

# JACKSON COUNTY WASTESHED

2006

## RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE

SUBMITTED TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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## INTRODUCTION

Jackson County has a long history of recycling reusable materials. As far back as the 1940's, solid waste collectors diverted material from the landfill for sale, reuse or recycling. In 1992 and pursuant to Senate Bill 66, solid waste collection service providers began curbside collection services for recyclables as directed by local governments. The system has flourished and recycling rates for Jackson County climbed to nearly 38% of the waste stream by the year 2005.

Jackson County is a semi-rural county with a population of 195,322 residents (source: Population Research Center, Portland State University, November 15, 2006). Of the 195,322 residents, 131,405 or about sixty-six percent live in incorporated areas with populations greater than 4,000. Thirty four percent of the population can be classified as rural. This is significant when providing recycling services because of the difficulty in providing efficient services to rural residents.

In the year 2005 Jackson County generated 183,543 tons of solid waste. Businesses, government and citizens in Jackson County recycled about 85,230 tons. Jackson County continues to deal with a number of other solid waste issues such as illegal dumping and widespread burning of solid waste in burn barrels, which is a common practice in rural Jackson County. Unfortunately, rural residents burn much of the recyclable materials along with solid waste.

## **JACKSON COUNTY RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP (JCRP)**

The cities, county and solid waste collection service providers (SWCSP) have formed the Jackson County Recycling Partnership (JCRP) to provide a forum to implement various waste collection, recycling and management services within Jackson County. The JCRP is funded by the cities, the county and the SWCSP's and has an annual budget of about \$32,000. Participation is on a voluntary basis. The JCRP meets quarterly and this document was prepared with JCRP participation.

The mission of the JCRP is to promote education about the benefits of recycling, waste prevention, hazardous waste prevention and composting, and serves all the residents of Jackson County. Jackson County staff is currently working with JCRP members to formalize the partnership to assure its continued success in years to come.

Jackson County, in consultation with the JCRP, had aggressively selected a recycling goal of 40%. Jackson County and the JCRP have urged SWCSP's to expand existing programs and institute new services that will facilitate meeting this goal. The SWCSP's have committed to a variety of programs based on their individual circumstances.

## **UNCERTAINTY OF IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS**

As is typical with all Oregon Counties, recycling is a complex, multifaceted endeavor with many diverse service providers. The county, cities and SWCSP's deal with approximately 50% of the recycling activity in the county. This is the only part of the recycling stream we are able to control and influence under the current system. Numerous stores, malls, metal and wood recyclers and other businesses contract directly with mills, paper companies, truckers or other providers to recycle their materials. The county or cities cannot control this activity and DEQ is required to keep the information these businesses provide as confidential. Therefore, it is important to point out that recycling volume changes can occur that Jackson County, the JCRP or the cities cannot control. Based on these facts, any plan such as this has a significant amount of uncertainty since we can only assume certain performance levels for material we have no way of controlling.

The programs listed within this report focus on only that portion of the recycling system that can be influenced under current local government regulations. Those recycling services outside of the regulated system are not discussed in a substantive manner. It is important to note that the businesses that use a wide variety of alternate providers are efficiently and effectively helping the county increase diversion. Although the county cannot have access to confidential information regarding these companies, Jackson County and the JCRP recognize the important contributions to the recycling efforts made by these companies.

## **RECYCLING DEPOTS**

Jackson County currently has four full-service recycling depots or stations that accept a wide variety of materials. These depots are free to the public and are open 6 or 7 days per week. These depots include the Ashland Transfer Station Depot, Ashland Water Street Recycling Depot, the Rogue Disposal Recycling Depot in Central Point/White City, and the Southern Oregon Sanitation Recycling Depot near Eagle Point. Most of these depots accept most fibers, glass, plastic bottles, milk jugs, motor oil, aluminum, metal, tin, lead acid batteries, phone books, mixed plastic, mixed waste paper at no charge, as well as appliances and tires for a fee.

Ashland Sanitary Recycling accepts plastic tubs, light tubes, and CFL's for no charge. They also accept toner and ink jet cartridges for recycling, have a clothing and shoe exchange, provide a food drop off site, and assist with pet adoptions.

In addition to the "formal" recycling depots, Jackson County enjoys numerous collection locations for newspaper and magazines sponsored by the Lions Clubs, Rogue Disposal and other non-profit organizations.

## **CURBSIDE RECYCLING**

As per the DEQ requirements, curbside recycling is available in all cities with a population over 4,000. This includes approximately 60% of the residents in Jackson County. In addition, Rogue Disposal and Recycling provides curbside recycling to all rural residents in their service area.

Materials are commingled and include:

- CARDBOARD
- NEWSPRINT
- PHONE BOOKS
- PLASTIC BOTTLES & MILK JUGS
- ALUMINUM
- TIN CANS
- MIXED WASTE PAPER

Ashland Sanitation and Recycling also collects bottled glass at curbside every other week.

