

**Haines Friends of Recycling  
2023 Annual Report  
10/7/23**

2023 has been another productive, interesting, challenging year for Haines Friends of Recycling. Did you realize that 2024 will be our 25th Anniversary Year?

As we continue with our mission of promoting recycling, recycling education, and waste reduction in the Chilkat Valley we were involved in many activities in 2023.

**Volunteers** - EVERY ACTIVITY DESCRIBED BELOW HAPPENS BECAUSE WE HAVE A GREAT GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS! A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL! If you would like to volunteer, please let us know by sending an email to [aronson@aptalaska.net](mailto:aronson@aptalaska.net) or calling 314-2209.

**Recycling:** This our core activity. Every year we get free shipping from AML for up to 6 40-foot vans of recycling which are shipped to the Seattle area for processing by recycling companies. This year we have so far shipped out 1 van of electronics, 1 van of paper products, 1 van of aluminum and steel cans, and 2 vans of scrap metal. Before the end of the year we anticipate shipping out at least one more van. Shannon Franey, our part-time employee, is responsible for making sure what we send is pure and uncontaminated. She also loads the vans. We can all help her by making sure that we carefully self-sort our recyclables and that we don't leave any food-contaminated materials to attract bears.

**Annual flyer:** Our annual flyer, distributed to all PO boxes in early April, describes what we are able to recycle. The flyer is available on our website: [www.hainesrecycle.org](http://www.hainesrecycle.org).

**Membership:** Our membership committee of Mardell Gunn, Betsy VanBurgh, and Ramona Holmes makes sure our membership stays strong. Currently we have over 325 individuals, families, organizations, and businesses that are members.

**Bookkeeping:** A huge “thank you” to Anna Hubbard who acts as our volunteer bookkeeper. I’m not at all sure how she manages to do as much as she does.

**Staff:** If you want to see some masterful work with a skid steer (aka forklift), just watch Shannon Franey sometime. She is a tremendous staff person and keeps everything on track with her 30 hours a week in summer, 20 hours a week in winter job with us. And a big thank you to Jeremy Settem who fills in for Shannon if she isn’t available. Shannon’s regular work hours are Thursday and Friday 9 to noon and Saturday 10-2.

**Board:** We have an amazing Board! Each brings their own expertise to our efforts and thank you all so very much. Melissa Aronson is the Chair person and stays pretty busy with all sorts of HFR activities. Kate Saunders, our Vice-Chair, takes the lead on maintenance of the Recycling Center and is heading up the initiatives on a new facility and the plastic up-cycling project. Reilly Kosinski is our Treasurer and the guru of electronics recycling. Dena Selby is our Secretary, the writer of the Management Handbook, and organizer of in-town recycling. Molly Sturdevant heads up the fish-net recycling. Betsy VanBurgh works on membership. Ron Jackson helps out with all sorts of tasks including updating the website. Dan Chavez organized the recycling and composting stations at the Fair and helps with construction and repair projects. And all of our Board does so much more, including many hours of volunteering at special events and the daily operations of the Recycling Center.

**Reduce Our Waste Together (ROW Together):** This document was first published in 2020 and is revised each winter for distribution. It describes 46 different materials that can be recycled or re-used in the Chilkat Valley through 38 different businesses and organizations. There are also a number of resources for waste reduction described in ROW Together. If you would like to help with the 2024 edition, please let me know (aronson@aptalaska.net). The 2023 edition is on our website: [www.hainesrecycle.org](http://www.hainesrecycle.org).

**Management Handbook:** HFR is a busy volunteer-run non-profit. How do we keep track of everything we do and plan for turnover of our leadership? Dena Selby of our Board has put together a comprehensive Management Handbook that describes all that we do. If any other non-

profits would like to put together a similar document we would be happy to share our Management Handbook as a guide.

**Talking Trash** is a new program on KHNS, hosted by Haines Friends of Recycling. The 15 minute program is on the radio every fourth Tuesday from 8:45-9:00 AM. We debuted the program in February. The topics and guests so far are listed below. Please let us know if you have good ideas for topics or would like to be a guest. We put the transcript of the show on our social media for later reference.

February 14th - introduction to “Talking Trash”, announcement of our schedule of events for the year, and introduction of the 2023 update of ROW Together (Reduce Our Waste Together). (Kate Saunders and Melissa Aronson)

March 14th - garden supplies and container covers, on-line orders and packaging (Blythe Carter and Melissa Aronson)

April 11th - discussion of upcoming Earth Day events and marine debris cleanup (Tracy Wirak-Cassidy and Melissa Aronson)

May 9th - upcoming electronic recycling - why do it, where it goes, what happens with it; guest was Reilly Kosinski from Zender Environmental.

