

REDUCE OUR WASTE TOGETHER (ROW TOGETHER) 2024

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Reduce Our Waste Together (ROW Together)

A project of Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR)

Revised early 2024

If your bath tub was overflowing,
would you get a bucket or turn off the tap?

People in Haines dumped 2.3 million pounds of household trash at the landfill at Community Waste Solutions in 2022. That's 2.3 million pounds for a population of approximately 2,100 people or about 1,100 pounds per person over the year.

And these figures only reflect what we, as end-user consumers, dumped. It doesn't show how much waste was made in the manufacture and shipping of all that we consumed.

How much of what was sent to the landfill could have been recycled, re-used, or composted? Or with better re-thinking and reducing of our purchases, could have been avoided in the first place?

We can do better!

Currently, about 2.01 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) are produced annually worldwide. In the US we produce the most waste of any country, per capita. On average, we each produce 12.5 pounds of waste each on a daily basis when we consider the production of materials. In the U.S. as a whole, we produce about 4.5 pounds of waste per day per person. Is this the legacy we want to leave future generations? Is there a better way to use our resources?

Reduce Our Waste Together (ROW Together) provides many suggestions to reduce your waste stream based on the 5 R's. The 5 R's are:

Rethink what you might want to buy;

Reduce what you buy and pay attention to how to reduce packaging;

Re-use buy used, think about other ways to use what you have;

Recycle what can be recycled; and

Rot those things that can be composted.

This guide includes a Materials section of what can be recycled locally, including why to recycle and where to do so; a Business and Organization section that gives information about where to recycle and the efforts of many local businesses and organizations; two activities (Home Waste Audit and Eco-Guilt) on analyzing and setting goals for your own home or business; a set of additional resources; and a description of the process for developing ROW Together that can be used by other communities.

ROW Together is designed as a reference guide and not something to necessarily read cover-to-cover.

Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR), a 501(c)(3), has provided recycling and waste reduction services and education to the Chilkat Valley since 1999. Our mission is to develop educational and recycling programs and facilities that increase the capacity for Haines and Chilkat Valley residents and visitors to reduce waste, recycle, and reuse resources.

- **Some good news:** Because of the efforts of many of us in Haines to reduce waste, our average waste production is about 3 pounds a day per person while the national rate is about 4.5 pounds a day per person.
- **And a challenge:** But we can still do better! How much waste does YOUR household produce (after recycling, repurposing, and composting)?

I. Why Reduce Our Waste (ROW)?

The goal of *Reduce Our Waste Together* (Row Together) is to provide a guide for people in Haines and the Chilkat Valley about why, how, and where we can reduce our waste stream.

Everything we purchase has a useful life that ends. What do we do with it? We can't throw it "away"; there isn't a place on any map called "away". Instead everything has to eventually be composted, recycled, burned, littered, or dumped in a landfill. This guide is designed to help reduce the waste stream through reducing, re-using, and recycling. If your bath tub was overflowing, would you get a bucket or turn off the tap? Similarly, with a few mindful actions, we can reduce our waste stream.

Why reduce our waste stream:

- It saves resources;
- It lengthens how long our landfill can operate;
- Waste creates danger to bears and other wildlife;
- Marine debris kills marine life through entanglements and ingestion;
- Recent research has found micro-plastics, that can affect our endocrine system and hormones;
- It's the right thing to do;
- It saves us money;
- We have a responsibility to the future; and finally,
- Should future generations be responsible for cleaning up our mess?

How to get started reducing your waste stream:

The first step is to separate your waste stream. Why should we separate and recycle? Because it is the right thing to do and it makes recycling possible. However, as we all know, sometimes it is the financial incentive that finally gets the attention of some people who are otherwise dis-inclined to do the right thing.

In order to recycle for free at Haines Friends of Recycling, please make sure materials are clean and free of food residue that attracts bears. The materials needs to be separated and placed in the appropriate bins. Anything not properly sorted requires paid staff or volunteers to correct the sorting errors.

From the perspective of the Community Waste Solutions landfill, careful separation leads to an overall significant reduction in disposal costs for the consumer.

CLEANING AND SORTING ARE KEYS TO REDUCING OUR WASTE STREAM

II. How to use Reduce Our Waste Together (ROW Together)

Part III is a “Materials Guide” that identifies materials that can be recycled, re-used, or re-purposed in Haines. The information is accurate as of early 2023, but please realize that our search for solutions continues to expand and hopefully more ideas are emerging as you read this.

Part IV lists the businesses and organizations that can help you with your waste reduction efforts. The information provided is directly from the businesses and organizations listed.

For either the Materials Guide or the Business/Organization guide, please help us. If you know of additional information that should be added for next year, please email [Melissa Aronson](#).

Next is an activity you can do in your home, place of business, or classroom called a “Home Waste Audit”. It is designed to help you identify more ways you can reduce your waste stream.

Following the Home Waste Audit is an activity called “Eco-Guilt” that can be used to help you set attainable goals for waste reduction.

Next is a description of Haines Borough ordinances that relate to reducing the waste stream.

Additional resources follow with an assortment of useful information.

Finally there is a description of how this guide was put together that might be a useful model for other communities wishing to develop a similar resource.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact [Melissa Aronson](#).

III. Materials Guide

This section of *Reduce Our Waste Together* provides information about why different materials can and should be recycled and where to take them in Haines. The businesses and organizations that do the recycling are underlined. The location and contact information for the businesses is in the Business/Organization section of this guide.

Appliances

Why: Refrigerators and freezers contain chemicals that destroy the ozone layer so it is important these chemicals be removed by trained and licensed technicians. All appliances are made of metals that can be recycled and reused. Shelves and drawers are removed and made available to the public through the Scrap Box.

Where: Recycled at Haines Friends of Recycling on Thursdays and Fridays 9 am - 12 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. Washers, dryers, stoves, and hot water heaters \$20 each; refrigerators and freezers \$50 each.

Community Waste Solutions takes washers, dryers, and water heaters at 28 cents a pound plus an additional \$50 for refrigerant removal from refrigerators and freezers.

Batteries

Why: Lead and acid are dangerous to the environment and should be recycled.

Where: Lead acid and AGM (Absorbent Glass Mat) batteries can be taken to Big Foot Auto for free recycling.

Household (alkali) batteries and hearing aid batteries generally can't be recycled because they are made of multiple materials and are therefore very expensive to recycle. Unfortunately they should just be landfilled at Community Waste Solutions at this time.

Lithium-ion batteries and devices containing these batteries should **NOT** go in household garbage or recycling bins. Lithium-ion batteries might be accepted at Home Depot in Juneau. Otherwise they should be taken to the annual household hazardous waste collection sponsored by Haines Borough. To prevent fires, put tape over battery terminals and/or place lithium-ion batteries in separate plastic bags.

Books

Why: When our well-used or outdated books are ready to be retired and nobody wants them, there are ways to reuse or recycle them. Oftentimes people who are

skilled with paper crafts can use old books as supply materials. For those that are not usable in any other way, it is time to remove the non-recyclable covers and bindings and recycle the paper pages.

Where: Used books can be taken to the [Haines Borough Library](#), [Talia's, Hospice](#) rummage sale, the ferry terminal or ferries, or sold at garage sales. There is also a Little Free Library at [Haines Packing](#) where you can take books or pick one up for free. You can also send books to [Juneau's Amazing Bookstore](#) or outlets like [ThriftBooks.com](#).

Used books that can't be sold can be recycled at [Haines Friends of Recycling](#) if they are printed on non-shiny white paper and the covers are removed.

Brita Water Filters and other products

Why: [Brita](#) products go to [Terracycle](#), a company specializing in recycling items difficult to recycle. The materials are then used to make other products.

Where: [Brita](#) water filters and other [Brita](#) products are recycled directly to [Brita](#) by [Haines Friends of Recycling \(HFR\)](#). Take them during staffed hours (Thursdays and Fridays 9 am - 12 pm, Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm) or to the "cubby" at [Howzers](#). Two websites for more information: [Brita Recycling Filters](#) or [Terracycle Brita Brigade](#).

Campaign Signs

Why: What do we do with all those plastic campaign signs that sprout up before every election? They aren't recyclable but there are some ways to re-use them so their useful life is extended a bit.

Where: Campaign signs can be attached to raised beds in gardens as windbreaks. The white side will reflect sunlight, thereby warming the garden bed. They can also be used as something to sit or kneel on; however, be careful not to walk on them because they are slippery. They can be used as an edger for painting. If not printed on one side, that side can be used to make other signs. Recent research by HFR shows they can be painted with light grey Rustoleum auto body primer and then used for signs for events. A candidate can also re-use the signs if they decide to run again! Can you think of other ways to re-purpose these very durable and non-recyclable products?

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Why: The plastic covers can be recycled if the covers have a #1 or #2 in the chasing triangle. Please dispose of the batteries before bringing them in for recycling.

Where: Take to [Haines Friends of Recycling](#) when they have an electronics recycling collection event; 40 cents a pound.

Cleaning Products

Why: Many cleaning products contain toxic materials or are in containers that aren't recyclable, e.g. in spray cans. Exposure to toxic cleaning materials in our homes can endanger our health. By using non-toxic cleaners we can protect our health, save money, and reduce our waste.

Where: Leftover or unwanted cleaning products should be taken to the annual Hazardous Waste Collection organized by the Borough.

BUT WAIT! There are many non-toxic cleaning products that won't need disposal and will save you money. For example, baking soda can be used in place of Comet or Ajax. White vinegar can be used as a replacement for window cleaners. Salt and lemon juice is a great disinfectant to put on cutting boards after using. For ideas to get you started see Non-Toxic Cleaners.

Clothing

Why: Clothing accounts for about 13 million tons of waste produced every year in the U.S. Choosing clothing made of natural fabrics (e.g. cotton, silk, wool), especially organic fabrics, is much more environmentally friendly than petroleum-based synthetics that will break down into micro-plastics and contaminate the environment. The most efficient way to reduce the impact of clothing is to buy used clothing. Or only buy clothing made of natural fabrics. Or buy clothing that will not become outdated fashion (if fashion matters in Haines!).

Where: Hospice of Haines holds an annual rummage sale. LaLoft has consignment of women's clothing. Talia's also takes limited amounts of clothing. Salvation Army takes clothing. Host a clothing exchange party. Sell your items on Haines Buy/Sell/Trade.

Some clothing can be sent back to the manufacturer for recycling, e.g. Levi, Wrangler, or Patagonia.

Fabrics made of natural materials can also be composted or used as a ground cover on garden pathways or raised beds to reduce weeds.

Compost - see the section on **Food**

Construction Materials

Why: In a community of do-it-yourself people, we often end up with small amounts of leftover construction materials or just need a bit of something.

Where: Haines Friends of Recycling has a "Scrap Box" store, open Thursdays and Fridays 9 am - 12 pm and Saturday 10 am - 2 pm during the summer and by

appointment in the winter. Call 766-3000 to arrange an appointment. HFR accepts donations of small amounts of construction materials and other similar items to sell for very reasonable donations to help support the work of HFR.

Construction and Demolition (C and D) materials are accepted at Community Waste Solutions for 28 cents a pound; C and D materials are landfilled.

Electronics

Why: Electronics contain many Rare Earth metals that are hazardous if released into the environment, plus other materials that can be recycled.

