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Recycling in Idaho: Things You Can Do

Minimize Waste

- Consider the quantity of the products you buy. Buy in bulk if you use large amounts of a product to reduce packaging. However, if you don't need a lot, consider buying a smaller amount to avoid throwing away unused product.
- Reuse products. Can old butter tubs be used to store leftovers or other items? Can old t-shirts become cleaning rags?
- Evaluate the job and how much of an item you need. Will half a paper towel be sufficient?
- Look for alternatives. Are online subscriptions of newspapers, journals or magazines available? Will grocery store bags work for trash bags?

Buy Recycled

- Look for paper products and other goods made of recycled material.
- Consider the recyclability of a product prior to purchase. Look for items packaged in materials that can be recycled in your area, such as cardboard, glass or plastic.

Recycle What You Can

- Contact your local landfill, public works department or trash hauler to find out about recycling options in your community.

Recycle Non-Traditional Items

- Recycle Styrofoam packing peanuts through shipping companies.
- Recycle computers and computer components through computer manufacturers.
- Take your plastic grocery bags back to the grocery store.
- Ask your dry cleaner if it will accept plastic dry cleaning bags or hangers for recycling.
- Return plastic plant containers to the greenhouse or garden store.
- Donate old clothes, household items, or sports equipment to local charities.
- Call local service stations to see if they accept used oil from residents.

Volunteer

- Volunteer to separate recyclables at a local drop-off site.
- Educate and encourage friends and family to recycle.
- Talk to a youth group about the importance of recycling.

Pay for Recycling Services

- Pay for recycling services. Some products like computers and tires may be recycled at a nominal cost.