

A Newsletter Of



**Richland**  
City of Richland  
Solid Waste & Recycling

509-942-7498 or 509-942-7730  
www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro

Spring 2007



## Richland hires new solid waste manager

In October 2006, the City of Richland hired a new Manager for the solid waste division. Kip Eagles came to the city from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Kip was with the Department for 17 years at the Olympia and Yakima offices.

During his time at Ecology, Kip worked on the A-Way With Waste curriculum guide used in environmental education programs in many school districts across the country. He was also coordinator for the state's recycling survey and contributed to the annual state solid waste report. While working on the recycling survey, Kip provided assistance to Ecology's management and the Legislature for developing solid waste policy for Washington State.

In 2001, Kip left Olympia and went

to the Regional Office in Yakima to work on permits for solid waste facilities. In the Yakima Office, he reviewed permits for six of the state's 18 municipal Solid Waste Landfills, 14 transfer stations, three petroleum soil treatment facilities, nine limited purpose and inert landfills, and a compost facility. While in the Yakima office, Kip developed the disposal protocol for the disposal of infected material from the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow) event in Mabton, Washington.

The solid waste manager job in Richland is a great opportunity to apply the best knowledge of the art and science of solid waste. Richland is the only municipality left in the state that controls its waste stream from cradle to grave.



Since Richland owns its own landfill, the economics of recycling and waste reduction actually make a difference to the city's budget. Every pound of waste that is "saved" benefits the city and its ratepayers (citizens) in a number of ways. It helps extend the operating life of the current landfill, saving construction and

permitting costs for a new landfill, and avoids the high cost of long-hauling the garbage. It allows the city to continue saving for future disposal options, which, in turn, means less of a financial burden for our residents.

The short-term goal for the City's recycling program is to identify more drop-off locations. A longer-term goal will be to investigate opportunities for curbside material recycling and yard waste recycling for the city's residents. The program is also looking at starting a compost operation at the landfill to compost bio-solids from the wastewater treatment plant and yard waste from residences and landscaping operations. The current recycling rate for the city is about 30 percent. A yard waste collection program and an increase in material recycling could bring the city to a 50 percent recycling rate in 5 years.

Kip sees the Solid Waste Manager position as one of the best solid waste jobs in the state. He looks forward to bringing more success to an already great program.

## Landfill reaching capacity

By Jim Penor, Solid Waste Supervisor

The Horn Rapids Landfill, formerly called the Richland Landfill, may reach capacity in six short years, and that has Richland officials studying various disposal options now and in the future.

The landfill opened in 1976 with a permitted area of approximately 112 acres located northwest of Richland off State Highway 240. In the past three decades, Federal and State regulations have tightened to protect the environment from the hazards associated with landfills. These regulations have reduced the landfill's permitted area to 46 acres. In 2001,



Richland's Solid Waste Department completed a design capacity report to project the remaining life of the permitted 46 acres. This report, which estimates an annual disposal increase of 2 percent per year, has the landfill at full capacity in 2013. With less than seven years of projected life left, the Solid Waste Disposal Department is gearing up to research the options available to present to the City Council for future solid waste operations.

What residents and businesses can do to help extend the life of our current landfill is to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Reduce trash by shopping with the end in mind. Buy recyclable items, reduce packaging, avoid disposables, and buy durable items. Repair items instead of buying new. Reuse is finding another use. Sell it, give it away, and be creative! Recycle by participating in the many recycling opportunities

### Hours of Operation

The Horn Rapids Landfill is open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is located at 3102 Twin Bridges Road in Richland, off State Route 240.

available. Your Solid Waste Department is looking into other options, but until then, let's work together to reduce the volume of waste going into the landfill.

For more information or to take a tour

of the landfill, call 942-7498. To schedule a recycling presentation, call Gail Everett, Environmental Education Coordinator, at 942-7730, or visit [www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro](http://www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro).

