

jackson community RECYCLING news



Summer 2005

THE HIGH COSTS OF A BOTTLE OF WATER

By Kim Springer

Have you ever thought of the lifecycle of that bottled water you are drinking? If you are part of the growing numbers that believe it's healthier to drink bottled water than tap water, here are some of the startling facts. In most cases municipal tap water is tested while bottled water is not and may come from wells under industrial facilities, far from the pristine mountain streams deceptively advertised. The Environmental Protection Agency regulates the quality of public water supplies but has no authority over bottled water. As much as 40% of bottled water is bottled tap water, sometimes with additional treatment. Beware of words such as pure, pristine, glacial, natural or healthy because they mean nothing.

In 2003 "the number one (Aquafina) and two (Dasani) top-selling brands of bottled water in the U.S. both fell in the category of purified water. Coca-Cola sells Dasani, while Aquafina is a Pepsi product. As U.S. News & World Report explains, "Aquafina is municipal water from spots like Wichita, Kansas." The newsmagazine continues, "Coke's Dasani (with minerals added) is taken from the taps of Queens, New York, Jacksonville, Florida, and elsewhere." Everest bottled water originates from southern Texas, while Yosemite brand is drawn from the Los Angeles suburbs.

The environmental costs of producing bottled water are titanic. Two and a half million bottles are used every hour in the U.S. and more than 90% of the bottles are thrown in the trash.

Plastic bottles are piling up as mountains of waste. The plastic most commonly used in water bottles is made from oil derived PET (polyethylene terephthalate) and uses more water to make the bottles than will ever go into them. The Container Recycling Institute estimates that supplying thirsty Americans with bottled water for one year consumes more than 1.5 million barrels of oil. Producing PET also results in nasty air emissions of hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide. And to top it off we think nothing of paying three times as much per gallon of bottled water as we pay for gasoline.



As for distributing bottled water, the fossil fuels burned to transport it by truck, train or boat far exceed the cost of a local water system. By far the cheapest and often safest option is to drink water from a tap, it's also the most environmentally friendly. We're lucky in Jackson and most of the United States to have good tap water. In a 1999 report, the National Resources Defense Council concludes that bottled water quality is probably not inferior to average tap water, but says that gaps in the weak regulatory framework may allow careless or unscrupulous bottlers to market substandard products. If you are worried about your tap water or don't like the taste, try one of the
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Jackson
Community
Recycling
Monday-Friday,
9am-6pm
*With Bins Out All
the Time for Your
Convenience*

Household
Hazardous Waste
Collection Facility
By Appointment!
Call 733-7678

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Recycling & Waste
Reduction Board
Wayne Turner
Chairperson
David Meagher
Vice-Chair
Muriel Blaha
Secretary
Lewis Brown
Treasurer
Herb Brooks
Samantha Eddy
Julie Klein
Paul Maddex
Roger Smith

JCR Staff
Heather Thomas
Executive Director
Caroline Meyer
Operations & Finance
Kent Jaspersen
*Recycling/Hazardous
Waste Facility Supervisor*
Lane Raper
Foreman
Michael Bell
Vann Ramsey
Fred Wartig

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faucet filters available. Find satisfaction knowing that you are drinking mountain water with very little upstream contamination.

And if you do consume bottled water, or any beverage that comes in a plastic bottle, be sure to recycle it. By doing so, you will reduce the demand for oil to produce petroleum-based products, such as plastic bottles, carpet, and fleece clothing. See the box below for details on plastic bottle recycling in Jackson Hole.



Recycling Reads

In every issue of JCR News, JCR staff recommends a favorite book that focuses on recycling, waste reduction, and sustainable living. The pick of the issue is Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices by Michael Brower.

Paper or plastic? Bus or car? Old house or new? Cloth diapers or disposables? Some choices have a huge impact on the environment; others are of negligible importance. To those of us who care about our quality of life and what is happening to the earth, this is a vastly important issue. In these pages, the Union of Concerned Scientists help inform consumers about everyday decisions that significantly affect the environment. For example, a few major decisions--such as the choice of a house or vehicle--have such a disproportionately large affect on the environment that minor environmental infractions shrink by comparison.

This book identifies the 4 Most Significant Consumer-Related Environmental Problems, the 7 Most Damaging Spending Categories, 11 Priority Actions, and 7 Rules for Responsible Consumption. Learn what you can do to have a truly significant impact on our world from the people who are at the forefront of scientific research.

Please submit book recommendations to jcrecycling@onewest.net.

Save Paper! Save Trees!

If you would like to receive your copy of *JCR News* via e-mail, please let us know at jcrecycling@onewest.net.

Plastic Bottle Recycling in Jackson Hole

- Recycle #1 bottles (soda, juice, water, ketchup, etc.)
- Recycle #2 bottles (detergent, shampoo, body lotion, milk jugs, etc.)
- Please remove caps
- No containers, tubs, trays, or 5-gallon buckets

Why bottles only? The chemical make-up of a #2 bottle and a #2 cottage cheese container, for example, is the same. However, they are formed in a different manner. The way in which plastic bottles are made make them much more recyclable than containers, and more valuable.