Where: Haines Friends of Recycling has an annual Electronic Recycling (e-waste) event, usually in early June on a Friday and Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm both days. Watch for announcements of dates and what can be taken for recycling. The charge is 40 cents per pound.

Electronics can also be taken to Community Waste Solutions where the charge is 79 cents a pound.

Eye Glasses

Why: Many people in impoverished areas need glasses and can't afford them.

Where: Eye glasses are recycled through the Lions Club "Lions for Sight International". They can be left at Haines Friends of Recycling during staffed hours.

Fire Extinguishers

Why: Fire Extinguishers that have reached the end of their usable life contain hazardous chemicals which need to be handled carefully.

Where: can be taken to the Haines Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD), 766-6441, for free. They remove the chemicals and send the processed cylinders to HFR for recycling. The fire department will also service (refresh) fire extinguishers that still have usable life. Please call the fire department before bringing in your extinguishers for service or disposal.

Fish Nets

Why: Improper disposal or loss of fish nets at sea creates environmental hazards. Derelict "ghost" nets continue to catch fish, entangle and kill marine mammals and birds, and also endanger mariners in rivers and oceans. Fish nets are made from a recyclable plastic (nylon) that can be reprocessed into raw material that is

manufactured into many other products. HFR consults with Net Your Problem on statewide efforts to adapt to the evolving fish net recycling market.

Where: [Haines Friends of Recycling](#) takes fish nets at the Recycling Center during spring and fall collection events or by appointment. Watch for announcements about collection dates and how to prepare nets. \$25 for each net.

Some gardeners use old fish nets in their gardens or orchards but this can be dangerous to wildlife and pets that might get caught in the netting.

Future plans: A group of local organizations, including [Haines Friends of Recycling](#), [Takshanuk Watershed Council](#), [Chilkat Indian Village](#), [Chilkoot Indian Association](#) and others are working together to begin a program of plastic up-cycling that will be housed at the new [Haines Friends of Recycling](#) facility. The plastic up-cycling will include fish nets. Stay tuned for more information over the coming year!

Fish Waste

Why: Fish waste is a valuable source of nitrogen and other nutrients for gardens. However, in high concentrations it can be a source of pollution. Fish waste is a valuable component of compost piles but can be a bear attractant unless an effective electric fence is working.

Where: As of this writing there aren't community-wide fish composting services available. However check with one of your gardening friends to see if they can use fish waste in their compost bins. [Takshanuk Watershed Council](#) is in the process of building a community composting facility that will take fish waste; operations are scheduled to begin in 2024.

Fishing Line

Why: Fishing line can be a source of entanglement for marine life and equipment.

Where: Used fishing line receptacles are available at the four main launch ramps and at [Haines Friends of Recycling](#). The line is recycled along with fish nets. Please remove any hooks and bobbers.

Fluorescent Tubes

Why: Fluorescent tubes contain mercury, which is toxic and leads to brain damage, especially serious in the developing brains of children. Fish bioaccumulate mercury that has leached into rivers and the ocean. When we consume fish, we may consume mercury.

Where: Fluorescent tubes can be taken to [Haines Friends of Recycling](#) when staff is available: Thursdays and Fridays 9-noon and Saturday 10 am - 2 am. \$1 for a 4 foot tube; \$2 for an 8 foot tube.

Food (and **Compost**)

Why: Almost 50 percent of all produce in the United States is simply thrown in the garbage and then into landfills. Disposing of food in a landfill creates methane gas, which is a major cause of global warming; it also attracts bears and other wildlife.

Where: Excess produce or fish and shelf-stable food items can be shared with the Haines Senior Center or the [Salvation Army](#).

We can freeze, can, dehydrate, or share to reduce home food waste.

Growing our own food as much as possible provides many benefits, including cutting down on greenhouse gases from transportation, providing us with fresher food, and giving us excellent exercise. It also tends to reduce food waste when we grow our own food. And then we can use what food waste we do have to make nutrient-rich fertilizer for our gardens, thus closing the loop. There are a few options for using food waste to make compost for gardens:

- We can have home compost piles. Local gardeners can give you tips on how to do this successfully. There are also books available in the library. An electric fence is required to keep bears and other critters away. Electric fences are easy to set up. [Defenders of Wildlife](#) has an incentive program to help with the cost of electric fences. Click here on the [application](#) for the electric fence incentive program.

- We can find a gardener friend who will take your food waste for composting or feeding livestock.

- We can purchase counter-top composters. Google “counter top composters” to find brands. They aren’t cheap but work well for small households. Electricity usage is approximately the same as running a crock pot (slow cooker).

- We can also have our own vermiculture systems that use red worms. Talk to local gardeners who have their own vermiculture set-up to help you get started. It’s really easy. And they may have worms to give you.

As of this writing [Takshanuk Watershed Council](#) is in the process of developing a community composting system.

Food waste can also be taken to [Community Waste Solutions](#) where it is used as a cover on the landfill. However, food waste in landfills doesn’t break down properly because of lack of oxygen (anaerobic reactions) and can turn into methane, a very serious greenhouse gas. If the food waste is completely free of any other materials, it

will be taken by CWS for free. If it is mixed with other waste, the price is 40 cents a pound.

Fuel Filters

Why: Gas and oil filters contain many toxins that should be handled carefully.

Where: Haines Small Boat Harbor takes used fuel and oil filters for free from the community.

Fuel tanks

Why: Empty propane tanks can be explosive and need to be dealt with carefully.

Where: The small, green propane tanks used with barbecues can be taken to Haines Friends of Recycling when HFR holds a scrap metal drive. They can also go to Community Waste Solutions for 28 cents a pound. Propane tanks can be refilled if an adapter is purchased and safety guidelines are followed. To prepare a propane tank for recycling they need to be de-pressurized with all valves removed and a hole punched in the bottom of the tank.

If you have a large fuel tank and can cut the tank in half it can be used as a container at Haines Friends of Recycling to help us with scrap metal recycling.

Five gallon propane tanks can be refilled until they rust out.

Large fuel tanks can be cut in half, holes punched in the bottom, and used as raised beds in a garden.

Garden Supplies

Why: Gardeners sometimes have extra seeds, pots, and other equipment and supplies they no longer need or want. Other gardeners may want those same supplies. An exchange saves money.

Where: A number of local large gardeners hold annual plant sales, usually starting about mid-May. These can be a place to take or pick up garden supplies. Also check out the Farmers' Market for possibilities. Chilkat Valley Farms will also take garden pots when they have their sale tent set up at Haines Home Building, beginning in May of each year. Gardening supplies are also accepted and made available at the Scrap Box at Haines Friends of Recycling.

Haines Brewing Company offers spent brewing grain for local composting systems. They also have grain bags to give away that are lined in plastic. Some people grow tomatoes and potatoes in them. The bags can also be used for sand bags.

Washing machine tubs, great for compost bins, and dryer tubs, great for raised garden beds, are both available through Haines Friends of Recycling at \$20 each. Or, you can dismantle a washer or dryer at HFR and have the tub for free.

Leftover PVC pipe can be used for building hoops over raised beds.

Gas Cans

Why: Old metal gas cans that have leaks are very dangerous and should be recycled. Old plastic gas cans can't be recycled because of fire danger and contamination.

Where: Empty out the old metal gas cans, remove the caps, and punch a hole in them. They can go to Haines Friends of Recycling when HFR holds a scrap metal collection.

They can also go to Community Waste Solutions for 28 cents a pound.

Glass

Why: Glass is a clean and relatively benign type of container for food, etc. But it needs to be discarded with care so that it doesn't cause injury.

Where: Glass currently can't be recycled locally but is collected at Community Waste Solutions (CWS) for 11 cents a pound. They break it and use it for landfill cover. CWS hopes to get a glass crusher and have it working in 2024 or 2025.

Another alternative is to re-use glass containers for purchasing household usable amounts of bulk food and other items from Earthworks Refillery.

There are also glass crushers scaled for home or small business use; check out the internet for ideas. And if you find something that works for you, please [contact us](#) so we can include it in next year's update of ROW Together.

Any other ideas? We need some local creative people to find uses for glass locally.

Hazardous Materials

Why: Hazardous materials are a danger to our health and our environment and need to be disposed of safely.

Where: The Haines Borough Public Works Department holds periodic hazardous material collection events when funding is available. Watch the local media for dates, times, and what can be taken. As of this writing we are waiting for the dates of the 2024 Haz-Mat collection.

Household Items

Why: Where did all the stuff in our homes come from? Want to clear out the clutter?

Where: Hospice of Haines sponsors an annual rummage sale. Watch for announcements. Volunteers are always needed.

Talia's takes a variety of household items.

Hainesak.com "Buy/Sell/Trade" Facebook group and other social media outlets are great sources.

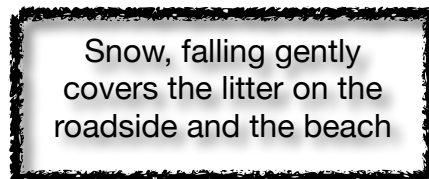
Garage sales are always popular.

Haines Friends of Recycling has a Scrap Box for the donation and sale of smaller household items and construction materials.

Haines Borough Public Library has a new program called "Down to the Wire" whereby they display items from households which are trying to move in a hurry, to save items from being dumped in the landfill. People come, browse the items, collect what they want, and leave a donation for the Friends of the Haines Borough Public Library. Contact library staff at 766-6420 for details.

Inert Household Waste

Why: As much as we rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot, we may still have some things that are left over. Those materials can be defined as "inert waste". What do we do with it?



Challenge to reduce: What are you putting in your household trash? How can you reduce what is in your garbage? What can be re-used? What can be recycled? What can be repaired? For more ideas, see the following later in this guide: "Home

Waste Audit", "Eco-Guilt" for setting waste reduction goals, and "7 tips to recycle better".

Where: But what do we do with any remaining inert household trash? It can be taken to Community Waste Solutions for 43 cents a pound. Or you can take advantage of their orange bag "Drop and Drive Program" designed to be more convenient for the public. To participate, purchase biodegradable orange bags from CWS, Haines Home Building, Olerud's Market or Mountain Market. Household trash can go to CWS Monday through Saturday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Just drop the orange bags in the designated container for free. All inert trash is landfilled.

Light Bulbs

Why: Currently we are using a number of types of light bulbs in our homes. The old incandescent ones, Fluorescent tubes, CFL's (Compact Fluorescent Bulbs), and the newest and most efficient LED bulbs.

Where: Old incandescent bulbs can be taken to Community Waste Solutions.

Fluorescent Tubes should go to Haines Friends of Recycling where the mercury is removed. Bring the tubes when staff is available: Thursdays and Fridays 9 am - 12 pm and Saturday 10 am - 2pm. \$1 for a 4 foot tube; \$2 for an 8 foot tube.

CFL's (the curly bulbs) can go to Juneau where they are accepted at some of the Big Box stores such as Home Depot.

Marine Debris

Why: Marine debris is on our beaches from garbage dumped or lost from boats and ships, river run-off, and community litter. Marine debris can entangle or choke marine life and cause injury or death. It also breaks down into harmful micro-plastics which are ingested by marine life.

