

# SOLID WASTE NEWS

February 2014

## *Pilot Project Offering Free Recycling of Small Electronics Available at Hazo Hut*

Wondering what to do with that electronic appliance you're replacing with the new one you got for Christmas? A pilot project allowing the free recycling of small, corded electronic items – not including televisions, computer monitors and towers, and lap tops – is now available on days the Hazo Hut at the Central Transfer Station, Centralia, is open to the public.

This pilot project is available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., every Wednesday, and the first and third Saturdays of each month at the Hazo Hut. Mark Bronson, Moderate Risk Waste Coordinator for the Lewis County Solid Waste Utility, explains that the offer will go through June 30, 2015, at which time it will be reevaluated to see how successful it was.

"Our goal is to recycle small, corded electronic items, many of which contain metal and other valuable materials, that otherwise would go to the landfill," Mark Bronson explains.

We also accept small copiers, keyboards, scanners, DVD players, stereos, cell phones, cable boxes, electric heaters, coffee makers, small microwaves and printers. A recycling company from Portland picks up electronic items collected at the



**Mark Bronson, Lewis County Solid Waste Utility's Moderate Risk Waste Coordinator, gets small corded electronics ready to be picked up by an electronics recycler. A pilot project allowing free recycling of small electronics is available at the Hazo Hut on days it is open to the public – every Wednesday and the first and third Saturdays.**

Hazo Hut once a month. Customers pay the disposal fee if small electronic items are brought to the transfer station on days that the Hazo Hut is not open, and the items are taken to the tipping floor for disposal with the refuse.

Televisions, computer monitors and towers, and lap tops are accepted any day at the transfer stations for a fee - \$8 for televisions, computer monitors, and lap tops, and \$2 for computer towers. We suggest that you take advantage of the Washington State free program for the recycling of televisions, computer monitors and towers, and lap tops by dropping them off at the following local collectors for the state program: **Goodwill Store on Harrison Avenue in Centralia, Visiting Nurses' Thrift Shop on South Pearl Street in Centralia, Visiting Nurses' Thrift Shop on South Market Boulevard in Chehalis, and Tiger Mountain Technologies in Morton.** The state e-cycle program is only available for televisions, computer monitors and towers, and lap tops.

For questions or more information, call Mark Bronson at 360-740-1221 toll free at 1-800-749-5980.

## **LEWIS COUNTY SOLID WASTE UTILITY**

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## ***Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge Continues***

Lewis County residents helped keep more than 139,000 plastic bags out of the landfill, where they would have been buried forever.

The plastic bags were recycled during a six-month challenge sponsored by the Trex Company, the world's largest manufacturer of wood-alternative decking, porches, railing, lighting, trim, framing, and furniture. Those plastic bags weighed nearly 2,000 pounds. Trex takes the plastic bags and uses them in its recycling process to make the composite decking material and lumber.

Lewis County businesses are invited to participate in the Trex Plastic Bag Challenge that runs for six months. Some businesses have already started their challenges and will collect bags through the end of April. Businesses that collect more than 500 pounds of bags will be eligible to receive a bench from Trex made from recycled plastic. Call Melanie Case, recycling program coordinator for the Lewis County Solid Waste Utility, at 360-740-1452 or toll free at 1-800-749-5980, to get sign-up information.

Plastic bags are being accepted at the following locations through April:

- **Central Transfer Station, 1411 S. Tower Ave., Centralia**
- **East Lewis County Transfer Station, 6745 U.S. Hwy. 12, Morton**
- **Lewis County Courthouse, 351 N.W. North St., Chehalis**
- **New Life Home Supply, 203 W. Reynolds Ave., Centralia**
- **Packwood Ace Hardware, 104 Rainier Ave. N., Packwood**
- **KELA/KMNT, 1635 S. Gold St., Centralia**

Customers may drop off empty plastic bags that are **clean and dry** for free at any of the locations. Types of plastic bags that can be recycled in the program include grocery bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, and bubble wrap.

Plastic bags are **not** accepted in the curbside recycling program in Lewis County or the commingled collection bins at the transfer stations. Plastic bags get caught in the gears of the sorting machine at the automated sorting facility where recyclable materials collected curbside and at the transfer stations are taken. **For questions about recycling, call Melanie Case at 360-740-1452 or toll free at 1-800-749-5980.**

## ***Composting and Soils Workshops Scheduled for 2014***

Learn about composting and soil at workshops offered by WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter (MRC) volunteers.

The MRC program, co-sponsored by Washington State University and Lewis County, teaches the public how to reduce, reuse, and recycle solid waste. Below is the list of 2014 composting and soils workshops to be taught in various Lewis County locations:

- **Worm Composting\***
  - Feb. 26 – Toledo Senior Center
  - April 1 – Randle Library
  - May 21 – WSU Lewis Co. Extension Office, Chehalis
  - June 16 – Mossyrock Community Center
- **Composting Basics (Classroom)**
  - Feb. 12 – WSU Lewis Co. Extension Office, Chehalis
  - March 4 – Olequa Senior Center, Winlock
  - May 6 – Randle Library
  - June 11 – Toledo Senior Center
  - July 28 – Packwood Senior Center
  - August 5 – A location in Pe Ell to be announced
- **Know Your Soils Workshop\*\***
  - March 12 – WSU Lewis Co. Extension Office, Chehalis
  - Sept. 10 – Packwood Senior Center
  - October 7 – Olequa Senior Center, Winlock
- **Hands On Composting (All at the Central Transfer Station in Centralia)**
  - April 5
  - May 3
  - June 7
  - July 5
  - August 2
  - Sept. 6

**\*Pre-registration in the Worm Composting workshop is required to receive free worm bin materials.**

**\*\*Space is limited for the Know Your Soils Workshop. Pre-registration and preparation for the class are required.**

For more information about the MRC program, please call 360-740-1212 or email [debbie.burris@lewiscountywa.gov](mailto:debbie.burris@lewiscountywa.gov). Also get more information on the MRC web page: <http://lewiscountvrecycles.org>.