trees available for long term loan to local businesses. The displays are approximately 1-foot-square at the base and about 8 feet tall.

The purpose of the display is to increase customers’ use of reusable shopping bags and promote general messages related to sustainability. There are 12 message boards on the display, which can be changed and updated by the District (and be customized for each shop/

location). The local store uses the display to sell/provide the reusable bags they have in their shop. The Solid Waste District will deliver and pick up the display - and there are no costs associated with using the display.

To request a display for your store - Please contact the Lincoln County Solid Waste District

solidwaste@co.lincoln.or.us
(541) 574-1285

Hazardous Waste Drop Off

On Saturday, July 30, 2022 Lincoln County residents can properly dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge at the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. The event rotates between Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and Waldport each year.

The 2022 Household Hazardous Waste Event will be held at:

**Dahl Disposal Headquarters
- Toledo -**

Entrance: 401 NW Industrial Park Rd

Materials accepted at the HHW Collection Event will include:

- **Poisons** such as pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and other poison.
- **Heavy Metals** such as mercury and products containing elemental mercury
- **Corrosives** such as acids, bases, and reactives

This year we are again encouraging Lithium Batteries – not only because old lithium batteries are recyclable, but also because they pose a risk of fire when placed into the garbage.

A few reminders:

- ⊗ No containers larger than 5 gallons in capacity
- ⊗ No cylinders accepted (contact your hauler for local options)
- ⊗ No sharps or other medications (contact your hauler for local options)
- ⊗ No explosives: such as bullets, fireworks, flares/aerial flares

Keep Flammables Out Of Your Trash



Never place fire hazards into garbage, recycling, or composting roll carts.



Batteries

Even if you think they are dead, batteries and electronic devices containing batteries can become fire igniters when damaged. (This is especially true for lithium batteries).



Fuels

Propane, gas, and other fuels are obvious fire sources to keep out.



HHW

Household Hazardous Waste (with product labels: Poison, Toxic, Danger, Flammable) can mix with other materials in the garbage and create dangerous reactions. (Especially oxidizers).



Hot Stuff

Hot ash and BBQ briquettes are obvious fire igniters. Please burn completely and thoroughly soak overnight in water if they are to be placed into the garbage.

Please Be Safe!

When handling hazardous household waste safety is essential. Properly prepare materials: Keep products in their original containers whenever possible. Ensure containers are labeled.

- If a container is leaking, secure it in a secondary leak-proof container. Please do not put items in plastic bags
- Products should not be mixed into one container! Dangerous reactions can occur when some materials

are combined.

- Box up materials and seal lids tight to prevent rolling around in your trunk while driving and to prevent spills or dangerous mixing of hazardous materials.
- Pack containers in sturdy boxes and secure in the trunk of your vehicle, away from the driver, passengers, and pets. Containers and boxes, including gasoline cans, cannot be returned.

Cannot Wait for an Annual HHW Event?

If you are unable to make the annual event in Lincoln County, there are HHW Facilities located around the state. It is a good idea to contact them ahead of time for HHW hours and potential fees. Below is a partial list and an expanded list on our webpage

<https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/solidwaste>

Marion County HHW Facility

Salem/Keizer Transfer Station:
3250 Deer Park Dr. SE, Salem
Thursdays, and 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays of the month 8:00
a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
www.co.marion.or.us

Lane County Glenwood Transfer Station

Please call (541) 682-4120
to make an appointment
www.lanecounty.org

Tillamook County Transfer Station

1315 Ekloff Road, Tillamook
Check web for available days and
use the out-of-county-form
www.co.tillamook.or.us



Some HHW Can be Disposed of Year-Round

Some hazardous waste items are accepted by local haulers year-round:

- » **Latex Paint**
- » **Batteries**
- » **Motor Oil**
- » **Antifreeze**
- » **Medical Waste**
- » **Propane Tanks**
- » **Mercury**
(Including thermometers/thermostats)
- » **E-waste**
(including computers, monitors, keyboards & mice, printers, TVs, DVD players & VCRs, and speakers)

Please call ahead for specific items accepted, locations where accepted, times when open. and any special instructions.

