

# Animals and Zero Waste

Animals, humans, and waste are linked in many ways. Our actions can adversely affect animals and can cause problems for our neighborhoods and our waterways.

## Protect Neighborhoods

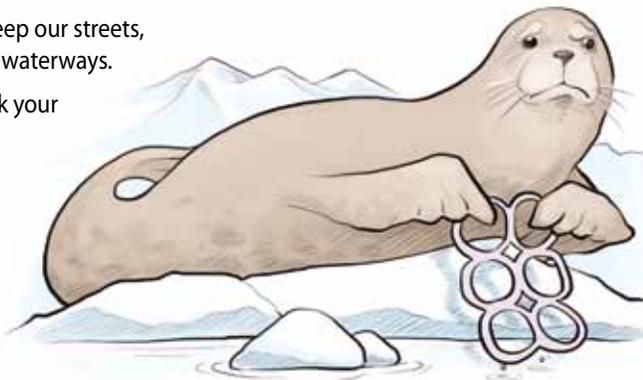
**Be Bear Aware.** April is "Bear Awareness Month" in Alaska. It's the month when bears typically emerge from their dens looking for food for themselves and their young. Mismanaging your trash can attract bears, which can have severe consequences for you, your neighbors, and the bears. It is a violation of Alaska statute to feed bears, even unintentionally, and many Alaska communities have additional ordinances requiring residents to keep trash out of reach of bears. Here are a few tips for preventing bear problems in your neighborhood:

- **Trash** - Store trash securely inside your home, garage, shed, or other bear-resistant enclosure. Don't put trash out until the morning of your collection day.
- **Gardens and Compost** - Plant gardens in the open, away from cover and game trails. Do not compost animal products (with the exception of crushed egg shells). Cover your compost with a layer of finished compost, a tarp, or lid. An electric fence used properly can keep bears out of gardens and compost piles. A more dependable technique is to compost only yard waste in backyard compost piles or bins.
- **Livestock and Beehives** - Secure your livestock, including chickens, and/or beehives behind electric fences and store feed in a secure building or in bear-resistant containers.
- **Bird Feeders** - Bird seed is high in protein and fat, exactly what a hungry bear is looking for in the spring. Take down bird feeders from April through October. Clean up dropped seeds and hulls.
- **Barbecues and Smokers** - Regularly clean barbecue grills and smokers, especially the grease trap, after each use.
- **Pet Food** - Feed pets indoors or pick up excess and spilled food between meals.
- **Freezers** - Keep freezers locked in a secure building or otherwise out of reach of bears.
- **Fish-cleaning Waste** - Do not discard fish waste in Anchorage neighborhoods or waterways. Improperly discarding fish is against State and Municipal laws and violators can be subject to fines. To properly dispose of unwanted fish or fish carcasses, follow these recommendations:

If fish is not spoiled and is well packaged, donate it to Bean's Café ([www.beansafe.org](http://www.beansafe.org)), which serves meals to the homeless. The Alaska Zoo (346-3242), Bird Treatment and Learning Center (562-4852), and the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (783-2025) will usually accept fish donations. Fish cannot be spoiled, smoked, flavored or badly freezer burned. Call each facility prior to donating. **Filleted carcasses and other fish waste** should be taken directly to a waste transfer station or to the landfill. Or freeze fish waste to eliminate odors and place it in your trash on the morning of trash pickup. Do not put waste out the night before trash pickup.

**Scoop the Poop.** It's a year-round job to keep our streets, parks, and yards free of dog waste to protect our waterways.

- Carry plastic poop bags with you when you walk your dog, and use them!
- Carry a few extras in case another dog-walker is without one. Sometimes people do forget.
- Know where poop bag stations are located. Visit [www.anchoragecreeks.org](http://www.anchoragecreeks.org) and go to the Scoop the Poop page for a map of all 56 dog refuse stations in the Anchorage area.



**Keep It in Your Can.** Improperly storing trash not only attracts bears but other animals, such as ravens. Ravens can get into a trash bin or dumpster if its lid is not firmly closed, ripping apart the contents and dispersing the debris.

- Be sure to close lids on trash and recycling cans and carts.
- If you live in a windy area, be sure to secure lids. Remember that straps and closures must be removed on your collection day so automated trucks can empty the containers.

## Protect Marine Wildlife

Entanglement in nondegradable trash, such as plastic loops, bands, and fishing lines, is a big problem for marine wildlife, resulting in injury and death.

