

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



Spokane Regional  
**SOLID  
WASTE  
SYSTEM**

**(509) 625-6580**

[www.solidwaste.org](http://www.solidwaste.org)

**Summer 2009**



## Progress continues on plan update

The Spokane County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update was presented in April to the Spokane County Board of Commissioners for consideration. The Board held a public hearing April 28, 2009. The Commissioners accepted public testimony at the hearing, and continued to accept written comments through May 12, 2009.

The Board and County staff are in the process of reviewing the

Plan and public testimony, and will set a date in the future for Plan adoption. After County adoption of the Plan, the Plan will be presented to each of the cities within Spokane County for adoption. Once the County and cities have adopted the Plan, it will be delivered to the Washington State Department of Ecology for approval.

You can view the Plan at [www.solidwaste.org](http://www.solidwaste.org).

## Plastic primer

Sometimes it seems as though you need to be a detective to figure out just which plastic containers can be recycled and where. So here is a quick primer:

### Curbside Programs

The curbside programs accept bottles and jars *only* (the neck is smaller than the base of the container). Containers should be empty, rinsed, and without lids. It is OK to leave on labels. In Spokane, the following codes are accepted:

- Code 1 – Bottles and jars

*Excluded:* microwave food dishes, clam-shell type food containers, and drink cups



- Uncolored Code 2 –

Translucent bottles, jugs, and jars (In an “Uncolored Code 2,” you will be able to identify the color of the contents when the container is full.)

*Excluded:* Colored Code 2 bottles and jars (white is considered a color), Code 2 cups and tubs (such as yogurt containers and butter tubs), and Code 2 plastic bags



## Look for blue as Downtown continues to be green

Recycle bins have come to Downtown Spokane this summer! In addition to nine more of the new black trash receptacles, which are replacing the Expo '74 bins, the Downtown Spokane Partnership is placing recycling bins in four loca-

tions. The blue recycle bins, matching the style of the garbage cans, will be installed by early July. These bins will be for glass, plastic, and aluminum recyclable bottles and cans *only*, and will be labeled for such items.



## Blue curbside containers are for recyclables only!

After recyclables are collected at the curb, they are taken to local recycling processors. At these facilities, recyclables are sorted and prepared for market. When residents place non-recyclables into blue curbside containers, these items are considered contaminants and must be sorted out and disposed of by the recycling facility. Kevin Holcomb of Pacific Recycling reports that his company has seen an increase of as much as 8 percent in non-recyclable materials that had to be disposed during the last year.

When it comes to contaminants in the curbside containers, the biggest problems are plastics that are not currently accepted here. However, the recycling containers also seem to collect a lot of things that just don't belong, including: broken hand tools, patio pavers, clothes, shoes, broken lumber, dirty diapers, concrete, dog poop, kitty litter, and hypodermic needles and other sharps—you get the idea! Some of those items are definitely garbage, while others could have been diverted by other means, such as reuse. Remember—just because something like medical sharps are in a container that could have been recyclable if it were empty, doesn't mean the contents and container are recyclable together!

Most residents do a good job of preparing their recyclables. However, some of us could do a little better at keeping our recyclables contaminant-free. For a complete listing of items to put in your curbside bin, please refer to the copy of the bin sticker on this page. All of Spokane's recyclables are still destined for recycling markets. In these challenging times, it is important that we provide the best possible recyclables to the marketplace.



### Acceptable Materials

#### Batteries

Household: Put in plastic bag  
Put bag on top of bin  
Vehicle batteries: Place next to bin

**Cans: Aluminum & Tin**  
Labels OK  
Rinse well  
No foil, foil trays or scrap metal

#### Cardboard & Brown Paper Bags

Corrugated cardboard only.  
Flatten & bundle (Max. 2' x 2')  
No cereal or pizza boxes

#### Cell Phones

Put in plastic bag with household batteries  
OK to include chargers

#### Glass Bottles & Jars

Brown, green or clear only  
Rinse, labels OK  
No lids

#### Magazines & Catalogs

Bundle or bag  
Staples OK  
No junk mail

#### Newspapers & Phone Books

Bundle or bag  
No plastic bags

#### Plastics

Only plastic bottles with necks smaller than their bases are accepted. Acceptable codes:  
Code 1 (PETE) Bottles & Jars  
Code 2 (HDPE) **Uncolored** Bottles & Jugs  
Please rinse, labels OK  
No lids  
No tubs or dishes  
No colored code 2 or other codes  
No plastic bags  
No other plastic of any kind!