## Solid waste collection tips for Richland customers

To help our automated garbage collection run smoothly and to avoid missed or hard to unload garbage cans (called auto cans), please follow these tips:

1. Have your garbage can out by 7 a.m. Rerouting of the truck may occur in inclement weather or if mechanical problems occur.
2. Place can in the street next to curb line.
3. Place can at least 5 feet away from cars, fences, etc. The mechanical grippers need the clearance to safely grip the can.
4. No construction debris is allowed. Lumber, sheet rock, dirt, concrete, etc. can damage the can and the packing system on the truck. Sometimes it is simply too heavy to lift. The cans are limited to about 200 pounds without breaking in a relatively short time.
5. If you have extra refuse, you must have a prepaid \$0.75 sticker attached to each item. Items must be able to fit into the can for reloading purposes and not weigh more than 40 lbs. Stickers can be purchased from Customer Service at City Hall.
6. Garbage drops by gravity from the can into the truck. Therefore, bagging leaves or grass will ensure your can is emptied (loose grass and leaves can stick inside the can). Folded cardboard



This is an example of inappropriate items placed in and, in this case, on top of an "auto can."

7. Very light items such as paper or packing peanuts tend to "float" and will scatter before going into the truck's hopper. Bagging these items reduces litter.
8. If the lid doesn't close, the can is over-full. Items on top or sticking out of the sides of an over-full can often won't fall into the hopper, creating litter.

For information on composting or recycling, log onto [www.ci.richland.wa.us](http://www.ci.richland.wa.us), link to "Living" and then "Environmental Education."

## Mark your calendar for the 2007 Spring Cleanup!

Drop-box containers will be placed at the following locations on the dates listed. Containers are to be used by Richland residents for the disposal of **bagged leaves and other yard debris only!**

- April 2 – April 8 — Leslie Groves Park, Snyder & Harris
- April 9 – April 15 — Badger Mountain Park, 350 Keene Road

Please—NO liquid waste, NO hazardous waste, NO automotive products, NO commercial waste, NO tires, and NO appliances.

If you have questions, please call 942-7490 or 942-7497.

# 10 Tips for Creating Compost

You can make your own backyard compost. The ingredients you'll need are readily available—"green" and "brown" organic waste, water, and air. After you've mixed these ingredients and given them some time to cook, you'll have a finished compost that will make a nutritious amendment for your soil.

Follow these steps to create your own compost:

1. Choose a level area in your yard. You don't want your compost bin or pile to be in the way, but you don't want it too far away from your source of organic material either. You'll need at least a 3 by 5 foot area to give your pile or bin room to

2. Select a spot that is out of direct sunlight most of the day.
3. Make sure that you have access to water nearby and a hose that will reach the spot.
4. Use a heap, build your own bin, or purchase a commercial compost bin. The size and type will depend on how much organic material you have available and how fast you want your compost to cook.
5. Layer "brown" yard waste, such as dry leaves and dead plants, with "green" organic waste, such as grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps. You'll want about 2 parts

"green" for every one part "brown." If you are grasscycling most of your lawn clippings, coffee grounds are a good "green" organic material (even though they are colored brown); coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen, as are other "greens." Mix the material as you fill your compost bin or build your heap. Be sure that food scraps are at least 10 inches below the surface of the pile—this will keep unwanted visitors away.



6. Chop larger waste, such as twigs, into smaller pieces. You can chop this material manually using trimmers or loppers, or you can run twigs and branches through a chipper/shredder. (You could share a chipper/shredder with your neighbors or rent one.) Chopping this woody waste will help it rot more quickly.
7. Turn the pile at least every other week. Use a pitchfork, a shovel, or a compost turner. Be sure that the material is thoroughly mixed each time you turn it. The more often you turn your pile, the more quickly your material will decompose.
8. Add water if your pile becomes dry. Mix the water evenly through the material. During most weather conditions, your pile should be moist but not soaking wet. If your pile becomes soggy during wet weather, turn and mix the material to add air and help dry it out. A tarp can help keep your composting materials from getting too wet during heavy rains.
9. Give your compost up to six months to cook and cure. For faster compost, turn the pile more often. When the

- waste has become dark and crumbly, you have compost!
10. Spread the compost as mulch around trees or under bushes, mix it into your garden soil, or combine it with soil or sand to make a great potting soil.