Buying in Bulk Not Always Our Best Option

It seems a bit ironic that some of the products which sit around our homes the longest are the ones that are labeled dangerous, toxic, and flammable. Many, if not most, of these risky relics may only have been used once and then were forgotten away in some cupboard. We seem to find these items years later with a look of disgust. Forgetting that at some point in our past we paid good money to buy the stuff in the first place, discovering these items tends to come with a sudden urge to get them out of the house immediately.

Perhaps – We Can Save More by Simply Buying Less

At the store it seems wise to buy in bulk for the best price per ounce. We like to get the most bang for our buck. However, with

products labeled toxic, hazardous, or flammable, we may save more by factoring in just how much we will actually be using. This is a change in thinking.

Every ounce that just sits around in a cupboard represents money you potentially did not need to spend in the first place. The value of buying in bulk is diminished rapidly if the item never gets used. Moreover, those are ounces of a hazardous product sitting in your home. So, finding a two-for-one sale or buying hazardous products in bulk may not be the saving that it first appears. Instead, purchasing only what you truly need might make your home safer, save a little money, and prevent a trip to the HHW event at some point in your future.

Keeping Kids Safe!

Parents,

Please take a moment to remind your children about truck safety! Garbage, recycling, and compost trucks are large and cool to watch as they travel on roadways. Whether going forward or backing up kids need to know that every vehicle has blind spots and all drivers have a hard time seeing kids in the roadway. When a truck is entering your neighborhood, please have your children stay up close to the house and away from the street.



Toss Packaging Misfits

It might seem strange for an article focus on what to toss into the trash, but every year there always seems to be a small pile of misfit packaging still waiting in the corner of the garage. This is after everyone's efforts to Reduce (avoiding excess packaging in the first place), Reuse (cramming as many of those silly packing peanuts into the box when you mail something, and Recycle (pulling out the few truly recyclable packaging items such as 100% paper and recycling them). These items are still there wondering where to go.

These are the Styrofoam blocks, the three-quarters popped bubble wrap, and the wads of shrink wrap covered in sticky packing tape. Also in this pile are the half-dissolved dissolvable packing peanuts, carton foams, and compostable plastics, often printed with recycling symbols and grand claims of earth friendliness.

The wishful recycler might be tempted to toss any of these misfits into the wrong curbside roll cart, hoping that someone will find a better use for them. Please don't.

The actuality is that these misfit items only contaminate the recycling and composting systems. Wishful recycling drives up the cost of recycling as recyclers must spend considerable resources to find and get these contaminants out. Worse yet, these items may cause truly recyclable materials to be discarded because they become stuck to or lost in the contaminated items.

The good news is that the State of Oregon is working to improve recycling labeling and to update the whole recycling system. This might take a few years to be fully implemented. Currently, the curbside collection of paper, metal cans, plastic bottles and compost has consistent and stable recycling markets.

So, that brings us to what packaging to place into your curbside TRASH container (after you've exhausted your options of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle). ***



Toss This Stuff Out

- ALL plastics and compostable plastics that are not a plastic bottle with a neck smaller than its base
- ALL foam packaging (such as block foams, packing peanuts, dissolvable foams, and compostable foams)
- Any packaging that contains micro-plastics or is waxed (wrappers around copy paper, non-tear papers, food containers, and waxed cartons)

To help keep recycling successful – “When in Doubt, Throw it Out.”