## Bloomsday pilots cup recycling program

For the first time, Bloomsday organizers composted used drinking cups from the water stations along the 12K race route. A total of 2,080 pounds of paper cups, collected in compostable plastic bags, were delivered to Royal Organics in Royal City, Washington, where they were mixed with the System's clean green yard debris for composting. So far, it appears that the cups and bags are composting nicely.

Bloomsday also recycled 1,500 pounds of cardboard from the boxes that contained the t-shirts, cups, etc. Also new to the event were several temporary blue recycling totes in the Spokane downtown business area. These totes collect 140 pounds of recyclable Code 1 plastic bottles and aluminum cans each.

Riverfront Park contributed to the recycling tonnage by recycling cardboard and providing ClearStream recycling bins within the Park. Riverfront Park now has five recycling containers in high-traffic areas.

Compared with last year's race, Bloomsday 2009 reduced its disposal tonnage by 3.4 tons, recycling nearly 2 tons of material.

## Event recycling is the law

Washington law requires that recycling be provided at all official gatherings and sports facilities. The Spokane Regional Solid Waste System loans out ClearStream containers and, as of this summer, has a staff member to help facilitate event recycling. Check out the information, guidelines, and procedures at [www.solidwaste.org](http://www.solidwaste.org) (go to Recycling and then to Public Event Recycling). Look for these ClearStream containers at public and sports events that you attend.

# What will you carry?

As a result of the recession, conspicuous consumption is out and frugality and conservation are in. However, as we learned with last year's high gas prices, once things are back to normal, our new-found habits don't always last.

As some bright spots begin to appear on the economic horizon, now is a great time to think about your habits, both new and old. What changes have you made? Which will you keep? Which will you give up to return to "normal"? As you are asking yourself these questions, remember that waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, like water and energy conservation, are great habits even when times are good.

Here are some habits that you and your family can carry into the future:

- Carry a list when you shop. Evaluating what you have and making a list of what you need will help you "use up" what is in your house. This reduces waste, especially of food, and saves you money.
- Carry in your own shopping bags, refillable water bottles, and reusable coffee mugs. Eliminating unneeded packaging waste helps keep store costs lower and reduces litter and waste.
- Carry out your bank receipts, food orders, and more. Rather than heading to the drive-through and idling your vehicle, wast-

ing fuel and creating air pollution, stop, park, and walk. You'll get a bit of exercise, see people, save energy, and probably won't spend any more time.

- Carry over last year's supplies. Clean out last year's backpack for school. Organize your office and school supplies, using what you have before buying additional items.
- Carry forward items you no longer need, donating or selling usable goods to someone who can use them. Maybe you have a set of towels that doesn't match your new bathroom paint. Do you know a student heading off to college or a young adult moving into his or her own place? Offer them those usable linens.
- Carry away recyclable and recycled-content products from the store. While you are shopping, select items in containers that can be recycled in our local programs (called "pre-cycling" because you are planning ahead to recycle). Also, look for recycled-content products. Recycling markets have been hard hit by our economic downturn, so be sure you are closing the loop and buying items made from recyclables whenever possible.
- Carry your recyclables home. If you are out and don't see a recycling bin, take your containers and paper products home for recycling.
- Carry on. The key to good habits is keeping them up.



© Yopetro / SnapVillage.com



© Iofoto / SnapVillage.com



© P.P. Razzi / SnapVillage.com

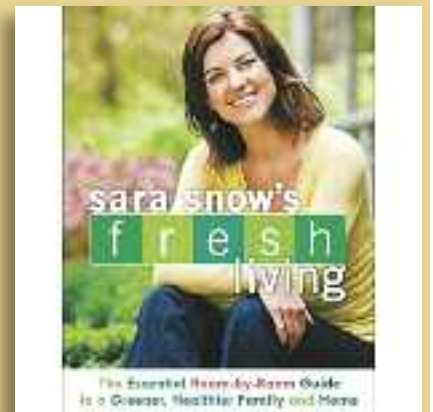
## Read more about it!

