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3 Ways to Save the Planet in Your Own Backyard

(StatePoint) “Think globally, act locally” is a motto that everyone should take to heart. With that in mind, here are three great ways to save the planet in your very own backyard this fall:

- 1. Save the lives of birds:** North America has lost more than one in four birds in the last 50 years, according to the Audubon Society. Amid this alarming trend, you can make the skies safer for birds by mitigating the chance of window strikes, one of the more common threats birds face. Research shows that applying decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight to your home’s windows can substantially reduce the likelihood of this occurring. Check out the bird decals from WindowAlert, which feature patterns that give the appearance of slightly frosted translucent glass, but glow like a spotlight for birds. The brand also makes WindowAlert UV Liquid, a high-tech liquid that offers even greater protection when applied between decals.
- 2. Start a compost bin:** Composting food scraps and yard waste is one action you can take with multiple benefits. It’s not just an excellent way to reduce the amount of trash you send to the landfill, your finished compost can be added to your lawn and garden to help plants thrive without chemical fertilizers. Be sure to read up on best practices before you get started so that you only toss compostable items into the mix, and so you strike the right balance between nitrogen and carbon.
- 3. Go low maintenance:** You can swap out your conventional lawn for a meadow (which is comprised of native plants already adapted to thrive in your region), xeriscaping (a drought-resistant option requiring no mowing and little to no irrigation) or by simply letting your grass grow wild and free. By conserving natural resources, you can help make a difference at home this fall.

Window Weatherization 101



(StatePoint) Prepping windows for cold, gusty weather are essential no matter your home’s age, but what exactly needs to be done? Read on for the ultimate breakdown of how to seal windows and protect your home from the winter chill.

Step 1 – Test for Air Leaks. Any style of window could have small air leaks that allow drafts and moisture to enter without your knowledge. Check your windows’ seals by lighting a match or candle and seeing if the smoke is affected by a breeze. The smoke trail can help pinpoint any small cracks you should address while weatherizing.

Step 2 – Fill the Seals. Reinforcing the seal around the entire window frame will ensure it’s ready for cold weather. Using a product such as Duck brand Foam Weatherstrip Seals will help form a solid barrier around window edges, thanks to self-adhesive foam strips that block drafts. This can help lower utility costs by stopping leaks. Updating these seals every few years helps keep the window frame in the best possible shape

and maintains protection from the winter winds.

Step 3 – Restore with Paint. Updating your window with a fresh coat of primer and either paint or stain helps keep it in great condition for a change in season. Not only will it provide a new look, but paint or stain also creates a tight seal around the wood framework and acts as an additional barrier for pinhole cracks or air leaks.

Step 4 – Insulate the Frame. Winter weather can be brutal in certain regions. Rolled Window Insulation Kits are crystal clear and create an additional cold-air barrier for when you need extra protection on top of foam seals. The window kit film comes in an easy-to-use roll of shrink film, which means no measuring is needed, and excess film can be cut once applied. Once secured to indoor window frames, the film provides an airtight seal that can be removed once warmer weather arrives.

Step 5 – Add Thermal Protection. After preparing your window for the approaching winter winds, swap out your everyday curtains for thicker, thermal fabric window treatments. These insulating curtains typically have two or three layers of thick fabric, combined with a layer of acrylic foam, to prevent air infiltration and cold.

Precautionary steps to seal in warm air and keep out potential drafts will help reduce energy costs this winter – and help protect the longevity (and comfort) of your home.

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Chelan County offers additional Recycling Options including Glass and Styrofoam

By BARBARA WASHBURN AND CAROL FORHAN

Recycling is a real struggle that many do not want to bother with. And yes, it sure does take an effort. Then again, many things in our life, actually in our world, are out of our control. Nonetheless, recycling and taking care of our planet is not. At least not on an individual level. We have a choice to participate in a healthier and cleaner environment – one step at a time. These days Chelan County residents have more chances to recycle products, and most of us are not even aware of them.

Number 6 polystyrene, also referred to as Styrofoam can be dropped off for recycling at TekniPlex in Wenatchee. Kevin Litterell, Plant Manager at TekniPlex Consumer Products of Wenatchee says, “Please let readers know that while we appreciate it being relatively clean, a little bit of food waste remaining is no longer a reason to not recycle their food containers”. Litterell states that the process that Cyclyx uses allows for some organic matter in the feedstock, and the

process filters that out when it is reduced to the original styrene monomer. Their company recycling container for Styrofoam is located at 1000 S. Columbia St., the SW corner of Columbia and Ferry.

Glass Recycling: In partnership with Waste Loop, a local nonprofit, our local smaller recycling center located at 216 14th Street, now accepts glass (which is no longer accepted in Waste Management’s single stream recycling). Their hours of operation are Wednesday 4:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays

11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Glass must be clean and free from corks and caps.

Waste Management cannot make it any easier than they do already. Their website, www.WMNorthwest.com, is the number one resource for their residential customers. Our recycling services provide the newest and up to date lists, showing us what can be recycled. Your best bet is to use the drop-down menu to find the community we live in which shows our local recycling lists.

Waste Management’s

recycling goes from our homes to their regional recycling facility in Spokane. No small operation! It is pretty much a true state-of-the-art facility with magnetic belts which pull out cans, obstacle sorters which are referred to as computers with eyes. That one uses a reverse plastic current to push out the aluminum since it is not magnetic. Spinning discs separate paper and cardboard.

As an example, did you know that even our large blue curb side recycling bins supplied by Waste Management are made from recycled materials?



SMaRT Center sorting line.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Household battery recycling can be done at Target stores, by dropping them off at the information counter.

Safeway Stores have bins near their entrances that accept clean grocery plastic bags and wrapping which are used to wrap food into, such as the type used for cases of plastic bottles. A list of accepted items are pictured on the containers themselves.

Other specialized recycling options in our county:

General household light bulbs, such as compact fluorescent and small bulbs, are accepted at Lowes, Home Depot, and Stan’s Merry Mart, call to find out how many they will accept at one time.

Goodwill Industries takes small appliances, such as toasters, coffee makers, hair dryers and curling irons. They also accept computer towers, monitors, TVs, and VCRs. They are not set up to recycle printers and scanners or large appliances such as washers and dryers.

Luis Ramirez of **Pacific Power Batteries** in Wenatchee was a lot of help when researching battery recycling. Ramirez said they take most batteries other than lithium. Examples are alkaline, nickel metal and power tool

batteries. This company is also part of an E-Waste Program. **Recycle paint** at Lowes, Home Depot, Sherwin Williams, and Walmart.

Also go online to recyclingcentersnearme.com for more information on all the places you can recycle. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our communities clean.

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