

# Bend Community Newsletter

Recycling, Organics and Waste Services



## Oregon's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

The Recycling Modernization Act is an update to Oregon's recycling system that will expand recycling opportunities and provide a consistent list of recyclable materials throughout the state.

### What to Expect

- ✓ New materials accepted in your mixed recycling cart at the curb or at drop-off depots.
- ✓ New materials include **pizza boxes** (no food residue), **food and beverage cartons** (milk cartons, juice boxes, soup cartons), **scrap metal** (less than 10 lbs. and 18 inches).
- ✓ Plastic screw-on caps are allowed on plastic bottles, jars and jugs – if they are screwed on (no loose caps). Examples include soda bottle caps, milk jug caps and plastic laundry jug tops.
- ✗ **No longer accepted:** shredded paper. Shredded paper collected in a mixed recycling stream is unable to be successfully recovered and needs to be collected separately. Shredded paper can be recycled in a separate container for free at Deschutes Recycling, located at Knott Landfill.

Watch for an updated recycling guide coming soon, or download one at [RepublicServices.com/centraloregon](https://www.RepublicServices.com/centraloregon).

## Organics Collection and Composting

Composting yard debris and food scraps turns organic waste into a nutrient-rich soil and offers benefits like reduced landfill waste and reduced methane emissions. Compost also helps soil retain moisture, requiring less watering.

Composting at home is a great way to recycle organic matter, like grass clippings, old plants, fruit and vegetative scraps, flowers and leaves.

If you don't have space to compost at home, sign up for city yard debris/food waste collection service. Acceptable materials include meat, dairy, baked goods, produce, plate scraps, coffee grounds and yard debris. No plastic bags, to-go food containers, grease/oil, trash or pet waste.

Place food and yard debris loose in the cart. Layer yard debris and food waste to help keep the cart cleaner and odor-free. Collection is every other week within city limits.

Contact Republic Services to sign up at **541.382.2263**. Learn more about home composting at [Rethinkwasteproject.org](https://www.Rethinkwasteproject.org).

## Making Healthy Food Accessible

The High Desert Food & Farm Alliance (HDDFA) is invested in a just and equitable food system where people have access to quality, healthy, locally grown fresh food. Some of the programs and resources offered include:

**Fresh Harvest Kits** - ready-to-make meal kits prepared for those experiencing food insecurity. Each kit contains locally sourced produce, pantry staples and recipe cards to create a nutritious meal.

**Grow & Give** - more than 30,000 lbs. pounds of food were collected last year from farmers, gardeners and community members and delivered to NeighborImpact, Bethlehem Inn and Family Kitchen for those in need.

**Food & Farm Directory** - the directory is a great resource to find local foods.

If you are an individual or business and would like to support food rescue program efforts, or would like information on assistance programs, contact **541.390.3572** or visit [hddfa.org](https://www.hddfa.org).

# PREVENT WASTE IN CENTRAL OREGON



► Waste prevention is all about using less stuff. It's about making thoughtful choices before we buy or use things, considering how everything from production to disposal (upstream to downstream) impacts people and our planet.

## RETHINKING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH STUFF

UPSTREAM IMPACTS ARE FAR GREATER  
FOR EVERY POUND OF WASTE WE  
GENERATE AT HOME, THERE ARE AN  
ADDITIONAL 71 POUNDS GENERATED  
UPSTREAM\*



# 70%

OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS  
COME FROM EXTRACTING, TRANSPORTING,  
MANUFACTURING, STORING, USING, AND  
DISPOSING OF OUR FOOD AND STUFF\*\*

THE WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY  
PRIORITIZES PREVENTION



### REUSE TIPS

- Fix your broken stuff before buying new – learn to repair at the next Repair Café or join the fixer volunteer list to share your skills with others
- Shop secondhand first and “donate with dignity”\*\*\*
- Make your next event low-waste with the Rethink Waste Project’s free, washable dishware kits
- Make reusable swaps – keep shopping and produce bags, water bottles, coffee cups, dishware/silverware kits handy... What other items can you think of?

### REDUCE TIPS

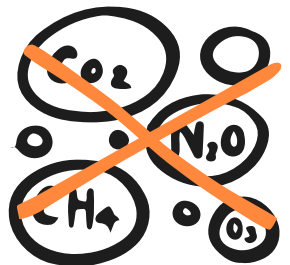
- Rethink about it – before you buy, ask yourself if you really need it
- Borrow and share – checkout more than just books (and try it before you buy it) through the Deschutes Public Library’s Library of Things
- Take the Rethink Waste Food Waste Challenge to learn what and how much food is going to waste in your home, and practice strategies to love food, not waste
- Support food rescue, like the HDEFA’s Grow & Give program, which redirects excess fresh produce to Central Oregonians experiencing food insecurity

► While our choices make a big impact, it’s also important to advocate for policy changes and business practices that support and enable these low-waste choices in the first place.

## LOVE FOOD, NOT WASTE



WHY PREVENTION IS KEY  
PREVENTING FOOD WASTE IN  
THE FIRST PLACE HAS OVER  
6 TIMES THE GREENHOUSE  
GAS REDUCTION POTENTIAL  
OVER SIMPLY KEEPING FOOD  
OUT OF LANDFILLS\*\*\*\*\*



LEARN MORE AT  
[RETHINKWASTEPROJECT.ORG](http://RETHINKWASTEPROJECT.ORG)