- **Lose the loop.** Cut and discard any loop that could entangle marine animals.
- **Go bandless.** Support the elimination of plastic packing bands (found on cardboard bait boxes and other shipping boxes).
- **Keep marine debris out of the ocean** especially loops, lines, and rope.
- **Recover and recycle monofilament line.** Support the use and development of biodegradable fishing gear.

For resource information, see page 10

## Household Hazardous Waste

[www.muni.org/sws](http://www.muni.org/sws) –  
click on Hazardous Materials Management

**Drop-off services are FREE for households only (up to 40 lbs). A hazardous waste pick-up service is available on a call-in basis. Call (907) 428-1742 for further information.**



The Hazardous Waste Collection Center is located at the **Anchorage Regional Landfill**, at the intersection of the Glenn Highway and Hiland road, near Eagle River.

**Hours of Operation:**  
Tuesday through

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This facility accepts hazardous wastes from households and businesses. Reuse Area hours are same as above.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is located at the **Central Transfer Station**, at the intersection of E. 54th and Juneau, east of the Old Seward Highway.



**Hours of Operation:**

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This facility accepts hazardous waste from households only. NOTE: New hours for the Reuse Area only, Tues, Thurs, and Sat, 8:00 a.m. to noon.

*Please note: Construction on the New Seward Highway and the frontage roads near the Central Transfer Station is ongoing. Look for changes in traffic patterns.*

### Drop off these household items:

PAINT		CLEANERS
PAINT THINNERS		PESTICIDES
GASOLINE		HERBICIDES
BATTERIES		USED OIL
FERTILIZER		ANTIFREEZE

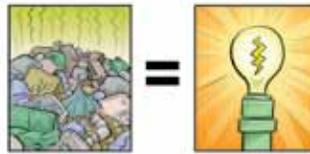
## Air Quality

### Be In The Know!

People Mover continues to make it easier and more efficient for residents to ride the bus, reducing traffic congestion issues and the air quality problems that go along with too many cars on the road.

People Mover encourages its passengers to sign up for Flash Alert to be notified in case of weather delays, suspended service, or other types of emergencies affecting bus service. Choose to receive email, text, or Twitter alerts. A smartphone is not required.

Just visit [www.flashalert.net](http://www.flashalert.net) and click Anchorage on the map, choose Transportation, and click on People Mover to enter your information and choose how you wish to be alerted. Make your commute run smoothly!



### Landfill Gas Project Update

For years, the Anchorage Regional Landfill, adjacent to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), collected and burned landfill gas, primarily methane, to comply with USEPA

regulations. With an eye to the future, officials at JBER, the Municipality of Anchorage, and Doyon Utilities put their heads together to find a way to convert the landfill gas into usable energy for the base. What resulted was the JBER Landfill Gas Waste-to-Energy Plant, projected to generate more than 56,000 megawatt hours or 26.2% of JBER's electrical load. The plant will reduce greenhouse gas emissions (methane) by 13,944 tons annually and is projected to save \$73.6M over the 46-year project lifecycle. The landfill gas plant began producing electricity in 2012 and preliminary analysis of performance factors indicates plant energy production is exceeding expectations.

The plant ensures JBER will more than exceed renewable energy goals established by Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, and Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. These mandates require federal agencies to use renewable energy to meet at least 7.5% of total electric consumption beginning in 2013. Not only is the plant important from a regulatory standpoint, but it was the right thing to do for a sustainable community.

### Resources for Animals and Zero Waste (continued from page 5)

#### Bear Aware

<http://bears.muni.org>

[www.alaskabears.alaska.gov](http://www.alaskabears.alaska.gov)

[www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.fishingwithbears](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.fishingwithbears)

#### Composting

[www.aswcd.org/archives.html](http://www.aswcd.org/archives.html)

[www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/soils/#compost](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/soils/#compost)

#### Watershed Protection

[www.anchoragecreeks.org/pages/scoopthepoop\\_about.php](http://www.anchoragecreeks.org/pages/scoopthepoop_about.php)

[www.muni.org/Departments/health/Admin/animal\\_control/Pages/scoop.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/health/Admin/animal_control/Pages/scoop.aspx)

#### Marine Wildlife Entanglement

[www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=marinemammalprogram.stellerentanglements](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=marinemammalprogram.stellerentanglements)  
[alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/entanglement](http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/entanglement)