

Dear Anchorage Resident

This is our tenth issue of the Anchorage to Zero Waste Guide. Since we began five years ago, a lot has changed in Anchorage. In conjunction with private-sector businesses, nonprofits, and the support of Anchorage's citizens, we've introduced several new recycling locations, including a full-service drop-off area at the Anchorage Regional Landfill, as well as an entire system of curbside recycling. By the end of this year, all areas of Anchorage, as well as much of Eagle River and Chugiak, will have access to curbside recycling for single-family homes.

In the last five years, we've also ushered in the return of glass recycling to Anchorage (see page 4). We've seen increased opportunities to recycle construction and demolition debris and to close the recycling loop with locally produced recycled products. We've added recycling and a recycling coordinator to the school district, we've increased energy efficiency within several Municipal agencies (page 11), and we've built a methane gas recovery system at our landfill (page 10). Anchorage is even installing wind turbines on Fire Island to produce a percentage of its electrical power.

Reuse Moose, Recycle Raven, Weasel continue to do their in Anchorage. W.P. has garden as the snow begins organic waste are on the

Another topic near and dear to the hearts of our gang is the issue of animals and waste. Page 5 offers tips that will help keep Anchorage clean while protecting its residents – both people and animals.

One change to note on page 8 is that the cardboard recycling bins near King Street, available for businesses, have been removed. This drop-off location was started in 2007 as a pilot program. Since then, recycling habits have been established within the area businesses and commercial recycling opportunities have grown. All the other bins around town are still in place so take advantage of them!

We've also improved our ability to reach you with information through Facebook. Several Municipal agencies, including Solid Waste Services, now have Facebook pages to provide timely updates about important programs (search AnchorageSWS). ANCHORAGE RECYCLES on Facebook also provides local recycling information from a variety of sources.

And more changes are coming as we find new ways to reach you with the zero waste message, new outlets to make it easier for you to recycle, and new partners in the community to offer services.

To share your story or to learn more about ours, contact us at recycle@muni.org. Read this and all the archived issues of the A to Z Guide online at www.muni.org/sws.

Hazard the Husky, and Waste Prevention part to keep moving toward zero waste been thinking a lot about his yard and to melt. His tips for reducing back cover.



IMPORTANT EVENT DATES

April 20 Great Cloth Diaper Change

Come by the Baby and Toddler Expo at the Egan Center (555 W. Fifth Ave.) at 10:30am to help break a Guinness World Record™! This third annual, global event seeks to break the current world record for the most reusable cloth diapers changed simultaneously (8,251). Experienced cloth diaper users will be available to provide information and tips. Parents are drawn to reusable diapers for the cost and environmental benefits, but reusables also can have health benefits for babies, and they're cute to boot! Pre-register online at <http://alaskancloth.weebly.com> or register at 10:30am onsite.

In 2010, disposable diapers made up 2.3% of solid waste discarded by weight; they are the third largest single consumer item in landfills. On a more personal level, in a household with a child in diapers, disposable diapers can make up 50% of household waste. Studies have shown that in the areas of solid waste, non-renewable resource consumption, and airborne / waterborne wastes, reusable diapers create less of a negative impact than their disposable counterparts. In the area of water consumption, both types have similar impacts.

April 20 Scoop the Poop Day

Anchorage has an estimated 73,774 dogs eliminating approximately 0.32 pounds of waste per dog, per day. That adds up to more than 10 tons of waste produced every day. A significant amount of that fecal matter is deposited in parks, common areas, and neighborhoods and is left to dissolve and run off into local water bodies. Come out and help clean up between 11am and 3pm at University Lake. Check www.anchoragecreeks.org for additional locations and to volunteer.

April 22 Scoop the Poop on BLM Campbell Tract Trails

The Bureau of Land Management is organizing an evening Scoop the Poop from 5pm to 8pm at Campbell Tract. Volunteer at Smokejumper Trailhead, off Elmore Rd, near intersection of E. 68th; or Campbell Airstrip Trailhead, at mile 1.1 on Campbell Airstrip Rd. Contact Jorjena Daly at JDaly@blm.gov for more information.

April 22 Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day by visiting www.earthday.org to register your planned community events and your individual actions as part of the Earth Day Network's "A Billion Acts of Green" campaign.

April 27 National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medicines at these safe disposal sites between 10am and 2pm. For more information, call 211.

- Fred Meyer at Debarr & Muldoon
- Fred Meyer at Abbott & Lake Otis
- Fred Meyer in Eagle River
- Carrs at Sears Mall and Aurora Village
- Providence Medical Arts Pharmacy, 3300 Providence Dr.
- Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson Exchange, for base residents

Dispose of unused or expired medicines year-round:

Anchorage Police Department, Building Lobby,
4501 Elmore Road, Monday - Friday, 8am - 8pm

UAA Police Department, Eugene Short Hall,
2601 Providence Drive, 24 hours/7 days a week



April 27 - May 4 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Citywide Cleanup Week

This 45th annual event brings together local businesses, organizations, schools and the Municipality of Anchorage to rid the city's streets and neighborhoods of trash. Visit www.citywidecleanup.org for event details and changes to Free Dump Days.

May 17 Bike to Work Day

Register to ride as an individual or a team, sign up for a Smart Cycling class using the League of American Bicyclists curriculum, or schedule a bike-safety presentation for your workplace or group at www.muni.org/BiketoWorkDay.

May 18 Creek Cleanup

Help clean up Anchorage's creeks and streams. Call 907-27-CREEK or email cherie@anchoragecreeks.org to volunteer, sponsor, or if you see large collections of trash and debris in or near a creek or wetland. Visit www.anchoragecreeks.org for details.

May - August 24 Season-long Plastic Nursery Pot Recycling

Bring your plastic nursery pots and trays, clean and stacked, to Faltz Nursery, 1401 Labar St. (near Huffman Post Office), Mon - Fri, 8 am to 6 pm, and Sat & Sun, 9 am to 5 pm. Call 349-3482 for details.

August 24 Annual Nursery Pot Recycling Drop-off Event

Start saving your nursery pots now and drop them off for recycling between 10am and 5pm, at the Alaska Botanical Garden parking lot (off Campbell Airstrip Road, 1 block S. of Tudor, at Benny Benson school). Two categories of pots accepted: 1) #2 HDPE pots and 2) #5 PP, #6 PS and #7 Other pots, cell packs and trays. Last year's event set a new record, collecting 2.8 tons of plastic pots for recycling (4,580 pounds) and reuse (1,000 pounds). Visit www.alparalaska.com for details.

Note: Nurseries, Landscapers, and Greenhouses - This event is for residents only. Special drop-off for businesses available August 13-17 at the Anchorage Recycling Center, 6161 Rosewood (off Dowling Rd.), during regular business hours, 9am to 4pm.

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April 19, 20, 21

Alaska's Largest Women's Consignment Event

Palmer Train Depot (610 S. Valley Way, Palmer)

Consign49 offers a great way to clean out your closets, renew your look, earn extra cash, and participate in a fun and productive community event, all in one place. Seasonal consignment



sales are an excellent way to earn money by selling all those nearly new things you briefly wore! You prepare and price your items using a quick and easy online inventory system, then drop them off one or two days prior to the sale. Consign49 does the rest. To volunteer or consign your stuff, contact info@consign49.com. Visit www.consign49.com for all the details.



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Download current and past issues of the A to Z Guide at www.muni.org/sws. For inquiries about the A to Z Guide or suggestions for topics, email recycle@muni.org.