Where: Tracy Wirak-Cassidy at Takshanuk Watershed Council is the contact person for the 2024 Marine Debris Cleanup. Contact her at tracy@takshanuk.org to volunteer or for information on where to take marine debris you may have collected while out boating.

Future plans: A group of local organizations, including Haines Friends of Recycling, Takshanuk Watershed Council, Chilkat Indian Village, Chilkoot Indian Association and others are working together to begin a program of plastic up-cycling that will be housed at the new Haines Friends of Recycling facility. The plastic up-cycling will include marine debris. Stay tuned for more information over the coming year!

Medical Supplies

Why: Sometimes we end up with medical supplies, both consumable and not, that we no longer need. But other people in the community might be needing what we have. Donating is a great way to help others.

Where: Some durable items in good repair like wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, toilet cushions, braces, etc. can be given to [Southeast Alaska Independent Living \(SAIL\)](#) or [Hospice of Haines](#). Call first to see if they can use your items; see the business/organization section for contact information.

SEARHC Haines Health Center has a Medication drop box in the waiting room. The Medication disposal is for solid medication only, NO liquids. The procedure is as follows:

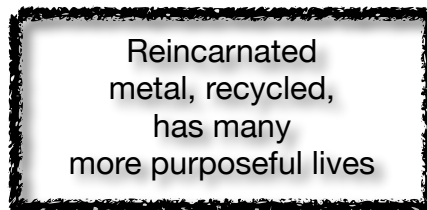
- The Big Blue Medication Disposal unit is located near the pharmacy.
- Open the medication bottle, pull the door open, empty medication into the disposal unit. DO NOT PUT BOTTLE in the unit, medication only.
- Take medication bottle home and recycle bottle if it is #2 container.

If you have a Blood pressure machine that was issued to you from SEARHC you can drop it off at the front desk.

SEARHC also take “sharps” (hypodermic needles) packaged in sharps containers. The pharmacy can provide a sharps container if needed.

Metals

Why: Metals can be recycled many times. Each time metals are recycled, they save energy and damage from mining. For example, recycling aluminum saves more than 90% of the energy needed to make aluminum from virgin natural resources. The amount of energy used to make a single aluminum can from bauxite ore is the same amount of energy required to make 20 cans out of recycled aluminum.



There are basically two types of metals: ferrous and non-ferrous. (Ferrous comes from the Latin root word for iron). Ferrous metals stick to magnets; non-ferrous metals do not. A hint for making recycling easier for you: keep a small magnet by your kitchen sink so you can separate aluminum from steel when you rinse out metal

containers. Small magnets are available at reasonable cost at the local hardware stores.

Where: Aluminum cans can be recycled for free at Haines Friends of Recycling or Community Waste Solutions (CWS).

* Tin cans: can be recycled for free at Haines Friends of Recycling; please make sure the cans are clean so they don't attract bears and that labels are removed. CWS takes metal at 28 cents a pound.

* Copper and brass: can be recycled for free at Haines Friends of Recycling during staffed hours (Thursday/Friday 9 am to 12 pm, Saturday 10 am - 2 pm)

* Stainless steel and sheet aluminum: can be recycled for free at Haines Friends of Recycling during staffed hours.

* Washing machine tubs, great for compost bins, and dryer tubs, great for raised garden beds, are both available through Haines Friends of Recycling at \$20 each. Or you can dismantle a washer or dryer at HFR and have the tub for free.

* Scrap metal (made of steel) can be taken to Community Waste Solutions for 28 cents a pound. Haines Friends of Recycling will hold at least one scrap metal collection day in 2024; watch for announcements.

For information on recycling appliances, see the "Appliances" section above.

Oils and Other Petroleum Products

Why: Even a small amount of oil can cause extensive water contamination. Spilling a single gallon of oil can contaminate as much as one million gallons of water. Spilling a pint of oil in a wetland or lake could cover the surface area of an acre of water. A single gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water.

Where: Big Foot Auto takes for free:

- * Used clean vegetable oil;
- * Used engine, transmission and gear oils;
- * Gas and diesel that has been in storage for years;
- * Gas and diesel contaminated with water; or
- * Gas and diesel mixed together

Haines Small Boat Harbor takes used oil and oil filters for free from harbor users.

Both locations used EPA approved methods to convert the oil to heating oil to be used on site.

Packing Materials

Why: Packing materials can be used over and over again so please share with others what you get and can't re-use yourself. Often when we order something on-line there will be shipping options where you can request packing materials that are compostable. Bubble wraps and pillows aren't compostable or recyclable but can be re-used. With packing peanuts (ghost poop?), there are two kinds: those that break down in the environment and those that don't. To test, run one peanut under water. If it disintegrates it will compost. If it doesn't disintegrate it is made of styrofoam and should be sent to Community Waste Solutions or one of the options below.

Where: You may be able to give your packing materials to local stores, artists, pottery shops, etc.

Paint

Why: We all end up with small amounts of paint in cans after our projects. What do we do with it? Someone else in the community might be able to use it for a small project, thus saving it from going in the landfill. Water-based paints for indoor use are usually safe. Solvent- or oil-based paints can irritate eyes and/or skin and release Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) that can be harmful to health.

Where: Partly-used cans of paint can be taken to the Scrap Box at Haines Friends of Recycling when the weather is safely above freezing. The paint is then made available for sale at very low cost. Partly-used cans can also be taken to the Hazardous Materials collection by the Haines Borough Public Works.

Lutak Lumber and Haines Home Building Supply both make available paint that was mixed incorrectly. Prices vary.

Paint cans: empty or near-empty paint cans should have lid removed and allowed to dry out before taking to the landfill to avoid possible ground water contamination. If the paint is water-based, add kitty litter or newspaper equal to the amount of paint remaining in the can. Wait until the paint has dried before putting the can into the regular garbage.

Paper Products

Why: Most paper is one of the easiest materials to recycle. Recycling paper saves trees. Different types of paper require separation for reliable recycling.

Where: Wet or food contaminated cardboard can be composted in home or commercial composting systems. Clean, dry, flattened cardboard can be recycled at Haines Friends of Recycling. Please take off the tape before recycling or composting.

Shredded white office paper can be recycled at [Haines Friends of Recycling](#). Please bring it in bags. It can only be recycled if shredded into strips. If it is cross-cut (like confetti), then it can be composted.

White office paper can be recycled at [Haines Friends of Recycling](#). White paper that has only been printed on one side can be used again for printing or used as scratch paper.

Magazines, catalogues and other shiny paper can't be recycled but are accepted at [Community Waste Solutions](#) where they are used as a cover to the landfill. We can cut down on catalogs and magazines by calling companies who send us unsolicited catalogues and ask that they take us off their mailing lists. When you call, request to be taken off of all "sister publications" too and emphasize to NOT sell your address to other catalogue companies. Most catalogues and many magazines are now online; we can cut down the huge unnecessary waste of resources used to make and mail catalogues by accessing them online.

Newspaper can be used to clean windows, as fire starter, as a source of carbon for compost piles, or to prevent fruit flies in worm composting bins. People can collect newspapers at [Chilkat Valley News](#) or at [Haines Friends of Recycling](#). Or it can be taken for recycling and reuse at [Haines Friends of Recycling](#).

Paper grocery bags can be returned to [Howzers](#) for re-use.

Moving boxes in good condition can be given away on [Haines Buy-Sell-Trade](#).

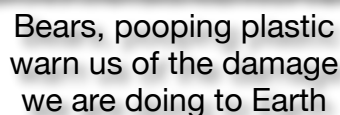
Pet Supplies

Why: We love our pets. Here is where you can help with your donations of pet supplies:

Where: [Haines Animal Rescue Kennel \(HARK\)](#) takes pet supplies, pet food, and fitted sheets.

Plastic

The advantage of plastic is that it lasts a very long time. The DIS-advantage of plastic is that it lasts a very long time. Plastic is becoming a very serious problem in our environment as litter, marine debris, micro-plastics, and nano-plastics. We can do a lot to prevent waste by seriously considering how to reduce our use of plastic.

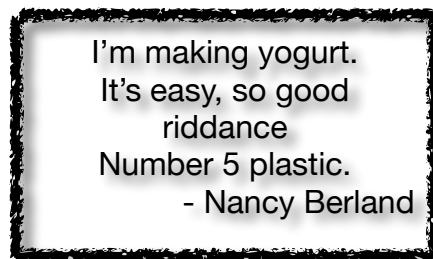


Bears, pooping plastic
warn us of the damage
we are doing to Earth

Why: It is estimated that in the US we use and dispose of 300 pounds of plastic per person per year. And plastic breaks down very slowly, if at all. Plastic does degrade into micro-plastics and nano-plastics that are ingested by animals, including humans. Globally we are becoming increasingly concerned about the problems of plastic, including pollution of our rivers and oceans, the damage to fish and other wildlife, and the increasing problems of micro- and nano-plastics. The health effects of plastics are not fully understood, but increasingly research is showing that plastics are an endocrine disrupter with many negative health effects. See the article in “Additional Resources” on current research on the effects of micro-plastics on human health.

Currently the market for recycling plastics is poor because the companies that make and use plastic aren't being responsible about the volume of waste they are producing. So the best option is to think seriously of ways to reduce your plastic use.

Every spring community and marine debris cleanups are held, organized by volunteer organizations and groups. These cleanups help reduce plastic and other pollution in the Chilkat Valley. Every spring Takshanuk Watershed Council leads the community volunteer-based Marine Debris cleanup. Contact Tracy at tracy@takshanuk.org to volunteer.



Future plans: A group of local organizations, including Haines Friends of Recycling, Takshanuk Watershed Council, [Chilkat Indian Village](#), [Chilkoot Indian Association](#) and others are working together to begin a program of plastic up-cycling that will be housed at the new Haines Friends of Recycling facility. The plastic up-cycling will include marine debris, fish nets, and all plastics except styrofoam and PVC. Stay tuned for more information over the coming year!

The Borough has banned single-use plastic bags for carrying groceries, but not plastic produce bags (8.10.010). *Mother Earth News*, in a March 2021 report titled “Righteous Recycling”, reports “five trillion plastic bags are produced worldwide each year; only 1 percent are recycled. The average working life of a single-use plastic bag is 12 minutes; tests show it can take 100 years or longer for one to decompose.”

Consider purchasing re-usable cloth or mesh produce bags from Mountain Market. Take your own re-useable cloth grocery bags to the store; they are available at many locations.

Where: Plastics are identified by numbers that are in triangles on the plastic. If there isn't a number, the plastic cannot be recycled. If there is a #1 or #2, Haines Friends of Recycling will collect the plastic for recycling. Other plastics, including those with a #3 through #7, are not recyclable locally at this time but we hope that will change with the proposed plastic up-cycling project described elsewhere in ROW.

If you have trouble reading the numbers in the triangles, either smear the numbers with mud, color with a marking pen, or use a magnifying glass to make it easier to sort accurately. Or use the magnifier on your cell phone.

Community Waste Solutions takes plastic at 43 cents a pound and currently bales and landfills non-recyclable plastics.

Earthworks Refillery sells many food and non-food items in reusable and refillable containers. This is an excellent way to reduce your use of plastics. Bring your own glass container; some containers are available at a nominal cost.

