

## When you cannot "REUSE" Please Recycle.

Recycling is the next best thing that extends out natural resources.

The EPA estimates that 75 percent of what Americans throw in the trash could actually be recycled.

- earth911.org

Incinerating 10,000 tons of waste creates one job; land filling 10,000 tons of waste creates six jobs; **recycling** 10,000 tons of waste **creates 36 jobs.**

- earth911.org

The national recycling rate of 30 percent saves the equivalent of more than five billion gallons of gasoline, reducing dependence on foreign oil by 114 million barrels.

- earth911.org

Josephine County has a recovery rate of over 41%. This means out of all the garbage generated, 41% was either recycled to be used as raw material for new products, reused or composted.

- DEQ Material Recovery Report, 2009

Oregon and Josephine County gets accolades for lowering our carbon footprint!

Per-capita, the average Oregonian generates approximately 2,444 pounds of waste. In the waste generation game, less is more.

*Josephine County residents are doing a great job, producing less than the state average with 1,878 pounds per person.*

- DEQ Material Recovery Report, 2009



There are plenty of ways to reduce waste. Just look around, if you see something that is ready to be discarded – think first, maybe it could be used as a second generation product. This is the type of thinking that really helps to reduce items in the waste stream. It adds more value to the product and it saves valuable resources.



*A good example of this is an old tire. Make it into a rope swing where it can be enjoyed for years.*

### 3 Easy Reminders to Reduce Waste:

- Plan Ahead
- Shop Smart
- Extend Product Life



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# What's your carbon footprint?



## Reducing Waste.

How you can do your part.



Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.



# Our world is a beautiful place. Together, we can help to protect our natural resources.

## What is a Carbon Footprint?

The carbon footprint is the percent of humanity's overall Ecological Footprint on our planet. It's a symptom of human consumption on natural resources reaching a critical tipping point. Humanity's carbon footprint has increased at rates that have generated concern for the planet. Reducing humanity's carbon footprint is the most essential step we can take to end overshoot and live within the means of our planet.

## Simple Ways You Can Reduce Waste

### Plan Ahead:

- When you go shopping, consider the items that are on your list. Are all the items necessary? Are you buying more than you need? Will you have any waste?



### Shop Smart:

- Does oversized packaging bother you? Sometimes you can choose between purchasing an item that is convenient with "inflated packaging" as compared to an item with minimal packaging. If you must buy the larger packaged products, at least look for items packaged with recyclable materials.

### Extend Product Life:

- Packaging can be used for multiple usages. A plastic container may be perfect for storing nuts & bolts, or it could be used as a small paint bucket. There are multiple ways to reduce waste when you reuse items in different ways that they were intended for.



### Product Life:

- Consider the expected life of an item you are about to buy. Is it energy efficient? Will it be replaced as often? What are the disposal options?



### Donations:

- When you are finished with a product that is still in good condition, you may want to donate it. Others may be able to find reclaimed value in the product.



### Don't Buy It - Try Renting:

- There may be times when you need a product that you will have a limited usage for. Instead of buying it only to have it lay around to collect dust, ultimately ending up in the landfill, try renting it instead. It will probably save you money in the long run. Renting reduces waste and many people share in the productivity of the same resource.



### Share Your Magazines:

- Consider taking your magazines to doctors offices, waiting rooms, common places. It extends the life of the product and others can enjoy them too.



### Give It A Face-lift:

- Sometimes products are discarded because we are just tired of them. Rather than throwing it away, give them a new look. The extended resources of your favorite chair is a good example.



### Composting Is A Great Natural Resource

- Composting is nature's way of breaking down elements such as yard trimmings, leaves, and other organic matter. It returns valuable nutrients back into your soil organically and helps reduce waste that would end up in the landfills. Composting is safe, effective, and can save you money.

