

IMPORTANT EVENT DATES

October 29 - National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

10am – 2pm, participating Fred Meyer stores (Abbott & Lake Otis Parkway, Debarr & Muldoon Road, Eagle River) Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson BX, and the new VA Medical Center-Anchorage across from Tikahtnu Commons.

Drop off your unused or expired prescription or over-the-counter medications for free. The Alaska Safe Medicine Alliance, in partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, is hosting safe drug disposal sites in Anchorage and throughout Alaska. Call 800-882-9539 or visit www.dea.gov for details and a list of additional locations.

November 15 - America Recycles Day

Look for celebrations and educational events throughout November. This year will feature juried art exhibits for revAmp-Recycle-resTOre at the International Gallery of Contemporary Art, the 4th Avenue Marketplace, and other “green” locations throughout Anchorage. Visit the America Recycles Day website at www.americarecyclesday.org for details of this year’s events. Just search by zipcode.



Dec. 28–Jan. 15 - Christmas Tree Recycling

Drop off your tree at the clearly marked areas of Carrs parking lots in Anchorage, Eagle River and Palmer between Wednesday, December 28 and Sunday, January 15. Be sure to remove all lights, ornaments, tree stands, tinsel, and plastic bags before leaving your tree. No wreathes are accepted because they have wires in them. The trees are processed into wood chips and used for trail cover, erosion control and mulch by local nonprofits and government agencies. Boy Scout Troop 268 will pick up trees for a small donation. Call 868-8899. Sponsored by ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling), with support from Carrs and the Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services.

Anchorage Composting and Biodiesel Continue to Grow

Alaska Green Waste Solutions, a subsidiary of Alaska Waste, continues to build its composting and biodiesel businesses. The composting program is diverting about 400 tons of organics from the landfill each year, including produce waste from local grocery stores and horse manure from local horse owners. The compost goes to Green Earth Landworks (see page 5) to be used in products sold locally. The company also collects waste cooking oil and grease from area restaurants and is now running 85% of its Anchorage truck fleet on a biodiesel blend. And the project should keep growing as hotels and restaurants from Denali National Park and Talkeetna to Kenai and Soldotna seek to get involved. Visit www.alaskawaste.com and click on the Environmental Stewardship link for more information.

Table of Contents

Important Event Dates	3
A Hometown Story: Green Alaska Solutions	3
Closing the Loop: Buying Recycled	4
Where to Buy Recycled in Alaska	5
Curbside Recycling	6
Map of Drop-off Locations & Curbside Service Areas	7
Anchorage Recycling Guide	8
Ask the Gang	9
A Quick Look: Waste & Recycling Resources.....	9
Household Hazardous Waste Management	10
Energy Efficiency	10, 11
Beware of Carbon Monoxide	11
Air Quality	11
More High-Tech Resources	12
Coming Soon: Recycled Art.....	12
In the Next Issue: Start a Rain Garden.....	12
A Message from the Mayor.....	12

A Hometown Story: Green Alaska Solutions

In business for three years, Green Alaska Solutions is a local company that provides an earth-friendly alternative to disposable petroleum-based products for businesses and residents while educating the public about reducing waste. Besides carrying a full line of environmentally preferable disposable food service items, Green Alaska Solutions also now carries a variety of 100% recycled-content paper products, including hand towels, napkins, and toilet tissue, and take-out containers made from recycled-plastic bottles.

The disposable food service items are made from Bioplastics, which begin as plants grown on a conventional farm and harvested. The grains (typically corn) are then processed to separate the starch, and the starch is converted into sugar. Microorganisms are added to convert the sugar into lactic acid. At this stage, the material is commonly referred to as PLA (poly-lactic acid). The PLA is a molecular structure made up of pellets that form a chain. The pellets are melted and shaped into a variety of packaging and food containers. Green Alaska Solutions also carries products made from the by-products of the sugarcane and wheat harvesting processes.

Compared to conventional materials, disposables made from plants:

- Require 62-68% less energy to produce, depending on the brand
- Are responsible for less CO₂ in the atmosphere
- Come from renewable resources
- Are biodegradable and break down safely and relatively quickly into the raw materials of nature
- Are compostable in commercial composting facilities



Visit www.greenalaskasolutions.com for more information.



Anchorage to Zero Waste, Your A to Z Guide, Volume 4, No. 2, Fall/Winter 2011-2012, is published by the Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services using funds from a \$3/ton tip fee surcharge on all solid waste disposed at the Anchorage Regional Landfill and Central Transfer Station. Editor: Jeanne Carlson. Illustrations and Design: David Zinn. Printed on 40% post-consumer recycled paper. Please recycle as mixed paper. View this document electronically at www.muni.org/sws. Email recycle@muni.org and request a notice when a new issue is posted.