



RECYCLING PROVES BOON TO ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

By Dana DuGan, Excerpt reprinted with permission from The Weekly Sun

Cruise around town on garbage pick-up day and you'll see who among your neighbors are paying attention. Garbage cans overflow with cardboard, bottles and cans; there are no blue bins next to the garbage holding cans, paper and plastic. This happens despite the fact that the majority of people know that recycling is as necessary as tossing garbage out. And is better for the environment. In fact, landfills are the largest source of human-caused methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

The many benefits of recycling include the reduction of waste sent to landfills and incinerators, the conservation of natural resources, the increase of jobs, the prevention of pollution, and energy savings.

In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency released a Recycling Economic Information study on the benefits of the recycling industry, which analyzed the numbers of jobs, wages and tax revenues attributed to recycling. The study found that, in a single year, 757,000 jobs were added, with \$36.5 billion in wages and \$6.7 billion in tax revenues. By recycling even 30 percent of waste every year, Americans save the equivalent of 11.9 billion gallons of gasoline and reduce the greenhouse gas equivalent of taking 25 million cars off the road.

During the holidays, there is even more need to be aware of what recycling is and how it works due to the excess boxes and waste paper, both of which can be recycled.

The EPA began enforcing recycling in 1988. Today, more than 9,000 curbside recycling programs exist, helping to diminish the amount of harmful chemical leaching from rubbish thrown in landfills.

In 1991, the Idaho Legislature passed a law authorizing the formation of regional waste districts. In 1992, the Southern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District opened transfer stations in seven counties, including three in Blaine

County, at Ohio Gulch, Carey and one at West Magic.

SISW's seven owner counties disposed of a total of 171,840 tons of waste at the Milner Butte Landfill in Burley over the last year. The cost to each county includes a share of landfill system costs, the cost of transferring waste from each county to Milner Butte Landfill, and each county's share of the cost of resource recovery and diversion programs. Counties make money back from the sale of recycled cans and plastics.

According to 5B Recycles, the Blaine County Recycling & Waste Diversion Program, it is vital that only items that are recyclable be placed in the curbside bins and dumpsters. Even a small amount of wrong material can cause contamination, making it non-recyclable (trash), cause injury to our employees, and harm equipment. For instance, leaving Styrofoam inside boxes, which are recycled at various locations in the Valley, will contaminate the entire load.

While glass is no longer picked up curbside, it can still be collected at various drop-offs, where it is collected, crushed and used as backfill. If customers put glass into garbage waste, it contributes to the filling up of

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CCD Holiday Schedule

There will be no collection of waste or recyclables on the following holidays:

Christmas: Monday, December 25

New Year's Day: Monday, January 1

All collections following a weekday holiday will be delayed one day, with Friday collections moved to Saturday.



Drop Off Recycling:

Available at the following locations

- Blaine County** Recycle Center (Ohio Gulch)
- Carey** Transfer Station
- Hailey** Park & Ride (NW Corner of River/Bullion)
- Hailey** Fire Department (617 3rd Ave. S.)
- Ketchum**, East end of 4th Street (behind LDS church), No Glass
- Ketchum**, 110 Saddle Road (next to YMCA)
- Sun Valley** City Hall, (all sorted materials, no glass)
- Elkhorn** Fire Station, 100 Arrowleaf Road (all sorted curbside materials, cardboard and glass)

NITTY GRITTY:

- Corrugated Cardboard** (has the wavy layer in the middle)
- No:** Packaging materials
- Glass Bottle & Jars** (diverted, not recycled): labels and neck rings OK
- No:** plate glass, ceramics, bulbs.

CITY SERVICES:

- Sun Valley:** Up to six bins per household and labels are available free. Residents pay \$71.76 every three months for weekly garbage and recycling pick-up directly to Clear Creek Disposal.
- Ketchum:** Residents pay \$70.20 every three months for weekly garbage and recycling pick-up directly to Clear Creek Disposal. Additional carts are \$3.30 per quarter, per cart.
- Hailey:** Billing for weekly garbage and recycling pick-up is through the City of Hailey and is included on the water/sewer bill.
- Bellevue:** Recycling collection is also weekly, with curbside pick-up of unlimited sorted recyclables. Billed quarterly; cost is \$4.95 per month.
- Blaine County:** Optional recycling collection is also weekly, with curbside pick-up of unlimited sorted recyclables. Billed quarterly; cost is \$4.95 per month.

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lined dumpsites. On the other hand, reusing glass bottles and jars requires no energy. Once glass is tossed out, about one million years will pass before that glass breaks down at the landfill. In fact, reuse and preycling are also highly recommended as ways to reduce personal waste.



For more information on recycling and waste disposal, visit the following websites: 5Brecycles.org, sisw.org and ccdisposal.com.

TREE-CYCLING

Send your dying Christmas tree off for a new life as mulch. Clear Creek Disposal will have collection locations in Hailey at the Park-n-Ride Lot on the northwest corner of Bullion and River streets, and in Ketchum at the YMCA's north parking lot. Trees with *all the decorations removed* can be left at the Clear Creek Banner, starting the day after Christmas through January 15. Trees are taken to the Ohio Gulch Transfer Station where they are eventually chipped, and made available for use as mulch or compost.



Tree-Cycle: 2 weeks after Christmas ONLY!