My life as a plastic bag

I was oil, sleeping deep in the ground, until I was pumped from the tundra.
Some of the oil spilled upon the ground,
washed into a stream,
then to the ocean,
to form a sheen to choke the algae, deplete the oxygen, and kill the fish.
But I moved down the pipeline and was shipped to a refinery,
where I was made into plastic
molded into a plastic bag,
sent to a grocery store and
used once to carry groceries, also wrapped in plastic.
I was discarded,
caught by the wind,
blown into a tree.
There I pretended to be a ghost, fluttering in the wind,
until I broke into pieces.
I fell to the ground and was eaten by a bear,
who pooped me out on the road.
I floated to the river, then the ocean,
where I was mistaken for being a jellyfish and eaten by an octopus.
Once again I was pooped out, now broken into micro-plastics
where I was ingested by fish.
And then humans.
But I was used. Once.

Prescription Bottles

Why: Prescription bottles with a #1 or #2 in the chasing triangle can be currently recycled. However, those with a #5 can't be. Please read the numbers carefully.

Where: Haines Friends of Recycling takes #1 and #2 plastics for free. Remove the caps and mark out your name and confidential information.

Printer and Toner Cartridges

Why: Many companies that sell printer and toner cartridges take back used product to re-furbish and re-sell.

Where: Haines Friends of Recycling takes printer and toner cartridges for free during staff hours (Thursdays and Fridays 9-12 and Saturday 10-2). They can be left in the "cubby" by the entrance to Howzers IGA , dropped off at Haines Home Building Supply or taken to Haines Friends of Recycling. HFR ships them out for recycling.

If at all possible, please put the printer and toner cartridges in their original boxes to make it easier for our volunteers to sort for recycling.

Rugs and carpets

Why: Old rugs and carpets can be re-used but should not be burned because they often contain toxic materials.

Where: Try advertising them on Haines Buy-Sell-Trade. If they are beyond re-using they can be used as a weed block for garden paths. Or take them to the landfill at Community Waste Solutions where they will be taken for 43 cents a pound.

Smoke Detectors

Why: Smoke detectors contain a small amount of radioactive material.

Where: Community Waste Solutions may take them. Otherwise, check to see if the Borough will accept them at Hazardous Materials collections.

Tableware

Why: Hosting a large party? Want to reduce (or eliminate) the waste left over? Using borrowed or compostable tableware can really help. Compostable plant-based plastic cups are slow to compost and should be taken to Community Waste Solutions for their industrial composter. The flatware can be shredded and added to compost or used as a fill for small holes. Compostable paper plates, paper cups, and napkins break down quickly in home compost systems.

Where: Compostable tableware is sold by Mountain Market and also at cost by Haines Friends of Recycling. Call 314-2209 to get the current price list and availability at HFR.

Tires

Why: Tires that were formerly composed of natural rubber are now constructed of multiple materials including metals and toxic chemicals. They should not be used in the garden or in areas where children or pets play.

Where: Community Waste Solutions shreds tires and uses them in the cap on the landfill. Passenger and light truck tires are \$6.25 each if off the rim and \$12.50 if they are still on the rim. Large truck and implement tires are \$12.50 each off the rim and \$25.00 if left on the rim.

Vehicles

Why: Sometimes that old vehicle is beyond repair and just needs to be sent to a vehicle recycling center.

Where: When funding is available, the Haines Borough Public Works Department accepts and ships out non-functioning vehicles from time to time. Contact the Public Works office at 766-6409 for more information.

Wood Chips

Why: Wood chips are an excellent ingredient for composting systems, for mulch around fruit trees (keep mulch away from the trunk), and for garden paths to reduce weeds.

Where: Alaska Power and Telephone (AP&T) chips brush along power easements and gives away the resulting wood chips to residents close by on a first-come, first-served basis. The chips are a mix of all types of trees and bushes.

Yard Waste

Why: Yard waste isn't waste. It is a raw product for composting systems. Yard "waste" composts faster if cut into smaller pieces.

Lawn clippings that have been treated with a "weed and feed" type fertilizer or other herbicides (such as RoundUp) should NOT be composted because the pre-emergent weed suppressers will inhibit plant germination.

Where: Add it to home composting systems if it hasn't been treated with "weed and feed" or herbicide chemicals. Take it to Community Waste Solutions if it has been contaminated with "weed and feed" fertilizer.

Zero Waste Products

Why: Zero waste products are a great way to reduce our use of packaging, plastics that can't be recycled, and polluting chemicals.

Where: Haines Packing has zero waste and package free household products (for example: deodorant, dental floss, reusable napkins, laundry and cleaning supplies, sponges etc). And more! Also they sell locally grown produce and locally caught seafood. They are building up their product line to incorporate more local food from around the state like sea salt from Sitka, honey from Homer, and kelp pickles from Juneau.

Compostable tableware is available in bulk from Haines Friends of Recycling and in family size amounts from Mountain Market.

IV. Business/Organization Guide

This section provides information about the businesses and organizations in Haines that help reduce the waste stream. Name, location, hours of operation, contact person, phone, website, and other social media are included. All phone numbers are 907 area code unless indicated differently.

Please note that all the entries below were provided by or approved by the businesses or organizations named. A big “thank you” to them for assisting with this guide!

The Materials section of this ROW Together guide has specific information about all the things that can be recycled, re-purposed, or composted in Haines.

Alaska Backcountry Store

Located at 111 Second Ave., 766-2876 for more information. They recycles all cardboard, shredded white paper, printer ink cartridges, #1 and #2 recyclable plastics, metal cans, fluorescent lights, and aluminum with Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR). They still have to haul to the Community Waste Solution landfill the un-recyclable polyethylene plastic bags, styrofoam packaging, and low grade catalogs that used to be recycled but aren't now.

Alaska Nature Tours

Located at 109 Second Ave., or call 766-2876 for more information. Provides tour groups with individual lunches, made by the Bamboo Room, that are sacked in recycled white paper bags that are recycled at HFR. Their bags don't include food waste. Their clear plastic #1 water bottles are recycled. The only part of their lunches that they haven't been able to separate as yet on site are the peels, apple cores and uneaten portions of wraps that are separated from used napkins at CWS and go into CWS landfill cover. Their clients have been very cooperative to separate what's left into our three bins at our lunch venues and we explain the bins at every meal.

Alaska Power and Telephone (AP&T)

Located at the corner of Second and Main or call the office at 766-6500 for information on the list for wood chips, which will be given when available on first-come, first-served basis. The wood chips are a mix of all types of trees and bushes.

American Bald Eagle Foundation (ABEF)

Located at 113 Haines Highway or call 766-3094, or check out [ABEF's website](#) for more information. They take materials to care for eagles and other raptors. Contact them to see what they can use. Sometimes they can take cardboard and wash cloths.

Becky's Place: Haven of Hope

Call the office at 303-0076 for information. Haven of Hope is a shelter for women, children, and men in abusive situations. They purchase items to support clients,

generally from garage sales, LaLoft, and Talia's. You can help by taking things to LaLoft and Talia's and earmarking the consignment earnings to Becky's Place.

Bell's Store

Call the office 766-2950 for information. Takes gently used large vases for sending out bouquets.

Big Foot Auto Napa Store

Located 1 mile Haines Highway, inquire within at the Part counter, or call the office at 766-2458, for more information. Open Mondays through Fridays 8 am - 5 pm.

They recycle or reuse the following at no cost:

- * lead acid and AGM batteries;
- * used clean vegetable oil;
- * used engine, transmission and gear oils;
- * gas or diesel that has been in storage for years;
- * gas or diesel contaminated with water;
- * gas and diesel mixed together that do not meet specifications

for gas or diesel engines;

Blythe's Garden

Accepts clean plastic planters. Contact her on her Facebook page, "Blythe's Garden", to see what is accepted.

Chilkat Valley Farms

Call the office 767-5779 for more information. Takes gardening pots when they have their sale tent open at Haines Home Building, usually beginning in May.

Chilkat Valley News

Located on Main Street, next to Arctic Chiropractor, upstairs, or call the office 766-2688 for more information on what they offer. Offers old newspapers for fire starter, packing, composting, or puppy training papers. The newspapers are in the office and can be accessed Monday through Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.

Community Waste Solutions (CWS)

Located at the very end of FAA Road, or call Craig Franke at 766-2736 for more information. Open Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm. They CANNOT take hazardous materials; haz-mat has to go to the Borough Haz Mat collection.

CWS has a "Drop and Drive Program" designed to be more convenient for the public. To participate, purchase biodegradable orange bags from CWS, Haines Home Building, Olerud's Market or Mountain Market. Household trash, bagged in the orange bags, can go to CWS Monday through Saturday from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Just drop the orange bags in the designated container for free.

For the weigh station CWS prices, as of early 2024, are as follows:

Aluminum: Free (100% Separated from all other waste);

Glass: 11 cents/lb.;

Food Waste: Free (if 100% separated from all other waste);

MSW: (Municipal Solid waste is inert and unseparated materials) 43 cents/lb.;

Metal: 28 cents/lb.;

Electronics: 79 cents/lb.;

Plastic/SSR: 30 cents/lb. (100% Separated from all other waste);

C&D: (Construction and Demolition) 28 cents/lb.;

Refrigerators and Freezers Freon Removal: \$50.00 (doesn't include cost for weight) plus 28 cents/lb.;

Tires: Passenger and light truck tires are \$6.25 each if off the rim and \$12.50 if they are still on the rim. Large truck and implement tires are \$12.50 each off the rim and \$25.00 if left on the rim.

As of this writing, Community Waste Solutions is planning for a glass crusher to be installed in 2024 or 2025.

Earthworks Refillery

Call the owner, Betsy Van Burgh 314-0344 for information. Earthworks Refillery sells bulk foods and non-food items in household amounts in reusable and refillable containers. She is looking to let someone else take over this business. She will have foods to sell until all is gone.

Four Winds Farm

Located in the upper Chilkat Valley an organic farm, owned and operated by Sally Boisvert, 314-0712, with help from upper valley residents Jill Evans and Ariel Rolfe.

They deliver vegetables three times a week to town in reusable totes. At the Haines Farmers Market they offer unpackaged local produce; bring your own containers, bags, and baskets. The one item that needs to be packaged in a new plastic bag, salad greens, can also be weighed directly into a customer's own reusable produce bag at the Farmers Market. Customers can also purchase fresh vegetables and herbs from the farm's new Energy Star rated 3-door display fridge located at Haines Packing Company's store on Main Street. Bring your cloth bags please!

Four Winds Farm makes their own compost using local fishery waste and lumber milling waste.

Gomi's Garden

Write to P.O. Box 1061, or call 303-0943, or [email Gomi's Garden](#), or check out [Gomi's Garden website](#) for more information. The 2024 garden sale will begin on May 10 and will be at the Fairgrounds between the Community Garden and the playground. Starting about then, we have all kinds of plastic planters from XS to XL, some trellis and plant staking materials, sometimes even shelving which could be used in shops or garages. We would love it if gardeners would pick them up to reuse or repurpose.

Gomi's Garden uses a lot of local products and supplies from gravel to landscaping boulders, from sawdust to sand, local fish fertilizer and more for our landscaping operation. We also strive to make growing your own food source a success and joy by offering the right fruit bearing plants and pollinators for our region.

