



# Blue's News

Summer/Fall 2006

## Curbside Recycling: Why We Sort & Where Does it go?

Boise is a fabulous city—that's why we live here. We have nice weather, a beautiful downtown, great shopping, friendly citizens, and curbside recycling.

*Curbside recycling?* How did that sneak onto the list? Believe it or not, curbside recycling is a coveted service in Idaho. Only a handful of places in our state offer curbside recycling. In those select communities the citizens sort their recyclable materials into paper bags.

### Sort? Why do we need to sort our recyclable materials?

People in some other states mix their recyclable materials into one container (called co-mingling) so why not us? There are several answers to this question.

- In cities like Portland and Seattle, people simply throw their recyclables into one curbside container which is dumped into a big truck and taken to their local MRF (Materials Recovery Facility.) MRFs are big warehouses where co-mingled

recyclables are separated by commodity (i.e. plastic, aluminum, etc.) Some of the separating is automated but most of it is done by hand. Once the materials have been sorted, they are baled by commodity and shipped around the world for re-use. The problem is: we don't have a MRF in Idaho... so now what?

- Each of our households is a mini-MRF! We separate the materials ourselves before setting them out at the curb. The recycling trucks in Boise keep the materials separated by utilizing six different compartments—one for each of the six materials collected curbside: plastic, cans, newspaper, magazines, mixed-paper & cardboard.
- By separating the materials ourselves (instead of shipping them to a MRF out of state) our materials are worth more. The more valuable the commodity, the more funds we have to offset the cost of

providing your recycling service.

### Where do the recyclable materials go once they are loaded onto the truck?

All of the recyclable materials collected in Boise go to Western Recycling. Once there the truck unloads its material into separate containers by commodity. Bales are then made from each material. These bales are shipped around the world for re-use. The specific end-use sites are:

- Newspaper & magazines go to newsprint mills for repulping. They will be made into new newspapers and magazines.
- Cans are shipped to Alcoa or Alcan where they are melted down into metal sheets which are used to make new cans.
- Plastics are sent to China where they are further sorted, ground, washed and re-made into recycled plastic products.



- Cardboard is sent to paper mills where it is remade into new cardboard.
- Mixed-Paper is sent to sort facilities in Portland and Tacoma where it is sorted and broken down into filler which can be used by paper mills.

You now have the real scoop on curbside recycling in Idaho— We sort because we currently have no MRF and want to keep our cost of service as low as possible. We take our materials to Western Recycling where they are baled and shipped out of Idaho for re-use. And...most importantly, recycling is the right thing to do regardless of your protocol!

Questions? Call 685-7739 or e-mail [rachele.klein@awin.com](mailto:rachele.klein@awin.com)

## Garbage 101: How to Set-Out Your Trash Properly



**Always keep Hazardous Waste out of your trash!**

© *Safety is our first concern!* Trash and recycling should be set out by 7 a.m. because actual collection times can vary based on conditions (weather, construction, etc.) Your trash should be easy to reach (not blocked by vehicles, shrubs, trees, etc.), and all containers should be removed from the curb within 24 hours.

© *Limit the size and weight of your containers.* Cans should be between 20 and 35 gallons and weigh less than 60 pounds. Wheeled carts may be filled up to 200 pounds. Containers should be easy to empty and not packed too tightly.

© *Contain your garbage* in tightly closed plastic garbage bags, trash cans with lids, or wheeled carts from Allied Waste. This will minimize odors, keep pets out, prevent the contents from spilling, and block rainwater.

© *Bundle shrubs and tree limbs* into 4' lengths weighing less than 60 pounds. (continued on back)

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## Habitat for Humanity gets a Helping Hand

BFI/Allied Waste & Boise City recently joined forces to help Habitat for Humanity by donating waste disposal services for the "Habitat" they are currently building in Boise.

Habitat for Humanity is committed to minimizing waste on their jobsite. They are diverting all of their wood waste and cardboard into separate containers which are recycled with help of the Ada County Landfill and Western Recycling.

A family of six will move in to this new home when it is completed in Fall 2006.



*This Habitat for Humanity house is being constructed near Capital High School in Boise.*

### (Garbage 101—continued)

© Household Hazardous Waste (fluorescent lights, batteries, paint, fertilizer, etc.) must be kept out of your trash and taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Ada County Landfill (call 577-4725 for hours), or at one of the collection sites in and around Boise. Call Boise Public Works (384-3901) or [http://www.cityofboise.org/public\\_works/services](http://www.cityofboise.org/public_works/services) for the location nearest you.

## Saying Good-Bye to Some Old Friends

We've all been there—the golden crossroads where we say good-bye to some of our favorite old items. Whether it is the BBQ you got as a wedding gift, or the lawnmower you purchased when you bought your first house, there always comes a time to say "good-bye." The question is, how do you get rid of these larger items? The emotional break is up to you, but we can help you on the disposal end.

**Lawnmowers** need to have the oil and gasoline removed before they can be set-out at the curb or preferably taken to Western or Pacific Recycling for recycling. The gasoline and oil can be taken to the mobile household hazardous waste station in your neighborhood. Call *Boise Public Works at 384-3901* to find the site closest to you. Don't worry about the tires, they can be left on and thrown out with the mower. Most importantly, BFI/Allied Waste will *only* pick up items that are labeled



as trash. Something along the lines of "BFI/Allied Waste—Throw Mower Away" will suffice. This is important. You may know it is trash, but we have to be certain! We've seen some

pretty worn-out items be proudly pulled back into the garage or yard at the end of the day!

**Trash cans** might be dented, rusted and totally useless, but our drivers will leave them...until you give them the signal. Simply set your can at the curb (full or empty) and label it "Throw Can Away."



**BBQs** are similar to lawnmowers in that they need some prep-work before heading for the curb or the recycling center. Propane tanks need to be removed and either used with your new BBQ, or safely disposed of by taking them to your neighborhood household hazardous waste

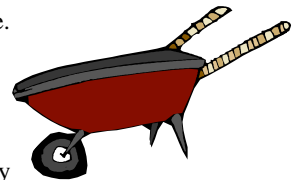


station. If you have a BBQ that doesn't rely on propane, you're in great shape. Just drag it out to the curb and label it as trash, or take it to your local recycling center and give it a second chance. If there are any wheels on your BBQ, don't worry, they can stay put and be

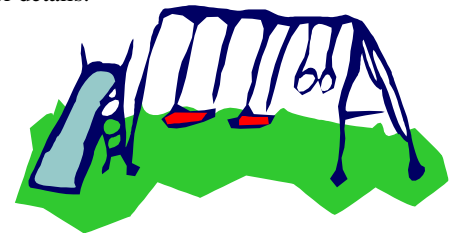
treated as garbage.

### Wheelbarrows

need to have their front tire removed before they can be thrown away or recycled. Once it is removed, label your wheelbarrow as trash (just like the other items), and we will take it off your hands. For recycling, the tire and wooden handles need to be removed.



**Playground equipment**—Metal or plastic playground equipment can be disassembled and disposed of at the curb or taken to Western Recycling. Please call them at 375-8580 for details.



Remember—although these items are "old" to you, they can easily be recycled into new materials and given a second life!