For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/composting/by\\_compost.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/composting/by_compost.htm) or contact the Cooperative Extension Service.

## DO compost these:

- Grass clippings
- Twigs and leaves
- Coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags
- Egg shells (ground into tiny pieces)
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Shredded newspaper
- Dryer lint

## DON'T put these in the pile:

- Diseased plants
- Weeds that have gone to seed
- Plants that are spread by runners, such as Morning Glory or Buttercup
- Cat, dog, hog, or human waste
- Chemically treated wood products
- Glossy or coated papers
- Ashes
- Meat and fish scraps and bones
- Oils and other fatty food products
- Milk products



## A composter's diary

Do worms have lungs? Can corks go in compost piles? These are just two of the questions handled by compost hotline operator Spring Gillard at City Farmer, Vancouver, British Columbia's non-profit

urban agriculture group that has been thriving for 25 years. Gillard began her diary with online posts in 1996. Through humorous stories, silly scenes, and even a compost "rap," the posts touched on the essentials of composting, alternatives to pesticides, organic and edible landscapes, compost teas, drug-free lawns, rainwater harvesting, and urban agriculture in big cities. Laugh and learn as you read *Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator: Edible Essays on City Farming* by Spring Gillard (New Society Publishers, 2003).

## The Possibilities Are Endless... Compost!

International Compost Awareness Week is May 6-12, 2007. Compost Awareness Week would be a great time to show off your compost pile to the neighbors, start a new pile, buy compost to use in your garden, or plant a tree using compost to prepare the soil. For more information, visit [www.CompostingCouncil.org](http://www.CompostingCouncil.org) and click on "Compost Week."

# How green is your party?

We're fast approaching the season of graduation parties and weddings. Each year in the United States, more than 2.7 million youth graduate from high school, nearly 1.2 million adults graduate from college, and 2.27 million couples marry. That's over 6 million pieces of paper—just for the diplomas and marriage certificates. When you add to it the invitations, announcements, greeting cards, and thank-you notes, as well as the special clothes, the decorations, the food, and the gifts, you have a huge pile of stuff, some of which almost immediately becomes waste.

For instance, if you purchase a "Congratulations, Graduate!" banner, what happens to it after the party? What becomes of the wedding reception centerpieces? How about the envelopes that held the invitations, cards, and other correspondence? If you use paper plates and cups for the party, where are they at the end of the day? As you can see, these celebrations have the potential to leave behind a lot of waste.

You can make your festive occasions

less wasteful. Whether you are hosting a graduation party, a wedding reception, a family reunion, a retirement celebration, or a business or school meeting, you can plan ahead and create less waste. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

- Avoid a lot of extra paper in invitations, such as double envelopes and reply card envelopes. If you need replies, request a phone call, an e-mail, or include a stamped, self-addressed postcard.
- For less formal events, e-mail your invitations. Remember to call to invite people who don't have e-mail addresses!
- Print everything, from invitations to programs, on recycled-content paper.
- Look for used clothing for the occasion. If you need formal wear, costumes, and or just a different summer dress, shop at secondhand or vintage stores. Accept hand-me-downs with thanks!
- Rent or borrow apparel that you won't use again. For the men, rent tuxes or

suits or borrow a friend's jacket for the event. Women can also rent many items or borrow from a friend or relative. If you often attend semi-formal events, create a "swap shop" with your friends so that you can trade clothes and have something new-to-you to wear.

- Decorate with what you already have. For instance, if you're toasting a graduate, decorate with childhood photos.
- Use washable and reusable plates, cups, napkins, and tablecloths. If you are hosting an event and don't have enough for the number of guests who will be attending, rent or borrow extras. Minimize your use of disposables, and you'll minimize your waste.
- Whatever kind of party you're hosting, recycle! Be sure that beverage container recycling bins are located near each trash bin. For multi-day events, such as family reunions or meetings, be sure to provide newspaper recycling, too.