June 6th - upcoming Fishermen’s BarBQ, scrap metal recycling and fishnet recycling; Zero waste events and the Fair. (Kate and Melissa)

July 4th — HOLIDAY; NO SHOW.

August 1st - Zero Waste and how to make it work (Kate and Melissa)

August 29th - Cindy Zuluaga-Jimenez and Melissa- Takshanauk Watershed composting project

Sept 26th - Craig Franke and Melissa on recycling, repurposing, saving the landfill, bear issues at dump.

**Earth Day is April 22.** Once again we were deeply involved. The celebration was at the Bald Eagle Foundation. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in the 2024 celebration.

**Electronic Recycling** This year our electronic recycling event was on June 2 and 3. We had a wonderful crew of volunteers, led by Reilly Kosinski, who sorted, packaged, and loaded 10,192 pounds of electronics. Over the 17 years that we have held this event the total collected and sent out for recycling is 233,693 pounds.

**Fish Net Recycling** happened twice this year, once June 9 and 10 under the direction of Molly Sturdevant and September 22 and 23 under the direction of Laurie Mastrella and Mark Carroll. Those of us working on loading the second van of scrap metal got to enjoy the music they played when they had a break.

**Bike Race, Fishermen's BarBQ** Once again we provided a recycling trailer for the campground at the Parade Grounds and cleaned up after the campers at both the Parade Grounds and Tlingit Park. The Fishermen's BarBQ was (almost) Zero Waste and we provided recycling and composting services.

**July 4** was also (almost) Zero Waste and we provided recycling and composting services. For both July 4 and the Fishermen's BarBQ there was a mix-up on the purchase of plates by the organizers of the events; the plates weren't compostable and so we had to separate them out. This is confusing for the public and difficult for the volunteers.

**SEAK Fair** Once again we worked with the Fair staff and the food vendors to assure that the Food Court was Zero Waste. A huge "thank you" to all our volunteers and to the Fair staff and food vendors for helping us make this a successful Zero Waste event. And a special "thank you" to Dan Chavez for organizing all the recycling and composting stations around the Fair.

**Scrap metal** This year we had a grant from the Borough for two vans of scrap metal. We held a collection for the public on June 30 and July 1 and collected enough scrap for two (and maybe three) vans of scrap metal. This was FREE to the public.

**Scrap Box** Thanks to the untiring efforts of Frank Holmes (a former HFR Chairperson) and a group of volunteers including Jim Wilson, Lew Lowery, and Michael Stark, the Scrap Box underwent major construction improvements. A wonderful sign designates the site; it was designed and painted by one of our summer interns, Lucia Chapell. The Scrap Box is a great source for finding all sorts of treasures; enjoy a shopping trip there! Because we don't have light or heat in the Scrap Box it will close for the winter. But if you want to shop, please contact Jim Wilson at 766-3698 or Shannon Franey.

**In-town Recycling** Dena Selby organized the in-town recycling at the Visitor's Center, 3rd and Main, and the cruise ship dock. She was assisted by our volunteers and also our summer interns (Lucia Chapell and Alison Bender).

**Compostables, Zero Waste Events** We continue to sell compostable tableware at cost for assorted Zero Waste Events such as parties, weddings, memorials, the Fair, large meetings, etc. Let us know if you are in need of any compostable tableware. We also provide instruction on how to hold a successful ZWE.

**Scholarships** We have two \$500 scholarships that are given out annually: the Frank and Ramona Holmes Scholarship and the Bill Aronson Memorial scholarship. See our website for more information.

**Grants** In 2023 we benefitted from two grants. The Borough gave us funds for preparing and shipping two 40 foot vans of scrap metal. The Chilkat Valley Community Foundation gave us a grant for a summer intern.

**Interns** Because of travel plans and Covid, we turned our one summer intern, funded by the CVCF, into two interns: Lucia Chapell and Alison Bender. Amazing young ladies! They helped with special events, day-to-day recycling, in-town recycling, and painting the Scrap Box.

**Visiting Interns** This summer we were fortunate to have the assistance for almost a week from 5 students and 3 adult supervisors from "The Road Less Traveled", an adventure and service group. The students were from various locations in the Lower 48 and were great help in preparing for the scrap metal collection and helping the days of the event.

**Upcoming initiatives:** relocation, plastic up-cycling, skid steer. Kick off of Capital Fund