*A Conservationist Manifesto* by Scott Russell Sanders (Indiana University Press, 2009)



"My Year Without Spending" by Angela Barton – [www.myyearwithoutspending.blogspot.com](http://www.myyearwithoutspending.blogspot.com)

*Sara Snow's Fresh Living: The Essential Room-by-Room Guide to a Greener, Healthier Family and Home* by Sara Snow (Bantam Books, 2009)



The Simple Living Network – [www.simpleliving.net](http://www.simpleliving.net)

*To Buy or Not to Buy: Why We Overshop and How to Stop* by April Lane Benson (Trumpeter, 2008)

## Shop smart

When you plan ahead and shop smart, you can green your home and our planet and keep more green in your wallet, too! The phrases hidden in this puzzle will give you tips for making better use of what you already own and shopping smart for what you need.

**Find these phrases (look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally):**

- Bring your own bag
- Buy recycled
- Clean out closets
- Inventory pantry
- Make a list
- Organize
- Plan ahead
- Sort what you have
- Shop reused
- Use refillables

G H A A D G R R B X L G E Z I N A G R O  
 P B V E G Y Z D C V X K G W B W Q E C W  
 B P U M N D O G A N A A K I H W K S L I  
 N E S A E A J J E G E M J Z S I Y H E U  
 I X E K N V H O O A Q Q K R W D X O A G  
 N Z R E C W A H H B Y F W S Q T K P N Z  
 V E E A W Q Z H T N I T N J V P C R O Z  
 E N F L A R G M U W U U Q P G J W E U W  
 N L I I D E N P X O G M S D F P K U T Z  
 T Z L S A G T K A R Y E B A N M P S C R  
 O P L T E J F X F U Z T P U R S M E L F  
 R Z A Q H Z E A F O T P A T A D G D O U  
 Y T B R A O V F L Y Q E J H J U G M S G  
 P G L K N E M A A G T V J D W W K I E G  
 A M E B A A O Z O N B L Q W J T W G T K  
 N B S D L M I B O I T H V G Z I R R S F  
 T F S S P R Z X A R Z I G U F P I O K G  
 R T G S W Q T Y C B D Q C F X U P D S G  
 Y T J D W Z K W Q K F I Q W W F W P R G  
 D E L C Y C E R Y U B Q F F D U D N B P

# Judging the book by its COVER

Covering topics from adhesive notes and batteries to wrapping paper and yoga mats, *The Green Book* by Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen describes the “big picture” and then offers “little things” that you can do to make our planet a better place. In addition, each chapter offers three “simple steps” you can take to reduce your waste, conserve water, and save energy.

With chapter subtitles like “The Family Vacation That Ate the Planet” and “I Can’t Hang Out With You Because I Have to Call, Text, IM, and E-Mail My Friends All Day,” you’ll be entertained as you learn facts that will amaze your friends and relatives. For instance, reusing



© R. Bouwman / SnapVillage.com

paper clips could save American businesses \$1 million each year. In Las Vegas, a single 300-room hotel goes through 150,000 small plastic bottles of shampoo per year. By carrying your own refillable shampoo bottles, you benefit from bulk pricing and wipe out waste. Eliminating “phantom” electricity usage by putting electronics and small appliances on power strips and turning them all the way off when not in use could save \$5 billion in electricity each year. There are hundreds of tips on items in use at home, work, school, and more in categories ranging from technology and travel to shopping and sports.

The book includes about 50 pages of Internet resources by category and material.



© Bjeayes / SnapVillage.com

Add surfers to the list of sports enthusiasts who are recycling. ReSurf Recycling, founded by Joey Santley and Steve Cox, is taking old and broken surfboards. Most of the boards are pulverized and used as filler material in asphalt and concrete mixes and other products, such as fireproof roofing tiles. However, some of the boards are now used to create new polyurethane “blanks,” the foam that is shaped to create a new surfboard. Recently, they also began recycling neoprene wet-suit production scraps, turning them into yoga mats.

ReSurf joins other sports equipment makers in recycling: Necky, which makes recycled kayaks; Wilson, which produces the Rebound basketball from recycled rubber; Nike, which turns worn-out athletic shoes into Nike Grind track and playground surfaces; and Fair Trade Sports, which makes recycled footballs, basketballs, soccer and rugby balls, and more.

To learn more about surfboard recycling, visit [www.resurf.org](http://www.resurf.org).



## Home: The Big Picture

“On average, you create 4.5 pounds of trash every day. Over the course of your life, that will total six hundred times your average adult weight . . . in garbage. Broken down, your torso would be paper. One leg would be yard trimmings, the other food scraps. One arm would be plastic with a rubber hand. The other would be metal with a wood hand. Your head would be glass, and your neck would be all the other stuff. In the end, we will each leave a ninety-thousand-pound legacy of trash for our grandchildren.”