## **YARD DEBRIS RECYCLING**

Rogue Disposal and Recycling has expanded the curbside yard debris program to most of its service area. The curbside yard debris collection program is voluntary and currently has a subscription rate of 35%.

Ashland Sanitary and Recycling offers a voluntary yard debris program in Talent and Ashland. This program has achieved a participation rate of 33%.

Both Rogue Disposal and Recycling and Ashland Sanitary and Recycling have yard debris drop areas at their transfer stations. These drop off areas allow the public to separate clean yard debris from normal trash and enjoy a lower rate for the service.

Ashland Sanitary and Recycling reports it will collect 1800 tons of yard debris from its curbside collection and transfer station operation in 2006. This is a 7% increase over 2005.

## **TRANSFER STATION RECOVERY**

Ashland Sanitary and Recycling operates Valley View Transfer Station. At the transfer station reusable items are actively removed from the floor for recycling or reuse. They also accept yard debris and lumber at a reduced rate. Over the last two years, Ashland Sanitary Recycling has handled 2400 tons of lumber and brush, which was taken to Biomass One located in White City.

## **BIOMASS ONE**

Biomass One, an independent power producer, accepts woody debris, dimensional lumber and yard waste. Biomass One accepts large volumes of construction and demolition material and diverts it from the landfill for power production. Biomass One has been an important part of Jackson County's recycling infrastructure and deserves special notice for the valuable service they are providing local residents.

## **OTHER RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES**

Numerous other recycling opportunities exist in Jackson County, including Burns Tire Service for tires, American Appliance Recyclers for electronics and appliances, Schnitzer/Whipples for metals, and Rockin Ready Mix, Rogue Aggregates, Southern Oregon Rock and LTM for recycling concrete and asphalt. Numerous large retail stores contract directly with mills for cardboard pickup and do not use local recycling services. A comprehensive list of recycling/reuse businesses is listed in the Jackson County Recycling Directory.

## **RECYCLE CREDITS**

Jackson County strives to meet all requirements to receive all 6% recycle credits.

## **YARD DEBRIS RECYCLING ESTIMATES**

Since the proposed curbside yard debris-recycling services are voluntary, Jackson County can only make estimates based on projections of the number of subscribers.

Rogue Disposal and Recycling has achieved a 35% participation rate in its voluntary curbside yard debris collection program. In 2005, over seven thousand tons (7039 tons) of yard debris was collected for composting. 3393 tons of yard debris was brought to the yard debris drop-off site at the transfer station.

Ashland Sanitary collected 1754 tons in 2005. A total of 13,400 tons of yard debris was composted in 2005, well over the original 9,000-ton estimate. It is anticipated Ashland will collect an additional 1000 tons of yard debris annually from their curbside and transfer station drop off.

## **COMMINGLED RECYCLING**

Rogue Disposal and Recycling now has 74% of its residential customers on voluntary curbside commingled recycling service. The recycling volume collected at the curb has doubled since 2001. This is in addition to the yard debris tonnage. Rogue Disposal and

Recycling is expanding its commercial commingled collection to its business customers and currently has 25% on weekly collection. With the recent addition of mixed waste paper to the commingled program, they hope to see the recycle tonnage increase.

Southern Oregon Sanitation automated their commingled curbside service in the cities of Eagle Point, Shady Cove, Gold Hill, and Butte Falls between March and August of 2005. Additionally, they offer their commingled service to selected businesses in the county. Southern Oregon Sanitation is working with the SMART business program to assist commercial customers and help them expand their recycling programs. In order to assist its customers with recycling Southern Oregon Sanitation has reduced its rates on drop box services. Southern Oregon Sanitation provides recycling services in local state and national parks.

Ashland Sanitary and Recycling has delivered 65-gal commingle carts to over 90% of their in-town customers. They report that their recycling tonnages have increased 55% since the beginning of 2004.

The components of the recycling stream we are able to control and influence under the current system are working. The county, cities and SWCSP need to continue their efforts in the areas of waste prevention and recycling education.

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Jackson County SMART Business Program provides professional guidance and information for implementation of cost-effective waste reduction strategies within the county. SMART "Saving Money and Resources Together" works to raise public awareness about countywide waste reduction programs and opportunities, and provides on-site assistance to local schools and businesses help reduce the overall waste stream. A Program Coordinator/Consultant position is funded by Jackson County; the JCRP provides funding for SMART program materials, digital and print media and other supporting resources. A grant from DEQ provided startup funding for SMART from 2001-2005, with the county incrementally increasing its support on an annual basis.

The SMART program targets commercial businesses, schools and organizations, providing free assistance and incentives for implementation of solid waste reduction strategies within Jackson County. The Program Coordinator works with participants seeking solid waste solutions and recommends various tools and methods to reach their goals. Participants gain direct access to information that may otherwise be difficult to obtain or time-consuming to navigate.