Haines Alaska Community Website (Classifieds)

Free to use to buy, sell, or trade just about anything. A weekly “Waste Reduction Tip” is posted by Haines Friends of Recycling. Go to [Haines Alaska website](#) to access information.

Haines Animal Rescue Kennel (HARK)

Located on Small Tracts Rd., or call 766-3334, or [email HARK](#), or go to [HARK's website](#) for more information. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm. They take pet toys, fitted sheets, pet food, and other pet supplies.

Haines Borough Public Works Department

Call the Public Works Department at 766-6414 for more information. When funding is available, the Borough organizes a hazardous materials collection and also ships out derelict cars. For 2023 the haz-mat collection is tentatively scheduled for a day in July. The derelict car removal is on hold, pending funding from the State.

Haines Borough School District

Food scraps from the cafeteria are taken to “Starvin’ Marvin”, a compost system managed by Takshanuk Watershed Council with help from the sixth grade class. The compost is then used to grow food in the school’s “Marvin’s Garden” and the resulting produce is served in the school cafeteria.

The school district recycles all their cardboard and white paper with Haines Friends of Recycling.

Teachers might be able to use art, paper, and office supplies, but contact them first. Contact information for teachers on the [Haines Borough School District's website](#).

Haines Brewing Company

Located on the corner of 4th and Main Street, or call 766-3823, or check out [Haines Brewing Company's website](#). They sell beer in reusable glass growlers. They also give their spent brewery grain to local gardeners and farmers for their animals. They also have grain bags to give away that are lined in plastic. Some people grow tomatoes and potatoes in them. The bags can also be used for sand bags.

Haines Buy-Sell-Trade

[Haines Buy-Sell-Trade's Facebook](#) page, or [Haines Buy, Sell and Trade's Facebook](#) page. Easy to use. All sorts of things are bought, sold, or traded on these Facebook pages.

Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR)

Located at 2.5 mile Small Tracts Road. Staff is available Thursdays and Fridays 9 am-12 pm and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Contact person is [Melissa Aronson](#) or call 314-2209. Message phone is 766-3000. Check out the [HFR's website](#) for more information, or [HFR's Facebook](#) page.

In addition to the recycling described below, Haines Friends of Recycling also supports public education efforts such as:

Earth Day (in partnership with other local groups) in April.

Waste reduction tips posted weekly on [HFR's Facebook](#) page, Haines Chatters, and Haines Zero Waste facebook page. Sometimes the waste reduction tips are also used as Public Service Announcements on KHNS and the Haines AK community website.

We annually update this guide: "Reduce Our Waste Together".

We have a 15 minute radio show called "Talking Trash" on the topic of waste reduction and recycling every fourth Tuesday on KHNS from 8:45 am - 9:00 am. After the show airs the script is posted on [HFR's Facebook](#) page, Haines Chatters, and the Haines Zero Waste facebook page.

We also assist with a number of Zero Waste Events such as the Southeast Alaska State Fair and others.

[Contact us](#) for more information and tips on how to host a Zero Waste event or other public education we can provide to your organization.

HFR recycles many items, including paper products (cardboard, newsprint, white paper, and shredded office paper), #1 and #2 plastic, aluminum cans, and tin cans. These items may be dropped off 24/7, 365 days a year, all for free. All recyclables must be clean and free of dirt or food contamination that can be bear attractants.

Other items accepted for recycling for a fee include refrigerators and freezers (\$50); stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, and hot water heaters (\$20); fluorescent tubes (\$1 for 4 foot, \$2 for 8 foot). If available, please securely tape the owner's manual and other repair information inside the appliance. Please bring when staff is available.

HFR also accepts when staff is available for no charge:

printer and toner cartridges; please leave in original boxes if possible because that makes it easier for our volunteers to sort.

Brita materials (filters, bottles, and packaging) and eyeglasses that are sent to Lions International.

Electronic recycling is collected once a year for 40 cents a pound. The electronic recycling for 2024 will be June 7 and 8 on a Friday and Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm both days; watch for announcements of the dates.

Fish net collection dates for 2024 are May 31 and June 1 from 10 am - 2 pm both days or by appointment; call 907-723-7182. To see how to prepare nets check out [HFR's website](#) or call 907-723-7182 for appointment. \$25 for each net.

Haines Friends of Recycling also has a “Scrap Box” for the sale of small amounts of construction, home items, and gardening equipment. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9 am - 12 pm and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm during the summer and by appointment during the winter.

Compostable tableware in bulk is available at cost. [Email Melissa Aronson](#) to get pricing information and tips on how to hold a Zero Waste Event.

Washing machine tubs, great for compost bins and dryer tubs, great for raised garden beds, are both available through Haines Friends of Recycling at \$20 each. Or you can dismantle a washer or dryer at HFR and have the tub for free.

As of this writing, Haines Friends of Recycling is planning for future operations to include plastic up-cycling in a new facility and location. Purchase of mobile up-cycling equipment will allow us to expand our collections to include many more types of plastic that will be used locally to make plastic lumber, flower pots, and other products for sale. Stay tuned for more information!

Haines Home Building Supply

Located on 1003 Haines Highway, or call 766-2595 for more information. They give away the following items: cardboard boxes, styrofoam peanuts, bubblewrap, shipping tubes, shredded paper, wood pallets, plywood/lumber wraps. They collect printer cartridges which then go to the HFR for recycling.

Haines Packing

Located at 326 Main Street, or call 766-3523 for more information. They sell zero waste and package-free household products. They accept shopping bags. Closed in the winter. For more information, see their [Haines Packing's Facebook](#) page.

Haines Borough Public Library

Located at 111 3rd Ave, or call 766-6420, or check out [Haines Public Library's website](#) for more information. The library takes used paper or plastic bags to protect materials being checked out. They have used books available for sale. Contact the Library before dropping off used books to make sure they can accept them.

The Library offers an extensive collection of books and videos on waste reduction available to borrow.

A hard copy of “Reduce Our Waste Together” is available in the non-fiction section with the call number 640.286.

The Library also accepts used magazines in the entryway for anyone to take. NO CATALOGUES PLEASE!

Also the Library has a new program called “Down to the Wire” whereby they display items from households which are trying to move in a hurry, to save items from being

dumped in the landfill. People come, browse the items, collect what they want, and leave a donation for the Friends of the Haines Borough Public Library. Contact library staff for details.

Haines Small Boat Harbor

Call the office 766-6450 for more information. The staff at Haines Harbor is working hard to put together a functional and cost effective plan to deal with all types of waste disposal. They have recycle bins for aluminum, plastic, glass, all types of filters, oils, oily waste, electronic waste, plastic containers used for oil sales/disposal, and batteries. They are making these services available to the Haines Harbor users. They also have a receptacle for fishing line.

The Harbor will accept and process all types of oil, oil filters, oil containers, and oil contaminated products. They have a dumpster for harbor use only and do not have separate recycle bins set out. Electronic waste should be disposed of at Haines Friends of Recycling or the landfill at Community Waste Solutions.

They do not accept batteries. They should be taken to facilities in town (such as Big Foot or Haines Industrial) that accept them free of charge.

The Haines Borough gets charged extra if you place waste such as electronics, paint, oil, large construction waste, fiberglass, batteries, anti-freeze and five gallon plastic buckets. In addition, if non harbor waste is disposed of in the harbor dumpsters, this effects the user fees passed on to harbor users.

Please dispose of your waste in the containers provided. It will only take you an extra minute and it will help tremendously. In addition, if you see the dumpsters being used improperly, please mention it to the person or bring it to the Harbor Staff's attention.

Thank you for helping us achieve our goal of becoming the first certified Clean Harbor in Southeast Alaska this will benefit everyone in the community.

Haines Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD)

Call the office 766-6441 for more information on services of fire extinguishers. Sometimes the fire extinguisher can be refreshed for continued use. And sometimes it needs to be be recycled. Extinguishers ready for recycling are processed and then taken to Haines Friends of Recycling. All services are free; donations to the fire department are welcomed.

Hospice of Haines (HOH)

Plans for a rummage sale in the spring of 2024; watch for announcements. HOH also has hospital beds. They loan them out with a bed bundle, which includes bed linens specific to the bed, handled lift blanket and air circulating mattress topper. People do not have to buy a hospital bed, unless they need a special one.

Howsers IGA

Located at 209 Main Street, provides a space in their entry “cubby” for printer and toner cartridge recycling, Brita filters and other Brita products, and a space for people to return and re-use paper bags. They make cardboard boxes available to the public. They are in compliance with Borough Code by not using plastic bags. They bale and send out cardboard and plastic for recycling. Contact the produce department at 766-2040 ext. 234 for getting out-dated produce to feed your livestock.

LaLoft Consignment

Located at 209 Main Street, or call 766-3122, or view [LaLoft's Facebook](#) page for more information. Open 11 am - 5 pm Wednesday through Saturday. LaLoft carries new and gently used women's clothing. Brands include: Prana, 907 Clothing Co., Shyine, Bogs, and Poo-Pourri.

Lutak Lumber

Located at 15 Beach Road across from the Cruise Ship dock, or call 766-2700, or [email Lutak Lumber](#) or check out their [website](#) for more information. They give away pallets, lumber wraps made of plastic (used by many gardeners), paint that was mixed wrong, metal banding, cardboard boxes, and damaged/partial sheets of drywall. They take printer cartridges that then go to Haines Friends of Recycling for recycling.

Mary Stickler

Call or text at (907) 723-0426 for more information on mats from commercial, subsistence, and sport fishing weed line. They are woven on a loom to approximately 20”x32”. Mats can be used for entry ways, shop mats, or even inside as bathroom mats. Each mat has a story and She keeps knots, splices, hook knots, and even electrical tape to help show how to make the mats and to tell the story of the mats.

Miles Furniture

Located at 502 Main Street, or call 766-2855 for more information. They give away big cardboard boxes and “corners” (the compressed cardboard pieces that secure packing).

Mountain Market

Located at the corner of Haines Hwy. and Third Ave., or call 766-3340, or check out their [Mountain Market's website](#) for more information. They sell reusable produce and grocery bags and compostable tableware. Paper grocery bags and repurposed cardboard boxes are available for bagging grocery purchases. There is a discount for bringing in your own cup for hot coffee and tea drinks. For years Mountain Market has re-used product containers in their kitchen such as Nancy's yogurt, bulk pesto, Talenti ice cream containers and 3 gallon buckets of nutritional yeast. These containers are washed and used over and over again and are multi-purpose for storing food, coffee beans and spices. They also recycle bulk nut containers which become a convenient package for local chicken and duck eggs. Additionally they flatten cardboard, tie it up

with string, and take it weekly to Haines Friends of Recycling along with aluminum and steel cans, #1 and 2 plastics, and white office paper.

Port Chilkoot Distillery

Located at 34 Blacksmith Street in the Fort, or call 766-3434, or check out [Port Chilkoot Distillery's website](#) for more information. Port Chilkoot Distillery serves handcrafted spirits infused with locally grown and harvested plants. The tasting room re-uses its own glass bottles, composts all organic waste produced, and does not use disposable cocktail straws. The production facility often has plastic-lined grain bags available for free and they sell their surplus 55 gallon plastic shipping drums and 250-gallon steel-caged totes that are suitable for water catchment, gardening and landscaping projects. 25-gallon wooden whiskey barrels are also available upon request in a range of usable conditions. The public can return clean, large (750 ml) bottles back for re-use in the tasting room.

