

RE:think Review

Recognizing Efficient Businesses in Lane County



RE:think

waste less, earn more

The 3R's

The 3R's, we all know what they mean. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Sometimes though, we forget to use that mantra in the right order. We think that recycling is all we need to do to conserve resources.

If we *really* want to save resources we have to remember the 3R's in order. First, Reduce. Reducing the amount of stuff that we use in operations saves money. For example, cutting down on paper costs requires only a few minor adjustments. Change the margins and change your font size. What once required two sheets of paper can now fit on one. Next comes Reuse. Remember that paper has two sides. If one side is used don't recycle it, use the back for less important documents or scratch paper. Last but not least, Recycle. Recycling is important. Paper can be made into new paper again and again- just remember, Reduce and Reuse first.

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Think About it...

Over 60% of all garbage in Lane County is generated by businesses.

Cash In Your Trash?

At home, most of us do our best to minimize waste. We reuse containers, recycle our aluminum cans and opt for carrying refillable water bottles and travel cups. Away from home and especially at work, many of us don't do as well.

Much of the waste generated in the workplace comes from our need for convenience when time is running short. Takeout containers and the use of disposable items is a big culprit but that aside, there is a bigger issue.

Recycling is easy at home because our system is set up to take common household items, shampoo bottles, butter tubs and canned food containers. In many cases, the waste generated in the workplace comes from the use of materials and items that aren't allowed in a recycling bin.

RE:think has helped many businesses recycle unusual materials that can't go in the recycling bin, turning their trash into cash by reducing garbage fees. Think you may have some cash in your trash? Give RE:think a call, we're here to help!



Birth to Three

Birth to Three received the RE:think Business Certification after several months of hard work. The non-profit implemented programs that help them to conserve water, reduce paper usage and save on energy costs.

Their work shows that simple changes can have a big impact. By turning off equipment and lights when not in use, Birth to Three is saving nearly \$50 per month on their utility bills.

The non-profit offers education and resources to parents and families. Their commitment to using recycled content paper and non-toxic and biodegradable cleaning products will benefit generations to come. Congratulations Birth to Three!

What Do I Do With *This*?

Where to Recycle Batteries, Paint and Styrofoam

The RE:think specialists come across lots of well intentioned business owners and managers that want to recycle items like batteries, paint and Styrofoam. Lucky for us, there are plenty of options. We can't put these items in the commingle bin but, with a little extra effort they can be recycled.

Batteries – Currently, Alkaline battery recycling is not required by law in the U.S however, other nations including much of Europe require all batteries to be recycled, including alkaline.

All other types of batteries must be recycled because of the heavy metals they contain, including; lead acid (Pb) batteries used in cars, trucks and emergency lighting, Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) batteries, the type used in cordless phones, cordless tools and two way radios, Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries are found in camcorders, bar code scanners and digital cameras, Lithium Ion (Li Ion) or Lithium Polymer (Li Poly) used in cell phones and laptops. Batteries used in portable electronic devices such as cell/smartphones, laptop/netbooks, MP3s, PDAs and portable tools.

For all batteries including single use alkaline, Batteries Plus, is your best bet for recycling. Located at 420 Coburg Rd, Eugene. 541-349-5030, some fees may apply.

Paint-Oregon is home to the first paint product stewardship law in the U.S. This makes recycling paint easy. If your offices have had a facelift recently (old paint that's been sitting around awhile is ok too!) take the leftovers to one of the many recycling centers in Lane County. For the locations nearest you check the PaintCare website at www.paintcare.org.

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RE:think Highlights

Since March 2010 our Resource Conservation Specialists have:

- Visited a total of 46 businesses.
- 16 businesses have been certified by RE:think.
- Identified 10 businesses that qualify for rebates and incentives to upgrade inefficient lighting.
- Helped to complete six lighting upgrades and replaced 2 refrigeration motors.
- Saved over 100,000 kWh and reduced Co2 emissions by 90,000 pounds.

Expanded Polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam) There are many forms of Styrofoam. Some that can be reused and recycled and others that cannot.

Styrofoam food containers- including cups, take-out boxes and meat trays are not recyclable. In general, food contaminated items made of any material are garbage so it is always best to avoid disposables.

Styrofoam packing peanuts - have high reusability. Many local packaging stores appreciate having the material returned to them for reuse. It helps cut down on their need to purchase new supplies and helps to fulfill their customers needs for recycled shipping materials and packaging. Contact any local packaging store for information.

Block Styrofoam - is that dreaded bulky material that protects computers, electronics and other consumer goods during shipping. Though it makes many of us cringe, it is a necessary and practical choice for shipping. Styrofoam is inexpensive, lightweight and does the job-protecting expensive equipment from breaking.

To recycle block Styrofoam and packing peanuts it needs to be clean and dry. St Vincent De Paul has a nifty device that compresses the bulky stuff to a fraction of its original size, making it more cost effective to ship to recyclers. Businesses pay a nominal fee and drop off locations include these SVDP locations:

- **Seneca Store:** 705 S Seneca, Eugene
- **Division Store:** 201 Division Ave., Eugene
- **Thurston Store:** 4555 Main St., Springfield



RE:think Certified Businesses

Birth to Three: birthto3.org
Cafe Yumm!: cafeyumm.com
Cawood: cawood.com
Eugene Coffee Company:
eugenecoffeeco.com
Jones & Roth: jrcpa.com
McKenzie Family Practice:
mckenziefamilypractice.com
Nearby Nature: nearbynature.org
NetGreen News: netgreennews.com
9Wood: 9wood.com
Oregon Community Credit Union:
oregoncommunitycu.org
Oregon Research Institute: ori.org
Pacific Women's Center:
pacificwomenscenter.com
Vox : voxprpa.com Formerly known
as The Ulum Group: ulum.com
Unique Properties: unique.cc