Specifically, the Program Coordinator conducts the following activities:

- Surveys and generates solid waste reduction reports for new participants
- Provides training, logistical support and guidance for implementation of new programs and strategies (including worm composting)

- Works in cooperation with the Jackson County and JCRP to increase participation in recycling programs
- Implements program outreach through news, radio and print media, city and community newsletters, and maintenance of the program website: [www.RogueSMART.org](http://www.RogueSMART.org)
- Develops, maintains, and distributes the Jackson County Recycling Directory

The Jackson County Recycling Directory, created by SMART in 2006, is a new tool to educate residents and businesses about local and regional waste reduction opportunities. The Directory provides a list of dozens of local recycling outlets within specific categories such as: appliances, building materials, electronics, furniture, food, hazardous waste, tires, yard debris and more. To date, over 21,000 copies have been distributed in the Ashland Sanitary and Recycling bills, Southern Oregon Sanitation bill, Shady Cove utility bill and at miscellaneous distribution sites. The Jackson County Recycling Partnership and the aforementioned waste haulers have provided funding for the Directory. In addition, JCRP is funding its distribution in the Town Planner, a free calendar which is mailed to 84,000 addresses. Rogue Disposal and Recycling plans to include the directory in its Spring 2007 billing. A web version of the Directory, posted at [www.Rogue.SMART.org](http://www.Rogue.SMART.org) has been publicized on Jefferson Public Radio and in various community newsletters. The website has received over 4,400 visitors in 2006.

In May of 2005, Ashland Sanitary and Recycling, Rogue Waste and Recycling, and SPARC Enterprises participated in a forum at Southern Oregon University that focused on existing programs in the valley. This forum followed a presentation by Elizabeth Royte, author of “Garbage Land – On the Secret Trail of Trash”. This was a free event and approximately 160 people attended.

## **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

There are several waste management challenges that are best addressed regionally. In the last grant cycle Jackson and Josephine Counties applied for and were awarded a Household Hazardous Waste Planning grant from the DEQ to prepare a regional plan for the two county area. The plan should be completed in the 2007/2008 fiscal year.

While Jackson County was not successful in meeting its 40% goal in 2005 we would like note that overall, our per capita waste generation has declined from 1,928 in 2004, to 1,887 in 2005. This is in contrast to the state-wide trend for the same period (per capita tonnage increased). The reduction clearly points to the effectiveness of our waste reduction strategies.

<b>Jackson Wasteshed - WRPU Worksheet</b>				
<b>Material</b>	<b>Tons2003</b>	<b>Tons2004</b>	<b>Tons2005</b>	<b>Tons Needed To Meet 2009 Goal</b>
Aluminum	1,226	1,103	1,352	1,696
Animal waste/grease	450	164	194	238
Antifreeze	112	147	140	184
Cardboard/Kraft	18,048	17,059	20,721	21,065
Carpeting-used	7	24	0	0
Composite Plastic	9	3	3	3
Construction/demo	0	7	0	0
Electronics	39	536	202	546
Fluorescent lamps	21	8	21	65
Food Waste	151	316	146	490
Glass containers	5,013	5,883	4,511	4,855
Glass other	6	2	2	6
Gypsum Wallboard	24	6	7	10
High Grade Paper	1,471	1,526	1,919	2,923
Household Haz Waste	11	0	0	0
Lead Acid Batteries	312	908	850	1,194
lithium batteries	0	0	0	0
Mixed Batteries	0	1	4	48
Mixed Waste Paper	552	164	321	1,655
Newspaper	5,995	7,433	12,171	13,175
NiCad batteries	0	2	0	0
Paint	1	0	10	54
Plastic Film	126	103	209	553
Plastic Other	32	6	20	0
Rigid Plastic Cont.	575	489	561	925
Roofing - Asphalt	29	9	8	52
Scrap film	4	0	0	0
Scrap Metal - Other	6,165	5,130	7,413	8,087
Solvents	0	1	6	50
Textiles	211	179	146	490
Tin/Aluminum	347	207	0	0
Tinned Cans	0	0	604	948
Tires	3,206	1,523	1,337	1,681
Used Motor Oil	4,193	3,959	3,291	3,635
Wood Waste	26,163	16,267	10,957	11,301
Yard Debris	8,887	20,453	18,105	19,109
<b>Total Recovery</b>	<b>83,385</b>	<b>83,617</b>	<b>85,230</b>	<b>95,038.0</b>
<b>2005 Disposal</b>			<b>183,543.2</b>	<b>183,543.2</b>
<b>2005 Calculated Rate</b>			<b>31.7%</b>	<b>34.0%</b>
<b>2005 2% Credits</b>			<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>2005 Total Recovery Rate</b>			<b>37.7%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>