Rainbow Glacier Adventures

Call the office (907) 303-3576, or check out [Rainbow Glacier's website](#) for more information. They believe in sustainability and waste reduction. They provide lunches on many of their tours. Rather than using plastic, their sandwiches are wrapped in paper. In 2022, they stopped purchasing single-use water bottles for their guests. Each of their tour vehicles carry a cooler filled with water. Guests can refill using their personal water bottles. If guests did not bring their own water bottle, they supply paper cups. This has greatly reduced their plastic waste.

Salvation Army

Located at 430 Union Street, or call 766-2470 for more information. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12 pm to 4 pm. Donations, including non-perishable food items, are accepted by appointment only. They sell gently used items.

Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)

located at 431 Union Street, or call 1(888) 471-1332, or [email SAIL](#) for more information. Sierra Jimenez is the director. SAIL accepts some working, durable medical supplies. Call first to find out what they can take. SAIL offers a community loan closet of durable medical equipment available for short-term loan. If you have an injury or an upcoming surgery and need to use crutches, a knee scooter, a walker, toilet riser or a shower chair, etc. while you recover, consider borrowing from SAIL's loan closet rather than purchasing. Please call in advance to ensure staff and item availability.

Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)

SEARHC Haines Health Center has a Medication drop box in the Haines Health Center waiting room. The Medication disposal is for solid medication only, NO liquids. The procedure is as follows:

- The Big Blue Medication Disposal unit is located near the pharmacy.

- Open the medication bottle, pull the door open, empty medication into the disposal unit. DO NOT PUT BOTTLE in the unit, medication only.
- Take medication bottle home and recycle bottle if possible.

If you have a Blood pressure machine that was issued to you from the clinic, you can drop it off at the front desk.

Crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, and other similar medical devices can go to either SAIL or Hospice of Haines. See the entries for those organizations for directions.

Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC)

Call the office 766-3542, or [email TWC](#), or check out [TWC's website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for more information. TWC is a local non-profit organization providing stewardship of our local watersheds through education, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, scientific research, and community development. TWC seeks to benefit the ecology, economy, and quality of life valued by all Chilkat Valley residents.

For many years TWC has worked with the Haines School to provide composting services. In 2021 TWC was awarded a grant through the Chilkat Valley Community Foundation that allowed for expansion of composting efforts into classrooms. Every K-8 classroom now has a composting bin! Middle school students transport compost from the school to the Marvin Garden composting facility. In 2022 the school turned 2,724 pounds of food waste from the cafeteria into nutrient rich compost, saving the school \$740 in waste disposal costs.

In early 2022 TWC was awarded a grant from the USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainable Strategy to begin developing a community composting facility on their property at Jones Point. This will turn waste from local sawmills, fish process, restaurants and kitchens into high quality garden amendments, potting soil, top soil, and other products. The community compost construction will be in the late spring/early summer of 2023 and is run by our Compost Operations Manager Cindy Zuluaga Jiminez.

Additionally TWC is heading up the community volunteer-based Marine Debris cleanup May 4-10, 2024. Contact Tracy at tracy@takshanuk.org to volunteer.

Talia's

Located at 229 Main Street, open Wednesday through Saturday 11 am - 3 pm. A consignment shop that sells quality items at reasonable prices. The store has a little bit of everything. Items are accepted between 11 am and 2 pm the first three weeks of the month. Talia's treasures does not have a phone number but check out their [Facebook](#) page.

V. Home (or Business) Waste Audit

This activity is based on a similar activity in Closing the Loop: Integrated Waste Management Activities for School and Home, K-12, by the Institute for Environmental Education for the State of California in 1993. Good ideas are good ideas, even thirty + years later.

This activity is designed for individuals, homes, businesses, classrooms, etc. to analyze their waste and figure out ways to reduce it.

Step One: Collect all your waste for a week (or choose another timeframe).

Step Two: Analyze what you have by separating into categories (What can be composted? What can be recycled? What can be re-used or re-purposed? What don't you need?). The Materials section of this Reduce Our Waste Together guide can help if you have questions. If you are so inclined, measure the volume or the weight. In any case, look at the waste you have collected for the week.

Step Three: Think about the following questions: What could you do to reduce your waste? How much is packaging? Is the packaging recycled? What can be recycled? What can be composted? What can be re-purposed to be useful in another way? What can be given away? What could be sold or donated? What can be consigned or gifted to charitable organizations? How could you have avoided getting the waste material in the first place? For example: using re-usable grocery bags, not buying food in #5 (un-recyclable) plastic. What other ways could you reduce your waste?

Step Four: Refer to the Materials and Business/Organizations sections to find options on where to take things. Describe those options.

Step Five: Implement any solutions you discovered in step three and four.

Step Six: A week later, collect your waste again and analyze it. How much have you reduced your waste stream? How did you do it? Repeat this step as many times as you like.

Step Seven: What did you learn?

VI. Eco-Guilt



Oftentimes, when faced with too many challenges, we feel guilty, disempowered and overwhelmed by all we “should” do. And so we do nothing. But that doesn’t solve anything.

Instead, let’s look at a way to set achievable goals, one at a time, to reduce our waste over time. Eco-guilt is an activity designed to help us set goals to make the changes we want to make.

Eco-guilt can be done by an individual, a family, a business, or any group. Gather together and make sure everyone has a piece of paper and a writing instrument.

1. For 2 minutes (or so), make a list of actions you can take to reduce the amount of waste you produce.
2. Share what is on your list with others in your group. If you hear a good idea not already on your list, add it. And if you think of a new idea as you are sharing, please feel free to add to your list.
3. Next put a check mark by all the action items you are currently doing. If you want to give yourself partial credit, that’s fine.
4. Now look at the action items you have NOT checked (or partially checked) and identify ONE action you would like to take this month. Put a star by that item. The idea here is that we can’t do everything we think is important all at once, but we can make one change a month. Studies show it takes about 21 days of repeating a behavior to really change it.
5. Now for the commitment. Share your starred item with others. If working by yourself, put the starred item in a conspicuous place where you will see it. By committing ourselves publicly, we are more likely to hold ourselves accountable.
6. Keep your list where you will look at it monthly. Add to the list or modify as you wish. Find one new activity to practice that month.

Over time you will be amazed at how many ways you have found to reduce your waste stream.

VII. Additional Resources

Plastics Up-Cycling

A group of local organizations, including Haines Friends of Recycling, Takshanuk Watershed Council, Chilkat Indian Village, Chilkoot Indian Association and others are working together to begin a program of plastic up-cycling that will be housed at the new Haines Friends of Recycling facility that is being planned. The plastic up-cycling will include marine debris and fish nets, in addition to #1, #2, #4, #5, and #7. In other words, up-cycling can turn all plastics except PVC and styrofoam into useful new products for local sale.

Currently Haines Friends of Recycling is working on a partnership with Alaska Plastics Recovery (APR) out of Anchorage to bring plastic up-cycling equipment to Haines for the summers 2025-2027. During each of those summers, HFR would have 4-6 weeks each summer to use APRs equipment to up-cycle plastics collected at the center and plastics from the marine debris clean up would be up-cycled into lumber.

The up-cycling process involves taking clean and sorted plastics that have been shredded into small bits and feeding them into the extruding machine. The extruder then heats the shredded plastic until it is soft enough to blend it and extrude it into the mold. By heating the plastics to the moldable stage and not to liquid, the concern for smells and off-gassing is minimized. During this 3-year time period, the upcycled plastic will be used to make various dimensions of “Grizzly Wood” lumber.

The advantage to using plastic lumber is that it doesn't rot so it can be used for ground contact and in wet areas. It also lasts more than twice as long as wood and requires no maintenance. These reasons make it perfect to use for raised garden beds, decks, park benches, picnic tables and many other outdoor uses.

By the end of the third summer with Alaska Plastics Recovery, HFR should have their new facility built and have purchased their own plastic up-cycling equipment. The plan at that time will be to continue making lumber with up-cycled plastics but also to explore other product lines and experiment with other blends of plastics. Our goal is to have #1, #2, #4, #5 and #7 plastics be up-cycled within our community eliminating the cost of shipping plastics out and saving landfill space.

Plastics and Our Health

Plastics were in the news in early 2024 when multiple news organizations reported on the presence of plastic particles (nano-plastics) in commercial bottled water. Many people who consume commercial bottled water do so out of concern that other water sources may contain hazardous materials. To find that a known health hazard is ubiquitous in bottled water that had been thought to be safe is very alarming.

Micro- and nano-plastics are the small, non-degradable residue of consumer plastics that have not been recycled and are left to be breakup throughout our environment. Some of these plastics cannot be economically or conveniently recycled, and some are simply disposed of improperly. In Haines, we have all seen plastic bags blown into trees or in bear scat on the trails, and plastic litter on our beaches and roadsides. These plastic materials eventually break up and are dispersed by physical weathering, sunshine, and heat. While colored plastic particles are easy to see in beach gravel, invisible micro-plastics are also present in dust, air pollution, the spray from ocean waves, and wind (Jones 2023). Recent research highlighted micro-plastic in Southeast Alaska rain (Rozell 2023) and Southcentral Alaska waterways (Rosen 2024). Plastic pollution impacts all organisms, even if they do not come into direct contact with it.

Swallowing and inhalation are common examples of direct exposure to plastic particles (think of the dramatic media photos of bird gut contents), while food chain accumulation is a method of indirect exposure. Plastics were ingested by 79% of all marine species examined (Marmara 2023) and particles have been found in organisms as diverse as algae and zooplankton at the base of the food chain to consumers on up the food web, including Alaska mussels (Fenno et al. 2021), pollock (Ding and Peng 2023), and seals (Rosen 2023), as well as terrestrial animals. Chemicals contained within plastic particles were also found in many human tissues, including lungs, brain, and bloodstream (Kannan and Vimalkumar 2021).

The science of documenting micro-plastic effects is still in its infancy, but many effects are known. Aside from physical effects of ingestion, plastics contain thousands of harmful chemicals. In seabirds, ingested plastic causes fibrosis and digestive pathology (Charlton-Howard 2023). In humans and all other vertebrates, the bonded chemicals in micro-plastic particles cause pathological effects. For example, specific chemicals such as phalates and bisphenols can reduce sperm count (Zhang 2022) and promote inflammation (Gaspar et al. 2023). Wide-ranging health issues from cancer to endocrine disruption to birth defects were reported in a landmark study of micro-plastics and human health (The Guardian 2023; Zolotova 2023). Could endocrine disruption be related to globally increased rates in human gender disorders? Could the global increase in human obesity be correlated with altered lipid (fat) metabolism across multiple generations of laboratory animals from exposure to micro-plastics (Kannan and Vimalkumar 2021)?

The answers are waiting for further research. It is now easy to imagine that bottled water could contain harmful plastic compounds. Added to all the other reasons, reducing our waste and our use of plastics is imperative for our health.

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Non-Toxic Cleaners

Many cleaning products contain toxic materials or are in containers that aren't recyclable, e.g. in spray cans. Exposure to toxic cleaning materials in our homes can endanger our health.

