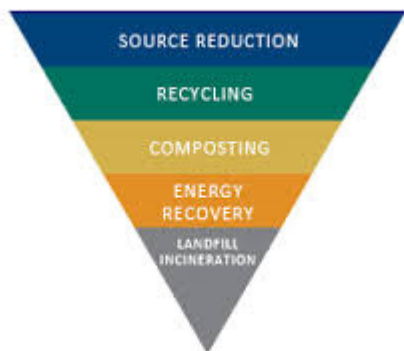


1. ***“Why Bother with Recycling?”***
 2. ***“Don't Torch Your Trash!”***
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1. You might ask “What’s all the fuss about recycling? Doesn’t it all end up in the garbage anyway?” Actually, recycling not only saves the Earth’s precious resources, but all those recyclables you collect, clean, sort and take to your local depot end up being processed into new products.
2. You might not give a thought to what ends up in your burn barrel...but you should. Not just because it might be illegal to burn it, but because it fouls up our air and contributes to pollution. Recycling isn’t just for our kids and grandkids, it’s for everyone.

Did you know that Oregon’s recycling history laws go back to 1983? Back then, it was widely believed that Oregon was going to run out of landfill space. This belief, in part, led to Oregon’s first “Opportunity to Recycle” Act. This act created strategies for preventing waste, for reuse and recycling, and set up a hierarchy to manage solid waste:

- First, **Reduce** the amount of waste generated;
- Next, **Reuse** materials for their original intended use;
- Next, **Recycle** what can’t be reused;
- **Compost** (organic materials) that can’t be reused or recycled
- Recover **Energy** from what can’t be reused, recycled or composted
- Finally, **Dispose** of residual material safely.



This act also required wastesheds to establish recycling depots. (A wasteshed is the same as a county, except for the city of Milton-Freewater and Metro). It also required cities in Oregon with populations of over 4,000 to provide curbside recycling collection to all garbage service customers.

In 1991, the 1983 Oregon Recycling Act broadened recycling requirements. It set a statewide recovery goal of 50 percent by the year 2000 and short-term recovery goals for individual wastesheds by 1995. By the year 2000, Oregon had not met its recovery goal of 50 percent; so in 2001 a bill was passed that set a statewide recovery goal of 45 percent for 2005 and 50 percent for 2009. In order to help meet this statewide recovery goal, each wasteshed set new voluntary recovery goals for 2005 and 2009.

So let’s talk about Morrow Wasteshed. The Morrow Wasteshed is all of the area within Morrow County. The recovery rate for Morrow Wasteshed was set at 18 percent for calendar years 2005 through 2008 and 20 percent for calendar year 2009 and subsequent years.

And how have we done? Overall, we've done pretty well. We've achieved and surpassed our recovery goal of 20 percent since 2009 for almost every year. We fell just a little bit short in 2013. So what recycling services does Morrow Wasteshed offer? And what happens when we don't meet our goal?

Let's go with the second question first. The regulations stated the following:

"If a wasteshed does not achieve its 2005 or 2009 waste recovery goal, the wasteshed shall conduct a technical review of existing policies or programs and determine revisions to meet the recovery goal. The department shall, upon the request of the wasteshed, assist in the technical review. The wasteshed may request, and may assist the department in conducting, a technical review to determine whether the wasteshed goal is valid."

So, in other words, if Morrow wasteshed doesn't meet its goal, we (as in the local government) are supposed to conduct a review of our recycling programs and see what we need to do to meet our goal. DEQ can help us with the review.

What kinds of recycling services are available in Morrow wasteshed?

Morrow County has mainly a rural population. Major commercial recycling is too far away from our citizens and businesses – so recycling services are limited. Most of the recycling efforts are focused on providing recycling containers in various locations in the cities, at the transfer station in Lexington and near Boardman and at Finley Buttes Landfill. Materials accepted for recycling are generally: flattened cardboard boxes, newspaper, glass, tin and aluminum. While the County does not have any dedicated personnel to develop and implement County-wide reuse, composting or recycling programs, we do have an informational brochure called "Recycle Today" which is available to citizens and businesses.

A collection and composting program for commercial and institutional food waste, non-recyclable paper and other compostable waste is not yet available but Morrow County is working on making this available.

Morrow County tries to keep access to all avenues of recycling available. Other recycling opportunities supported by Morrow County include:

- Morrow County Residence are allowed to dump televisions, computers and monitors, and all electronic waste items **FREE** of charge.
- Latex and oil based paints may be recycled **FREE** of charge to County residents. .
- Morrow County Transfer Stations will waive the fee for the disposal of large items such as furniture, home appliances, washers, dryers, refrigerators, water heaters and mattresses for residents of Morrow large items can be disposed of **FREE** of charge.

Morrow County would like to remind you of the County Ordinance 5.010 Transportation of Solid Waste. *No person shall transport or self-haul, as defined in the Solid Waste Management Plan, solid waste on a public road unless such waste or solid waste is covered and secured.* Be aware that Morrow County will attach a \$10.00 fine to anyone not complying with this County Ordinance.

You will be required to show proof of residence in the County with identification. Containers for Electronics Waste and Paint drop off are located at the North Transfer Station 69900 Frontage Ln. Boardman and the South Transfer Station 57185 Hwy 74, Lexington. Any questions or concerns please call Sandi Putman at Morrow County Public Works 541-989-9500.