- Send leftovers home with guests. Donate unopened and non-perishable leftover food to a food pantry.
- Avoid party favors. Your guests are there to share your special event—not to take a goodie bag home! If you think you must give some kind of party favors, give things that are consumable, such as candy, cookies, teas, or coffees.
- If you register for gifts, be sure to register for things you really need and will use.
- Instead of gifts, ask guests to donate to a cause or charitable organization or to bring canned or boxed goods to donate to a food pantry.
- When you buy gifts, look for durable and reusable products. Or, consider giving future events that the recipient will enjoy, such as a museum membership, theater tickets, movie passes, or restaurant gift certificates.
- Donate or re-gift items that you can't use rather than storing what you don't need and won't use.



# Share the good news about Earth Day

In the early 1960s, Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed a nationwide conservation tour to President John F. Kennedy. The tour, which took place in September 1963, was overshadowed by other events. However, six years later, in the summer of 1969, Nelson got the idea for a national “teach-in” about the environment. Planning began for this teach-in, which was dubbed Earth Day and set for April 22, 1970. A call went out. And Americans responded.

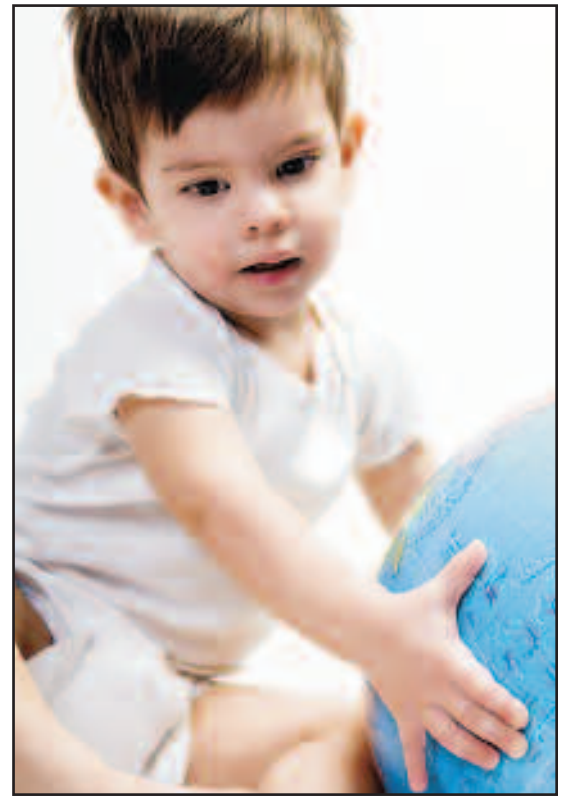
Going into that first Earth Day, no one could have predicted what was about to occur. School children, college students, community leaders, public officials, and citizens mobilized a huge, grassroots effort. By April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans, or 10 percent of our nation’s population in that year, took part.

This demonstration for the environment brought about sweeping changes at the federal and state levels. Later that same year, President Richard Nixon established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by Executive Order. In the years that followed, dozens of environmental laws were passed, protecting our coastlines, clearing our air, and cleaning up our water supplies.

Today, nearly 40 years later, the successes of Earth Day are readily apparent. The worst of our day-to-day environmental problems have been addressed. In most places and by most standards, we have cleaner air and safer water than we did four decades ago.

However, this year and every year, Earth Day reminds us that there is still work to be done. We’ve cleaned up many of our old messes, but we aren’t finished. Plus, we need to continue to monitor our progress, making adjustments and improvements as testing and technology change. And, of course, along the way, we’ve created some new problems, such as the huge pile of electronics that we discard each year.

The good news is that Earth Day—then and now—is about individuals acting to make a difference. Today, you can make that difference. Get involved. Reduce the amount of waste in your life—conserve energy, save water, and create less trash. Recycle all that you can, providing useful materials to the manufacturing process. And, spread the word, especially to children and youth. Someday soon this will be their environment. Show them how and why to take care of it now.



## A checklist for the planet



It’s almost Earth Day. Are you ready? Use this checklist to help you evaluate your actions. This will also give you some ideas for improving your planet-friendly habits.