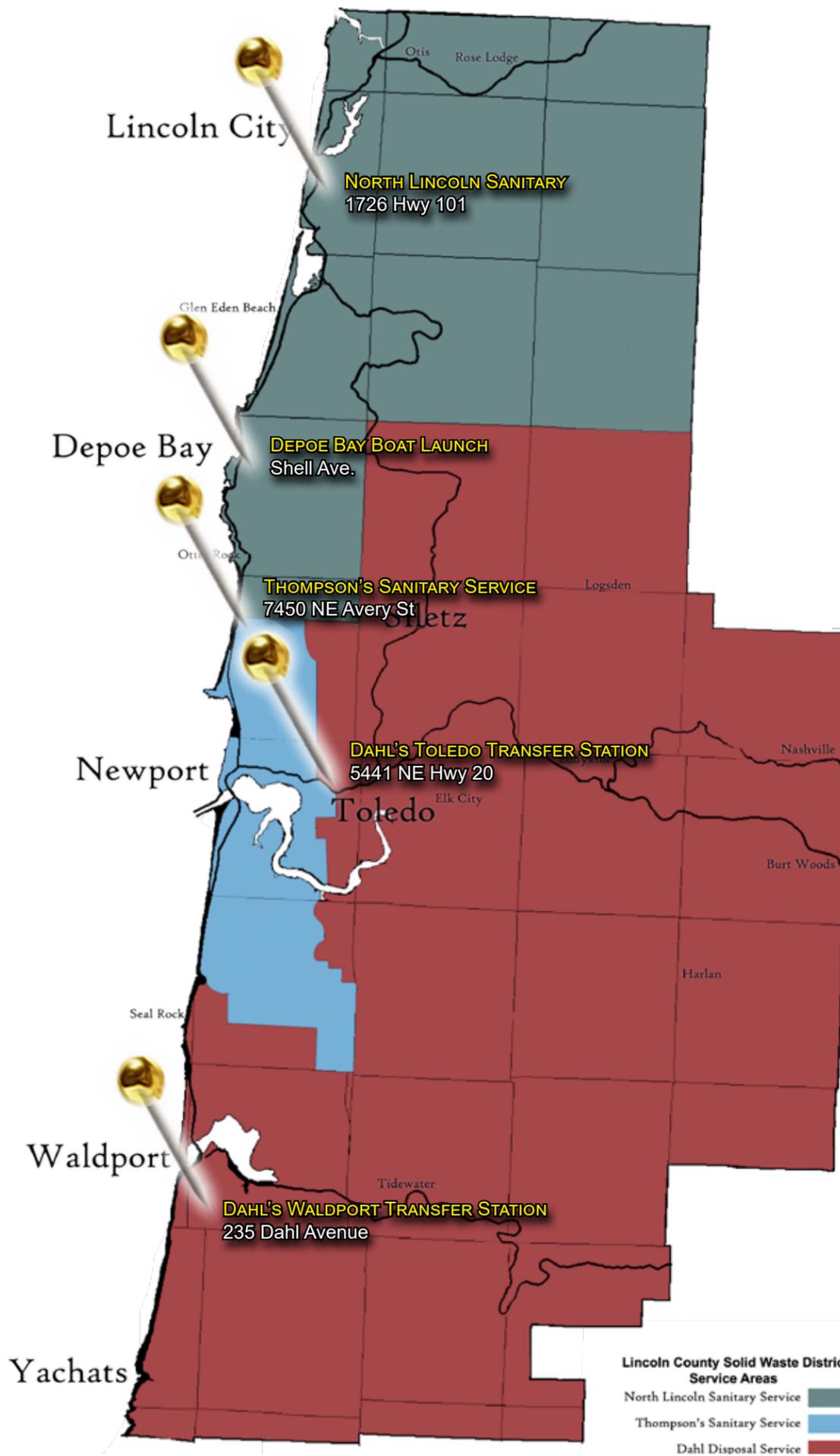
****This article is focused on choices between the three roll carts at the curb. Yes, there may be a few niche recycling opportunities for a few items on this list. At this time, those markets are either unable to support curbside collecting (small volume/inconsistent/problem freight) or are so distant that it would consume more resources to get them recycled than are in the product itself.*

Remember to Tarp Your Load!

Whenever self-hauling material to a transfer station or recycling depot, please tarp your load. By properly tarping and tying your load you ensure that *everything* that was loaded onto your truck actually gets to the desired location.

A tarped load not only helps to keep our roads safe from flying debris, but it also and to reduce the litter found along our roadways.

Glass Recycling Depots in Lincoln County



Kids Page Focus On Metals

Metal is a natural resource found in rocks and minerals. When we dig it up for processing it is called ore. Miners dig for ore above ground (surface mining, including strip mining, open-pit mining and mountaintop removal) and below ground (hard rock mining).

Iron ore (which is used to make steel) and bauxite (which is used to make aluminum) are plentiful ores and are found all around the globe. However, it still takes a lot of equipment, trucks, and energy to extract those metals from the rock. It is much easier to take scrap metal we already have and recycle it into new products than it is to make products from ore.

Recycling metal involves sorting and remelting the metal so that it can be formed once again into new products. Some metals (like aluminum) can be made with 100% recycled metal, while other like steel use a mix of new and recycled material. Each metal has its own recipe.