*From Chapter 1, The Green Book*

## A virtual arts and crafts fair

Are you an artist or crafter? Would you like to turn some of your creations into cash? Check out Etsy.com, an online marketplace where you can buy and sell “all things homemade.” The site features art, bags, candles, ceramics and pottery, clothing and scarves, furniture, holiday items, housewares, jewelry, knitting and needlecraft, paper goods, quilts, toys, woodworking, and more. If a craftsperson makes it, it is probably for sale at Etsy.

This is one of the largest online person-to-person sales sites for arts and crafts. Etsy has more than 250,000 artists and craftspeople displaying items, about 2.3 million members who may browse and buy, and about 10,000,000 unique visitors to the site each month. Total sales of

handcrafted goods through the site in 2008 were \$87.5 million. Currently, more than 3.6 million items are listed for sale.

For artists and crafters, the cost to advertise items on the site is minimal—20¢ per item for a four-month listing. When items are sold, the company collects a 3.5% commission on the sale.

To buy arts and crafts on Etsy, you need an account, which may be set up at no charge. You can search by category, by location, by color, by era (called “Time Machine”), and more. Like eBay, items that you purchase will be shipped directly to you by the seller.

To learn more about selling or buying products through Etsy, visit [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com).



Photos courtesy of Etsy.com

### FAST FACTS

- 67% of Americans believe that even in tough economic times, it is important to purchase products with environmental benefits.
- 51% are willing to pay more for these products.
- 77% agree that they can make a positive difference by purchasing products from environmentally responsible companies and are actively seeking information to verify green claims.
- 40% of consumers regularly buy environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Source: 2009 BBMG Conscious Consumer Report: Redefining Value in a New Economy

## Everyday environmentalists

America’s solid waste industry collected and processed more than 63 million tons of recyclables in 2007 and more than 22 million tons of yard and food waste for composting. It is facts like these that have led the industry group, the National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA), to kick off the “Environmentalists. Every Day.” campaign. Our nation’s 386,000 waste and recycling haulers and processors help keep our recycling, composting, and disposal programs moving forward, working as partners with local government and private businesses.

The NSWMA is also the sponsor of the “Slow Down to Get Around” campaign, which encourages drivers of vehicles to be more careful around waste and recycling trucks. Many accidents occur when motorists try to quickly pass slowed or stopped collection vehicles.

To learn more about the solid waste industry, visit [www.EnvironmentalistsEveryDay.org](http://www.EnvironmentalistsEveryDay.org).

## QUOTES REQUOTED



In order to live, we must use the earth—but we should not use it up. . . . We must conserve the minerals we mine and the products we manufacture, recycling them as thoroughly as a forest recycles twigs, leaves, fur, and bone.

Scott Russell Sanders, 1945–  
Writer and conservationist

# Recycling Facilities

## Curbside Collection

City of Spokane  
Solid Waste Management Department:  
625-7878

Cities of Deer Park, Liberty Lake,  
Millwood, Spokane Valley, and some unincorporated areas east of the City of Spokane

Waste Management: 924-9400

Fairchild Air Force Base  
Sunshine Recycling & Disposal: 924-5678

## Drop-Off

The Spokane Regional Solid Waste System operates three drop-off sites (see box).

## Community Drop-offs

Airway Heights  
Cheney  
Fairchild AFB  
Medical Lake

The Spokane Regional Solid Waste System maintains a local Recycling Hotline, 625-6800, which is staffed

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our Hotline operators will help guide you in finding options for the recycling and disposal of items that you need to get rid of. If you call outside of those work

hours, please leave a message, and your call will be returned on the next business day.

You can also find recycling and disposal information on the Recycling and Garbage Guide pages in the QwestDex Directory and on our website, [www.solidwaste.org](http://www.solidwaste.org).