- I turn off the lights when I leave the room.
- I have replaced at least some of my incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- I turn off TVs, games, music players, and computers when I’m not using them.
- When I purchase new electrical appliances and electronics, I look for the “Energy Star” certification.
- I keep my showers short.
- I turn off the water while brushing my teeth.
- I walk or bike for short trips instead of hopping in the car.
- I plan my errands and trips so that I drive the fewest possible miles and spend the least possible amount of time stuck in traffic or sitting at stop-lights.
- I turn off my engine and walk inside rather than idling in drive-through lanes.
- I buy secondhand and used goods whenever possible.
- I am creative in reusing what I have by finding new uses for old stuff.
- I’m a regular at the local library, borrowing books, movies, CDs, and more.
- I use both sides of paper.
- I recycle all of the materials accepted in my local program.
- When I travel, I look for and use recycling bins for beverage containers and newspapers.
- I use refillable water bottles.
- I never mix hazardous chemicals or other hazardous waste with my household trash.



## QUOTES REQUOTED

Every increased  
possession loads  
us with a new  
weariness.

John Ruskin, 1819–1900  
Author and Social Critic

## Eco Action through Action Sports

The X Games are all about extreme action on the ramps and the slopes. But the organizers are also serious about extreme environmental activity. From on-site recycling and environmental education for spectators to clean energy credits to offset carbon emissions created by the event, the X Games are walking their talk, or should we say “grinding their rail.”

Here are a few of the eco-friendly actions that have been a part of the recent Winter and Summer X Games. The plastic bottles from Winter X 10 were used to create 21,000 snow jackets insulated with fiberfill made from recycled plastic beverage bottles. The 360 truckloads of dirt used to build the Moto X track for Summer X 12 will be reused to build tracks at future action sports events. The skateboard ramps at the summer games were made from wood grown in sustainable forests or built using reclaimed wood from previous events. This wood will be reused for future events.

For more information about the X Games “Environmentality,” visit <http://disney.go.com/environmentality/xgames/index.html>.



# WHAT'S UP?

Do you have an item that is simply "too good to toss" and wish you had a way to find another user? If you haven't yet heard, visit [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com) and post or browse unwanted material for free. The purpose of 2good2toss is to provide an informational forum to foster the lawful exchange, reuse, and recycling of unneeded material with the hope that it will be diverted from the trash or landfill.



2good2toss lets you sell, give away, or trade things you don't want with people who do. The site works like a classified ad section, allowing you to list available or wanted items. The asking price should not exceed \$99.

Since 2003, 134 tons of useful items have been exchanged with over half of that occurring in 2006. For the year 2006, the 2good2toss website posted 4,742 new listings. It has a membership base of 2,118, of which 598 signed up in 2006.

For more information, or to browse the website, visit [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com) and select the City of Richland logo, or call Dan McClure at 942-7498.

## WANTED: \$40 REWARD

Recycling your old refrigerator or freezer has never been easier. In mid-October, Richland Energy Services launched a refrigerator incentive program that encourages citizens to recycle older but working refrigerators and freezers that are 10-27 cubic feet in size.

Removing these inefficient appliances from the electrical grid encourages the use of more energy-efficient models and helps conserve the city's overall energy use. To date, 267 refrigerators have been picked up in Richland. Citizens receive a free appliance pickup and a \$40 incentive. Some restrictions apply.

For more information, visit [www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro](http://www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro) or call 1-866-899-5539.



## What is Natural Lawn Care?

Natural lawn care is taking care of your lawn in a more natural manner. There are many ways to do this, such as leaving clippings on the lawn, mulching, using water more wisely, or reducing pesticide use.

**Why make a change?** Your lawn can be a beautiful asset to your home and community: great to play or lie on, protecting the soil from erosion, and filtering out urban pollutants. However, depending on how you care for it, your lawn can also be part of big environmental problems here in the Northwest.

**Why mulch your grass clippings?** Grass clippings are overloading our landfills, when they could be fertilizing our lawns. Clippings make great fertilizer if left on the lawn. But the tons we throw away are taking precious space in our landfill, causing odor problems and keeping collection trucks busier.

**Why water wisely?** Overwatering is bad for lawns, and it wastes a precious, limited resource. Lawn and garden watering make up more than 40 percent of our summer water use, when supplies are low-

est. Plus, our region is growing all the time, requiring expensive new water sources. Much of this water is wasted through runoff, evaporation, overspray, or just plain over-watering. Watering too much invites lawn disease. By watering wisely, we can have healthier lawns, keep our water bills down, and leave more water in the rivers for salmon and other wildlife.