By using non-toxic cleaners we can protect our health, save money, and reduce our waste.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started. For more ideas see Consumer Reports or Mother Earth News.

Instead of:	Use:
Aceton (nail polish remover)	Mineral spirits and Murphy Oil soap
Air Fresheners	Baking soda and a little lavender essential oil
All purpose cleaners	Baking soda, white vinegar, salt, lemon juice
Ant killer	Borax and sugar mixed together
Disinfectant	salt, lemon juice
Drain cleaner	Baking soda followed by vinegar
Oven cleaner	Baking soda made into a paste with water
Toilet bowl cleaner	White vinegar
Window Cleaner	White vinegar or 1/2 cup soapy ammonia mixed with a pint of rubbing alcohol

7 Tips plus one to Recycle Better

adapted from earthday.org/7-tips-to-recycle-better

1. No single use plastic bags. Like really, no bags. Grocery bags jam up equipment and dissolve into micro-plastics. In Haines we have an ordinance prohibiting single use plastic bags so why do you have them?
2. Small items lead to big problems. They probably aren't #1 or #2 plastic anyway. Anything too small falls out of the bales of plastic and just make a mess.
3. Make sure plastic brought to Haines Friends of Recycling is clean and empty. Items contaminated with food are bear attractants. Bears will break open bales of recyclables looking for food. And food contaminated materials will be rejected by recycling companies and just landfilled.
4. Combined packaging materials like juice boxes, plastic lined cups, canning lids, etc. are just trash. Recycling only works when like materials are together. There isn't any feasible way to separate out combined materials.
5. Know your plastics. Haines Friends of Recycling can currently only recycle #1 and #2 plastics. There is no market for the other plastics. If you can't read the number in the triangle, smear a little mud or marking pen on the triangle; it will be easier to read. Or use a magnifying glass to check out the number.
6. Stop "wish-cycling". Of course we want to recycle more but some things just can't be recycled. Putting non-recyclable items in the wrong bins contaminates the whole bale. Pay attention to what sort of containers you are purchasing and only buy in containers that can be recycled.
7. Teach yourself what can and can't be recycled. Haines Friends of Recycling mails an annual flyer that explains what can and can't be recycled. The flyer is also available on the website: hainesrecycle.org.
8. Demand change. Frustrated that more can't be recycled? Us too. Contact the companies that are using non-recyclable materials and demand change. Consumer feedback can bring about corporate change.

Weekly Waste Reduction Tips

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
1	Where can I find newspaper to use as a fire starter?	Newspaper for fire starter is available for free at Haines Friends of Recycling and the Chilkat Valley News.	Jan
2	Where can I buy compostable tableware for an event?	Compostable tableware for your event is available for sale at cost at HFR. 314-2290 for more information.	
3	Why should I sort my recycling carefully?	Recycling only works with carefully sorted and clean materials. Please! No food contamination!	
4	Where can I recycle carbon monoxide detectors?	Does your carbon monoxide detector need to be replaced? Remove batteries and take to HFR with electronic recycling in June.	
5	What do I do with used printer and toner cartridges?	Take your printer and toner cartridges to Howsers IGA or HFR when staffed to recycle. Put them in the original box if at all possible. HFR staff is available Thursdays and Fridays 9 am - 12 pm and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm.	
6	What plastics can be recycled?	Only #1 and #2 plastics, can be recycled currently. Look for the numbers in the chasing triangles on the bottom.	Feb
7	How can I recycle unwanted books?	Too many books? Recycle them. Tear off covers and recycle the paper in the white paper bin at HFR.	
8	What plastics can't be recycled?	Before you buy something in plastic, check to make sure it is packaged in #1 or #2 plastic, the only types we can recycle.	
9	What can I do with small amounts of construction materials?	Do you have small construction materials or are you looking for some? Check out the Scrap Box at HFR.	
10	How can I reduce how much garbage I produce?	Look for ideas on "Reduce Our Waste Together" on the HFR website .	March

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
11	Where can I get low cost garden supplies?	Looking for garden supplies? Have too many garden supplies? Check out the Scrap Box at HFR.	
12	Why should I garden?	Growing your own food gives you fresh food, great exercise, and cuts down on the carbon footprint to ship food from Outside.	
13	How can I compost my kitchen scraps?	Do you know how to compost your food waste? Ask a gardener friend to show you how to make this great resource.	
14	What is happening to celebrate Earth Day?	Come to the local Earth Day celebration!	April
15	Do you appreciate what HFR does? Want to volunteer?	We have lots of volunteer opportunities for all sorts of skills and time commitments. Call 314-2209 or email Melisa Aronson to volunteer	
16	How can I get rid of left-over paint? Or find small amounts of paint?	Small amounts of usable paint can be taken to the Scrap Box at HFR after danger of freezing is over. Unusable paint goes to the Borough Haz-Mat.	
17	Didn't the Borough ban single use plastic bags?	YES! Haines passed a ban on single-use, non-compostable plastic grocery bags. Ordinance # 8.10.020.	
18	How can I start a worm farm for composting?	Just have a little bit of food waste? Think about vermiculture: composting with worms. Contact HFR for directions or see "Worms Eat My Garbage" in the library.	
19	How can I get a movable raised garden bed?	Want an easy to use and install raised garden beds? Get a dryer tub from HFR.	May
20	How can I get a easy-to-use compost bin?	Want an easy way to make compost container? Use a washing machine tub from HFR.	
21	Where should I put up an electric fence?	Put up electric fences around gardens, orchards, chickens, and garbage to keep bears away.	

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
22	Where and when can I recycle electronics?	Recycle your electronics at our annual collection in June at the Recycling Center. 314-2209 for more information.	
23	Can fish nets be recycled?	Yes! Take clean, stripped nets to the Recycling Center. (907) 723-7182 for more info.	June
24	Where can I get cardboard for mulching or composting in my garden?	From the cardboard bins at the Recycling Center!	
25	What can I do with old fishing line?	There are fishing line recycling receptacles at the docks. (907) 314-0587 for more info.	
26	It's patriotic to take care of our country!	Let's show we love our country by taking care of her through recycling and waste reduction.	
27	I'm having a party. How do I reduce waste from the party?	Do you want to hold an event that is Zero Waste? HFR can give you tips on how to do this.	July
28	Recycling and composting at the Fair!	The food court at the Fair is Zero Waste! Volunteer to help! Call 314-2209.	
29	Recycling and composting at the Fair!	Help our volunteers at the Fair by putting your recycling and composting in the right bins. Volunteers will help you.	
30	Where can I get rid of old eye glasses?	Do you have eyeglasses that are no longer the right prescription? You can take old glasses to SEARHC or HFR and we will send them to the Lions Club for distribution.	
31	What do I do with burned out Fluorescent tubes?	Recycle those fluorescent tubes at HFR. \$1 for a 4 foot tube, \$2 for an 8 foot tube.	Aug
32	Where can I take old crutches, etc?	Do you have medical devices you no longer need (like crutches, etc.)? Offer them to SAIL, HAL, or Hospice.	

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
33	Where can I recycle copper and brass?	Please recycle your copper and brass at HFR. Bring it to HFR when we are staffed Thursdays and Fridays 9 am to 12 pm, Saturdays 10 am - 2pm.	
34	Where can I recycle aluminum and tin/steel cans?	Aluminum and tin cans can be recycled for free 24/7 at HFR. Please make sure they are clean and sorted.	
35	Where can I recycle paper?	Cardboard, white paper, newspaper, and shredded paper can be recycled for free 24/7 at HFR.	
36	Where can I find metal for an art project?	Looking for winter art projects? How about building something out of re-purposed scrap metal? Check out our supply at HFR.	Sept
37	What can I do with used clothing?	Unwanted clothing accounts for about 12 million tons of waste produced every year in the U.S. How can you reduce your waste?	
38	What are some ideas to reduce clothing waste?	Reduce your clothing waste: Buy gently used. Take gently used to a second-hand store. Compost natural fabrics.	
39	Where can I recycle an old fire extinguisher?	The Fire Department will take your outdated fire extinguishers for recycling.	
40	Is there any use for old campaign signs?	Political signs can be reused! Paint them with Rustoleum auto body primer (light grey) and use for signs for events.	Oct
41	What can I do with unwanted pet supplies?	Extra pet supplies? Food your cat won't eat? You can take extra supplies to HARK.	
42	I don't have a car. How can I take care of my recycling?	Call HFR at 314-2209 to arrange for volunteer assistance with your sorted recyclables.	
43	Call HFR at 314-2209 to arrange for assistance with your sorted recyclables.	Keep ghosts out of the trees! The Haines Borough bans single use, non-compostable plastic bags.	

Week	Topic	Tip statement	
44	What can I do with unwanted holiday decorations?	Unwanted holiday decorations? Contact teachers to see if they can use what you no longer want.	Nov.
45	Are you going to have a large holiday party?	Contact HFR at 314-2209 about how to make your party a Zero Waste Event.	
46	Where can I take unwanted auto parts?	Check with your mechanic to see where you can take extra auto parts.	
47	Low grade paper is taking over my garbage since it can no longer be recycled - what can I do?	Call the catalog companies to cancel mailings. But some things simply have to be landfilled, like milk or chicken broth boxes. See if you can find an alternative for these purchases.	
48	Help! I have an appliance that broke down and can't be repaired!	Drop off appliances at the Recycling Center during staff hours. Stoves and dishwashers are \$20; refrigerators and freezers are \$50.	
49	My fire extinguishers can no longer be recharged. Can I recycle the metal?	Take defunct extinguishers to the Fire Department. They will remove the hazardous materials so the canister can be recycled at HFR.	
50	What can I do with burned out holiday lights?	Recycle holiday lights and strings that don't work. Remove light bulbs. Take the wire to HFR with electronic recycling in June.	Dec.
51	What is a great holiday gift idea?	Think about making a donation to your favorite non-profit as a holiday gift.	
52	What should be my New Year's Resolution?	Make a resolution for how you will reduce reuse, and recycle in the coming year.	

Alaskan-Based Organizations (selected)

Alaskan recycling organizations and businesses

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR): is a privately funded, non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating litter and increasing economically viable recycling in Alaska. Founded in 1982 by a group of dedicated Alaskan business leaders, ALPAR's programs help clean up litter in Alaska's communities, parks, beaches, and waterways, and assist community recycling centers with shipping assistance, outreach and recycling grant programs.

Juneau RecycleWorks: Operations Manager is Stuart Ashton, contact via [email](#), or call 780-6009. They collect self-sorted recycling, household hazardous waste, and junk vehicle. They have an organics management program. They also provide education and outreach to the community.

The Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP): is a non-profit organization empowering Alaskans to make smart energy choices, powering local clean energy growth, and positioning our state as a global energy powerhouse.

Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority | Wrangle Alaska ([SEASWA](#)): is a public agency formed by member communities in Southeast Alaska to stabilize or reduce the cost of solid waste disposal in the region. The intent of SEASWA is to reduce or stabilize cost through a combination of a long term disposal contracts and increased diversion through recycling. Current member communities are Wrangell, Petersburg, Thorne Bay, Craig, Klawock, Kasaan, and Coffman Cove.

Southeast Conference: The mission of Southeast Conference is to undertake and support activities that promote strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska.