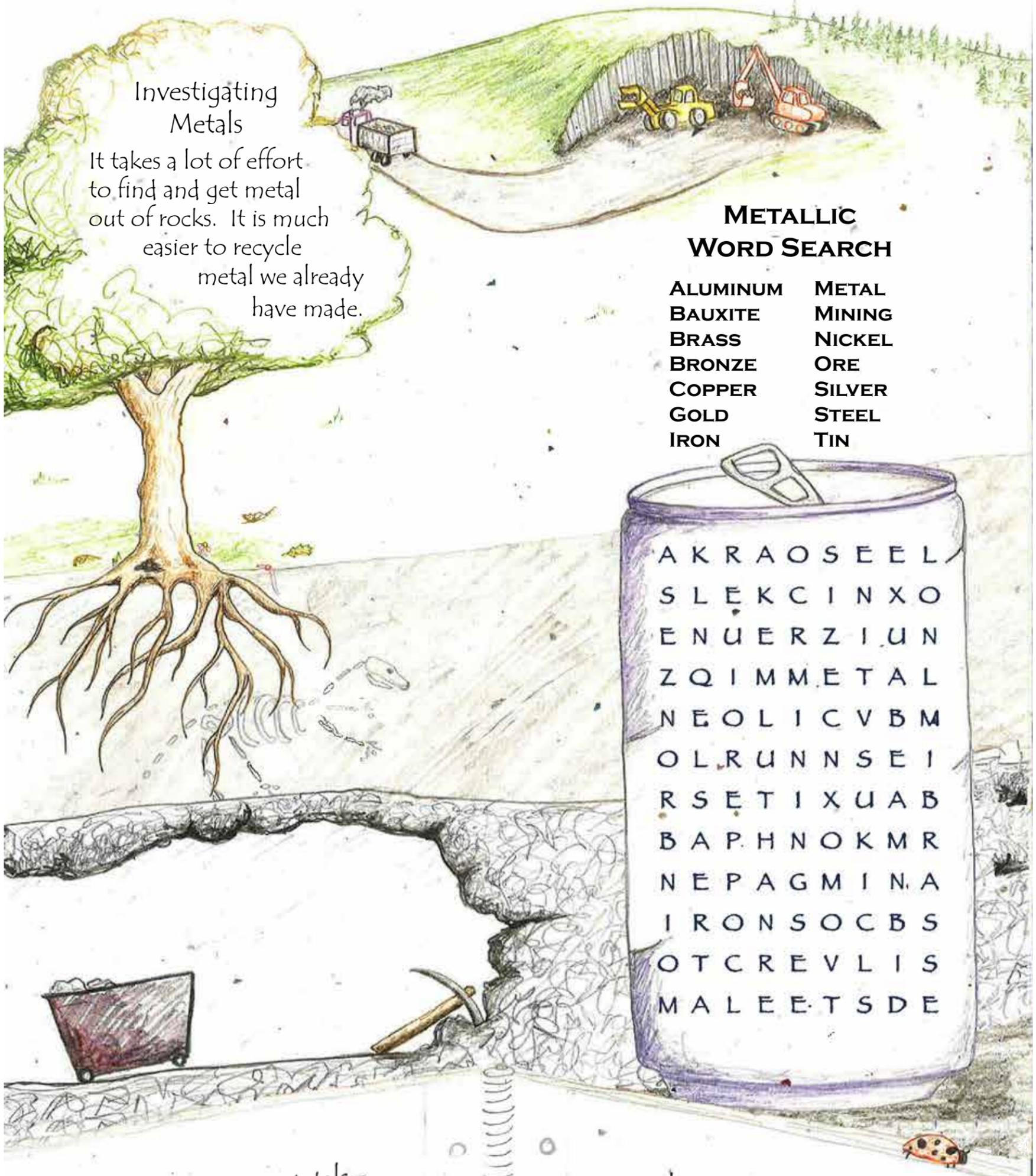
Manufacturers like to use recycled metal because it often allows them to operate their furnaces at a lower temperature than when they process metal from just ore alone. This not only saves them money, but it also saves electricity and creates far fewer greenhouse gases.

Most of the metal products you use contains recycled content.

Tin Cans Are Actually Steel Cans!

Tin is *not* an abundant natural resource around the earth and is fairly soft metal. So, manufacturers use steel (a strong, inexpensive, and abundant metal) to make tin cans. Unfortunately, steel is prone to rusting and this is where the tin really shines through. Manufacturers put a micro-thin coating of tin on the steel can because the tin protects the steel from rusting.