**Why use less fertilizers and pesticides?** Pesticides and fertilizers may pollute our lakes, streams, and groundwater. Rainwater can carry pesticides and fertilizers off our lawns into storm drains, and then into streams or lakes. Even in very small amounts, many pesticides may harm fish. Use grass clippings or organic fertilizers, remove weeds by hand, and allow your lawn to be a more natural shade during the growing season.

For more information on natural yard care, visit the Environmental Education Office in City Hall and pick up "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment" or "Natural Yard Care Booklet" or call 942-7730 and one will be mailed to you.

## Composting workshop set for April 21

The annual spring composting workshop will be held on Saturday, April 21, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the conference room of the Kennewick branch of the Mid-Columbia Library. The Kennewick branch library is located at 1620 North Union Street.

This free program includes an indoor slideshow and outdoor demonstration on how and why to compost organic kitchen and yard waste. All trained participants will receive a 60-page softbound book and a free composting bin. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 942-7730.

This program is sponsored by the cities of Richland and Kennewick, Solid Waste Departments of Benton and Franklin Counties, Benton Clean Air Authority, and the Washington State University Cooperative Extension office.

If you can't make it to the workshop, check out the videos, books, and handouts at the Richland Environmental Education Office. To see what we have available, log onto [www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro](http://www.ci.richland.wa.us/richland/enviro) and link to "Composting" or "Books, Videos and More." Or, stop by the office, which is located in the Richland City Hall, or call 942-7730.

**Composting is the process of turning valuable organic material into nutrient-enriched soil and natural fertilizer.**

## April is Earth Month!



From our kickoff on Saturday, March 31 through our grand finale on Saturday, April 28, the Mid-Columbia Earth Month will be packed with cleanups, educational opportunities, festivities, and special events, such as the Aluminum Can and Reuse A Shoe contests. We'll also cap off the month by announcing the recipient of the Washington State University Tri-Cities' Lelon McLouth Environmental Scholarship and presenting environmental awards.

For more information about the Earth Month activities, contact Tracy at 531-5677 or [tracy@proeventsv.com](mailto:tracy@proeventsv.com), or visit [www.earthmonthmc.org](http://www.earthmonthmc.org).

## Help kick off Earth Month 2007!

The Mid-Columbia Earth Month Kick-Off Celebration will take place Saturday, March 31 from noon to 4 p.m. at Highlands Grange Park in Kennewick.

Festivities will include environmental booths, activities, and presentations in the Mid-Columbia Library—Kennewick Branch and Highlands Grange Hall, as well as rose planting, composting, and self-guided tours with the master gardeners in the Benton Franklin Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden, Franklin PUD electric car and alternative energy demonstrations, Earth Month information and volunteer sign-up, food, entertainment, and more!

For more information, visit [www.EarthMonthMC.org](http://www.EarthMonthMC.org) or call 531-5677.

## Tree mulch available

Richland Solid Waste crews collected used Christmas trees in the parking lots of George Prout Pool and Badger Mountain Park and at Richland's Horn Rapids Landfill. Collection crews transported 45.71 tons of used trees to the landfill, an increase of 1.83 tons over 2005.

Tree mulch is available at the landfill for public reuse. Call 942-7498 to check out availability prior to pick up.

### City of Richland Environmental Education Office

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## The results are in

In 2006, a total of 67,071.85 tons of garbage arrived at the landfill, 312.57 tons of which were from the spring, fall, and Christmas tree collection events. During the year, 33,625 Richland residents and 3,130 non-Richland residents visited the landfill. Solid Waste Collection crews hauled 2,740 business drop boxes to the landfill and emptied them.

Recycling waste material helps save landfill space and extends the operating life of the landfill. Currently, Richland residents recycle about 30 percent of their waste. In 2006, 28 tons of tires and 111.82 tons of white goods were recycled, as well as 2,809,808 pounds, or 1,405 tons, of paper and containers recycled from Richland drop boxes.