## System facilities

The Spokane Regional Solid Waste System provides clean, convenient, one-stop drops for **recyclables, household hazardous waste, yard waste, and trash**. All residents in Spokane County have a choice of the following three locations:



**North County Recycling Center / Transfer Station**  
N. 22123 Elk-Chattaroy Road  
Intersection Elk-Chattaroy Road and Highway 2



**Valley Recycling Center / Transfer Station**  
3941 N. Sullivan Road  
South of Trent across from Spokane Industrial Park



**Waste To Energy Facility Recycling Center / Disposal Site**  
2900 S. Geiger Blvd.  
West of Spokane across from the Washington State Patrol



System sites offer "Clean Green" disposal during all hours of operation. Our System sites are now on summer hours (through September 30). Hours are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, with extended hours to 7 p.m. at all three System facilities on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. In addition, the Valley Transfer Station is open late on Thursdays.

On the days the sites are open late, a reduced rate for clean green starts at 3 p.m. The first 100 pounds are free and any amount over 100 pounds is charged at \$35/ton. At all other times, clean green is subject to a \$5 transaction fee plus \$35/ton for amounts over 280 pounds. Senior citizens (+62) may drop off 100 pounds free Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Haulers in Spokane County offer subscription service for curbside collection of clean green. The details for service may differ slightly, so please call your provider:

- City of Spokane, 625-7878
- Waste Management, Inc., 924-9400
- Sunshine Recycling and Disposal, 924-5678



Ann Murphy and Reanette Boese accepting the LASER award for SYEC.

# 12th Annual Spokane Youth Environmental Conference a Success

Nearly 100 students from Spokane County participated in the 12th annual Spokane Youth Environmental Conference held April 28 at Spokane Community College. Students from Central Valley High School, Freeman Middle School, M.E.A.D. Alternative High School, and West Valley City School participated.

Students who received a superior rating were: Drew Brown, David Ross, Kelsey Solberg, Madison Hilpert, Dallin Squires, and Rahmi Nemri from Central Valley High School; Rob Smoot, Ben Carasco, and Claire Hulse from Freeman Middle School; and Annalee Foster,

Mackenzie Pierce, Ty Laboy, Connor Macklin, and Joe Crowe from West Valley City School.

Funds for school and individual awards are provided through the generous support of Altek Inc., Big Horn Foundation/Inland NW Wildlife Council, Budinger & Associates, Central Pre-Mix/Inland Asphalt, CH2M Hill, Geo Engineers, Hollister-Stier, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Rings & Things, Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, Spokane County Conservation District, TransCanada, Washington State Employees Credit Union, and Wells Fargo.

## SYEC receives award

In May, the Spokane Youth Environmental Conference project team received a Science Education Advocate Award from Washington State LASER (Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform) for SYEC's efforts to improve science education in Washington State. The recognition includes a \$5,000 award that will be used to increase participation in the conference for 2010.



# Heat up your composting efforts

Summer is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and jumpstart your home composting efforts. As you are mowing your lawn, weeding your garden, and trimming bushes and trees, turn your yard waste into garden gold in a backyard compost bin. If you need help solving compost problems or getting started, call the Recycling Hotline, 625-6800, to request information.



By composting at home, you can reduce garbage and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, the System distributed over 1,000 compost bins. If at least 1,000 bins are in use, that means 74 tons of yard trimmings have been recycled and 1.65 tons of greenhouse gas have been eliminated.

The Master Composters also make presentations to garden clubs, civic groups, and others. If your group would like to learn more about composting, call the Hotline and ask to speak to a Master Composter.

Mark your calendars now—the next Compost Fair will be held Saturday, October 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Arboretum.



We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Spokane Regional Solid Waste System  
221 N. Wall Street, Suite 410  
Spokane, WA 99201-0825  
(509) 625-6580  
[www.solidwaste.org](http://www.solidwaste.org)  
[amurphy@spokanecity.org](mailto:amurphy@spokanecity.org)

Funded by the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System with partial funding provided by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology

Copyright© 2009

Spokane Regional Solid Waste System and Eco Partners, Inc. All rights reserved.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER  
70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS CONTENT, USING SOY INKS



Spokane Regional Solid Waste System

## WASTE TO ENERGY REPORT CARD

Working Together!

January–March 2009

**Garbage In**  
62,754 tons disposed  
61,012 tons processed at the WTE Facility  
2,092 tons of ferrous metal recovered from the ash for recycling  
17,033 tons of ash disposed at Rabanco

**Electricity Generation**  
36,569 MWh produced  
6,522 MWh used to run the facility  
29,501 MWh sold to Puget Sound Energy

**Notice of Violation** None  
**Revenues after Electricity Transmission Expenses** \$3,117,122



Wheellabrador Spokane Inc.