Investigating Metals

It takes a lot of effort to find and get metal out of rocks. It is much easier to recycle metal we already have made.

METALLIC WORD SEARCH

- ALUMINUM
- BAUXITE
- BRASS
- BRONZE
- COPPER
- GOLD
- IRON
- METAL
- MINING
- NICKEL
- ORE
- SILVER
- STEEL
- TIN

Investigating Metals: Cool Facts about Aluminum

Aluminum is unique because it can be recycled over and over without any change in quality. Recycled aluminum metal can be made with 95% less energy than producing the metal from ore..

Science

A magnet sticks to Iron/steel but will not stick to aluminum

Investigating Metals: Cool Facts about Aluminum

Geology

Aluminum does not exist as a metal in nature. In the 1800's, chemists were finally able to successfully separate aluminum metal from the other elements in bauxite clay.

History

The first aluminum metal was near priceless in value. Emperor Napoleon III served only honored guests with aluminum tableware, instead of the usual gold or silver!

Get Your Hauler's App

DAHL DISPOSAL APP



Apple



Google Play

NORTH LINCOLN SANITARY APP



THOMPSON'S SANITARY APP



Apple



Google Play

Lincoln County
Solid Waste District
(541-) 574-1285
solidwaste@co.lincoln.or.us

Articles provided to local city newsletters
throughout the year

Birds, Bears & Breezes

Closing The Lid On Rolling Wildlife Cafés

An open trash, recycling, or yard debris roll cart lid is an invitation for birds, raccoons, and bears to go digging. It does not take long for those prowlers to find a roadside buffet. Worse yet, they quickly learn where to return for more – and can be rather aggressive in demanding service. Here are a few tips to help keep your neighborhood clean, and hopefully make your roll carts less attractive to our animal friends.:

- Aromas (Critters have good noses)*
- Rinse pet food cans, and food containers prior to placing them into the recycling cart.
 - Bury vegetable scraps deep under lawn clippings and leaves in your cart.
 - If you've been experiencing an ongoing problem, keep don't put "the good stuff" out until the morning of collection day.
 - Sleuth for the problem. Look at what items are being dragged out and discontinue placing those items into the roll cart until collection morning.

Make Access Inconvenient

- Keep the lids closed!! If you have them, keep your wind hooks on the carts between collection days.
- If you've been experiencing an ongoing problem, store roll carts in the garage or in an enclosed shed to prevent access, then put them out early on collection day.

Keep it Clean

If an invasion has occurred, quickly remove scattered items. Litter and "leftovers" will serve only to attract more critters and to encourage repeat offenders.

Not to Be Preachy

Even if it was the pesky wind or some prowling bandit that spread the material across the neighborhood, please do remember whose responsibility it is to keep the garbage, recycling, and yard debris properly contained - and cleaned up.

Curbside Recycling

The success of recycling is getting clean recyclable materials to market. Your hauler is the best resource for helping sort through what can go into—and what to keep out of— your curbside recycling. You can help make recycling a success by only placing accepted recyclable items into your co-mingled recycling roll cart.

- Paper and Cardboard – YES. Put paper and cardboard into the recycling roll cart, but watch for items with wax coatings and plastic layers. If these touch foods, they are generally not recyclable.
- Plastic Bottles and Milk Jugs – YES. Only plastic bottles with a neck smaller than their base go into curbside recycling. At the curb, all other plastics are trash. Even so-called biodegradable plastics!
- Metals and Cans – YES. Put in those tin and aluminum cans. For safety and preventing damage to equipment, please keep wire and coat hangers out.

Curbside Recycling = Doing It Right

Paper & Cardboard



Metals & Cans



Plastic Bottles & Milk Jugs



541-336-2932



541-994-5555



541-265-7249

Coastal Character

is the marquee of the Lincoln County Sustainability Program
and is a recognition of the folks (residents, businesses, and visitors alike)
who are making a difference in our community – locally, naturally, and sustainability

The Coastal Character Newsletter

A Cooperative Sustainability Program of the Lincoln County Solid Waste District,
including the cities of Depoe Bay, Lincoln City, Newport, Siletz, Toledo, Waldport, and Yachats;
Dahl Disposal Service; North Lincoln Sanitary Service, Thompson's Sanitary Service; and Lincoln County.