Sustainable Southeast Partnership: The Sustainable Southeast Partnership (SSP) includes international, regional, and community-based organizations as well as representatives from tribal governments in the rural Southeast Alaskan villages of Kake, Klawock, Sitka, Kasaan, Hydaburg, Hoonah, and Yakutat. The organization considers ways to build socially just, environmentally healthy, and economically sound communities.

National and International Sources (selected)

[America Recycles Day](#): America Recycles Day is celebrated each year about November 15.

[Bioneers](#) a great resource for global solutions to issues about sustainability.

[EarthDay](#) helps local groups organize Earth Day events. Earth Day is April 22 and began in 1970.

[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#):

Learn how reducing, reusing, and recycling can help you, your community, and the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources. Recycling programs are managed at the state and local level—find information on recycling in your community.

[Mother Earth News](#), March 2021 “Righteous Recycling” describes the problems with mixed (single-stream) recycling. Haines Friends of Recycling uses self-sorted recycling, which works well.

[Net Your Problem](#): is an organization that focuses on recycling fishing nets and diverting the materials for recycling. Haines Friends of Recycling is consulting with Net Your Problem to refine its fish net recycling program as the market evolves.

[Positive News](#): This is a great quarterly that is available at the Haines Library. It’s published in the U.K. and contains all sort of global positive happenings. It’s the sort of journal that can engage the reader enough to read it all in one sitting.

[United Nations Environmental Program](#) on solid waste management: This [website](#) gives information about recycling globally.

YES! magazine is a great resource for solutions to global problems focusing on sustainability.

A Few Internet Resources (selected)

As we all know, the internet is full of resources. Here are a few non-profits of interest:

[Story of Stuff](#): Short, animated videos about reducing our waste stream in a variety of ways. A great introduction.

Alliance to [End Plastic Waste](#)

[Zero waste](#) certification guidelines

A Few Books to get you started:

Living Without Plastic, Brigitte Allen and Christine Wong, www.artisanbooks.com, 2020.

Zero Waste Home: The Ultimate Guide to Simplifying Your Life by Reducing Your Waste, Bea Johnson, Scribner, 2013.

Haines Borough Ordinances related to waste reduction including

Plastic Bag Ordinance

Littering Ordinance

Notice to Abate

Refuse Container Standards

Bear Attractants Ordinance

Plastic Bag Ordinance (8.10.010) states: “Distribution of non-compostable shopping bags is prohibited. It shall be unlawful for all establishments in the borough to provide single-use, non-compostable plastic shopping bags for the purpose of carrying away goods from the point of sale, except as provided in HBC 8.10.020 (Ord. 19-04-536 § 4) 8.10.020 Exception: Plastic bags used by customers to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy, or bags used for damp or leaking products such as frozen items, meat or fish, shall not be prohibited. (Ord. 19-04-536 § 4).”

Littering Ordinance (8.08.020) states: It is unlawful for any person to do any of the following within the Haines Borough:

- A. Cause or allow litter to be collected, deposited, or to remain in any place under the person’s control, and/or possession, other than in an appropriate refuse container, designed for such purpose;
- B. Deposit litter in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place except in a public refuse container, authorized private trash receptacle, or in a disposal area designated by the borough;
- C. Sweep or deposit into any gutter, street, or other public place the accumulation of litter from any residence, building, lot, public or private sidewalk, or driveway. Persons owning or occupying property shall keep the sidewalk in front of their premises free of litter;
- D. Drive or move any vehicle that is carelessly loaded or not constructed to prevent its load from falling upon any street, alley, or public place;
- E. Deposit any litter on private property, whether owned by the person or not;
- F. Possess or control private property that is not maintained in a litter-free condition;
- G. Place, post, or deposit any handbill, poster, or other device calculated to attract the public unless permitted under HBC Title 18;
- H. Deposit litter in a lake, river, stream, or other body of fresh or salt water;
- I. Deposit litter generated in a person’s household, property, or business in a refuse container not owned, leased, designated, or otherwise intended to be used by that

person. This prohibition does not include the deposit of incidental amounts of litter or refuse in refuse containers designated for public use in parks, campgrounds, and other such facilities by users of that public facility;

J. Deposit litter that may be offensive, noxious, or otherwise dangerous to the public health or safety on any public or private property, alley, street, or other roadway within the Haines Borough. (Ord. 18-06-498 § 4; Ord. 18-01-487 § 4; Ord. 06-05-144)

Notice to Abate – Removal by Borough (8.08.030) states:

A. The abatement official is authorized to notify the responsible party of a violation of HBC 8.08.020 and to require the correction or abatement of the violation by said party. The notice shall specify the violation and required abatement or corrective action and shall be given by certified mail, addressed to the responsible party at the party's reasonably ascertainable last known address. As circumstance may warrant, a citation may be issued for a violation pursuant to HBC 1.24.010.

B. Upon the failure, neglect, or refusal of the party so notified to take the required responsive action within 10 days of receipt of the notice, or upon return of the notice if, though properly addressed, it is returned as undeliverable, the abatement official may take such action as the official deems necessary to correct or abate the violation.

C. The cost of such action taken by the abatement official under subsection (B) of this section, including process fees and incidental administrative costs, shall be charged to the responsible party and shall be due and payable within 30 days of the completion of the action, with interest accruing at a rate of 12 percent per year, until paid in full. (Ord. 18-06-498 § 5)

Refuse container standards (8.08.040) states:

A. To satisfy the requirements of this chapter, a refuse container must be:

1. Strong, watertight, not easily corrodible, and rodent and insect proof;
2. Fitted with a tight cover; and
3. Kept tightly covered at all times, except when necessary to place litter therein or remove litter therefrom.

B. Refuse containers must be emptied and the contents properly disposed of on a regular basis. (Ord. 20-01-554 § 4)

Bear Attractant Ordinance (8.20.10)

The terms and phrases used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

A. “Bear attraction nuisance” means, except as otherwise provided in this section:

1. More than one-half gallon of any putrescible material, including packaging or other surfaces to which the material is adhered;

2. Livestock, excluding horses and cattle;

3. “Bear attraction nuisance” does not include:

a. Manure or sewage;

b. Material in an Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) certified bear-resistant container;

c. Material completely enclosed in a structure which normally excludes access by bears and requires hands or tools to open;

d. Material, livestock, or an orchard completely enclosed within an electric fence.

B. “Person in control” means a tenant or an agent, superintendent, or other owner’s representative.

C. “Property” means developed or undeveloped real property, including any apartment house, mobile home park, planned unit development, or other multifamily development.

D. “Putrescible material” means organic materials prone to degrade rapidly, giving rise to obnoxious odors, including but not limited to foods or animal parts, livestock feed, harvestable fruits, and compost which is capable of being decomposed by microorganisms. (Ord. 21-01-578 § 5; Ord. 12-11-309 § 4; Ord. 10-09-240 § 4)

Within the Haines townsite area, no owner or person in control of property shall cause or allow the creation or maintenance of a bear attraction nuisance on that property or any adjacent right-of-way. Except as otherwise provided for in this chapter, the property owner and the person in control of the property may both be liable for a violation of this chapter concerning the same unlawful act. The unlawful act involves not only the creation of a bear attraction nuisance but allowing the offense to continue. (Ord. 10-09-240 § 4)

This chapter shall be enforced by the police department or by other employees authorized by the borough manager. Whenever a bear attraction nuisance is found on property in violation of this chapter, the officer or authorized employee shall take the following progressive actions:

A. Issue a citation for a violation.

1. The citation for the violation shall be waived upon proof that the person cited has taken steps to correct the problem within a week.

2. Acceptable correction may include the acquisition of an acceptable refuse container, or the installation of an electric fence, or other actions that will have the effect of correcting the problem.

B. Issue a citation for any subsequent violation within the year. (Ord. 21-01-578 § 5; Ord. 10-09-240 § 4)

A. Each person who owns and/or is in control of property that creates, maintains, or permits a bear attraction nuisance on the property shall be charged with a minor offense and subject to a fine as set forth in HBC 1.24.040.

B. Each and every day after notice during any portion of which a violation or failure to comply is committed, permitted, or continued shall be treated as a separate offense, and subject the offender to separate charges and a fine as provided in subsection (A) of this section. (Ord. 15-06-413 § 21; Ord. 10-09-240 § 4)

VIII. Process for Developing the ROW Together ***(Reduce Our Waste Together) guide***

Are you interested in developing a similar guide for your community? If so, here is brief description of the process used to develop this guide in Haines, Alaska. We hope it is helpful for you!

Who: ROW Together was originally a joint project of Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR) and the Haines Borough Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG). The Borough disbanded SWWG in 2022 and HFR continued with the mission of producing ROW Together. [Melissa Aronson](#) is the chairperson of HFR and the principal researcher and writer of this document. As drafts of the document were developed, interested members of HFR and others in the community provided input and editorial assistance. Also businesses and organizations included in this document were contacted for accurate and up-to-date information. The poetry grew out of a writing class taught by Heather Lende and sponsored by the Haines Borough Library. A giant “thank you” to everyone who participated in putting ROW Together together.

What: Reduce Our Waste Together (ROW Together) is a guide developed to help our community reduce the waste stream by rethinking, reducing, reusing, recycling, and rotting (composting).

When: A Covid-isolating winter in Alaska was a perfect time to initiate a major project. For you, find a time to dedicate to concentrating on research and writing. ROW Together is updated every January and will continue to be updated annually.

Where: The ROW Together document focuses on Haines, Alaska. We are a small community, population about 2,400, and very isolated. The nearest city by road is Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, 250 miles away. The nearest cities by ferry or plane are Skagway, Alaska (population about 1,000) and Juneau, Alaska (population about 30,000). Haines is unique because of the geographic isolation and small population. In some ways, this made it much easier to research the information for this guide because of the finite nature of our town.

How: Once the basic format for ROW Together was developed, the list of materials to reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot was drafted. Businesses and organizations were contacted. The draft document was circulated and both sections continued to grow until, perhaps, it became a complete listing. An annual update is done each January to include current information. The Waste Audit and Eco-guilt activities are based on curriculum developed by Melissa Aronson in her past life as a university professor.

Why: People tend to reduce their waste stream either because they feel it is the responsible thing to do or in order to save money. A guide like this helps people find ways to reduce their waste stream.

Description of solid waste in Haines. Haines has a very active non-profit recycling organization, Haines Friends of Recycling (HFR), that was started in 1999. Recycling is mostly free through HFR. The organization is supported by memberships, donations, grants, and sale of materials to recycling companies in the Pacific Northwest.

We have a privately owned landfill, Community Waste Solutions (CWS). Residents have the option of self-hauling waste to CWS or getting curbside pickup. Garbage collection or self-haul is relatively expensive.

Whatever is not shipped out for recycling, re-used, or composted eventually finds its way to the landfill. Landfilling anything is a sign of failure to not be able to re-use or re-purpose an item. Landfilling is a waste of precious resources and an irresponsible and unwanted burden to future generations.

IX Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Disclaimer:

This document was prepared with input from the organizations named when it was possible to contact them. Otherwise information was taken from their websites. Like any document of this sort, the information is subject to change and will need to be updated on an annual basis. Please send your comments and ideas for next year's edition to [Melissa Aronson](#) .

Acknowledgements:

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