INCREASE IN TOTAL RECYCLABLES

On June 30, Jackson Community Recycling closed out fiscal year 2005. It was our biggest year ever. We increased our tonnage of recyclables shipped out of JCR by 9.3%. Following is what JCR shipped to mills in fiscal year 2005, compared to fiscal year 2004:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2004</u>
Aluminum cans/foil	26 tons	36 tons
Office paper	143 tons	174 tons
Corrugated cardboard	1268 tons	1196 tons
Glass	746 tons	721 tons
Magazines/catalogues	469 tons	422 tons
Newspaper	595 tons	452 tons
Phone books	20 tons	20 tons
Steel cans	30 tons	33 tons
Scrap metal (estimated)	180 tons	120 tons
Plastic bottles	<u>56 tons</u>	<u>58 tons</u>
TOTAL	3,533 tons	3,232 tons

Put Plant Containers Back to Use

Is your garage or shed full of empty plant containers and flat trays from your spring and summer gardening? If so, you may return some of them to Porcupine Greenhouse and Nursery for reuse. Porcupine will accept flats and square one-gallon or larger plant containers. Please bring them to Porcupine, south of Jackson across the Swinging Bridge off Highway 89. They are open 9-5, Monday-Saturday, and 10-4, Sunday.



BOB DORNAN: SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR RECYCLING IN JACKSON HOLE

Recycling Makes "Cents" in Teton County

If you've ever been to the recycling center during the day, there is a good possibility that you have bumped into Bob Dornan. He comes down to town from Dornan's in Moose on most days of the week to recycle. Bob is a dedicated recycler - and he can give you many good reasons for it. "Sending recyclables to the landfill, especially cardboard, increases your trash bill," says Bob. He states, "If you recycle, you can save money and do something good for the environment and our community."

Dornan's started recycling in the late-80's when the first JCR facility was opened. Bob even volunteered once a week to bale cardboard and cans. Today, Bob brings most of Dornan's recyclables to JCR himself. He is very proud of their business recycling program - one of the first in Grand Teton National Park. Dornan's recycles every possible item.

Every spring when the new summer crew comes on, Bob leads a recycling orientation. "Many of our staff members tell me how happy they are that Dornan's recycles," says Bob, "and, for the most part, they do a very good job sorting the recyclables. Everyone needs to do their part to make the program work." However, Bob does take the time himself to make sure that everything is properly sorted before he brings it to the recycling center.

The environmental and community benefits of recycling are very important to Bob. He states, "It is difficult to measure the benefit to society and the environment, however we *can* measure the financial savings the community gains when everyone recycles. It is good to know that we are doing our part to help the

environment and the community."

Bob encourages other businesses to look into creating a recycling program. "Financially, it makes sense for businesses to recycle," states Bob. He says, "Look at your bottom line and find ways to save money by recycling." Regarding the town and county's support of recycling, Bob believes that it is a smart thing to do and that funds from the town and county to support Jackson Community Recycling are very worthwhile. "Keep recyclables out of the landfill and let them be used for something else," says Bob, "It makes sense to me."



Bob Dornan unloading his truck at the recycling center. He brings newspapers to the center twice a week.



Bob Dornan - his recycling trip complete and about to head back to Moose.

By Wayne Neal, Teton County Engineering

The past few years have seen tremendous cost increases in disposing of solid wastes throughout the nation. With the rising costs of fuel, coupled with many other uncontrollable costs it is becoming more necessary to do the right thing, conserve and recycle.

In a joint effort, Jackson Community Recycling and Teton County Solid Waste Management have taken an aggressive stand at reducing solid waste headed for the landfill. Approximately 4,500 tons of wood, 1,000 tons of metal and 1,500 tons of concrete is received each year at the Trash Transfer Station. This material represents 20% of the 34,000 tons received annually. Waste that was once a liability and headed for the landfill in Sublette County is now being diverted through recycling.

Wood received is now being chipped and sold for composting material. Metal is being sent to a recycling center in Salt Lake City. Concrete is being stockpiled at the transfer facility and will be crushed into road base to be used at the Trash Transfer Station in preparing storage areas and for the construction of a sheriff's vehicle impound area.

The combined effort to recycle these materials net Teton County approximately \$200,000 per year in additional, or saved, revenue - a wining situation for County taxpayers, and it conserves landfill space by not depositing 7,000 tons of waste. Recycling pays.

Hey Recyclers, Remember Jackson Community Recycling when you make your Old Bill's Fun Run Donation.



Funds raised will be used for:

- Magazine and catalog recycling at county post offices;
- Satellite recycling sites;
- Household hazardous waste disposal fees; and,
- General operations.

Donors may earmark money for these projects. Make your donation through the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole between July 4th and September 16th.

Old Bill's Fun Run Takes Place on September 10th.

Contact CFJH for giving and race information 307-739-1026 or www.cfjacksonhole.org.

THANK YOU!

Summer 2005 Newsletter

Post Office Box 9088
 3270 S. Adams Canyon
 Jackson, Wyoming 83002

Hours of Operation
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 9am-6pm
 307-733-7678
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Household Hazardous
 Waste Collection Facility
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
 307-733-7678

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