



We are very excited to announce the launch of our monthly newsletter! If you have a sustainability story or information to share for an upcoming issue, send it to news@gogreentricities.org.

 **GREEN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:**
The Habitat Store

 Tri-County Partners
Habitat for Humanity®

HIGHLIGHTS



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Do You Have Extra Stuff You Don't Know What to Do With? Don't Let It End Up in a Landfill - Donate to The Habitat Store!

The Habitat Store is a unique thrift store that supports the work of Tri-County Partners Habitat for Humanity. Stop by the store located off of Wellsian Way in Richland and support local communities while helping to keep new and used re-sellable items out of our landfills!

This local gem takes donations from individuals, businesses and other community members and re-sells them to the public to support reduce-reuse-recycle initiatives; all while ensuring that proceeds help to build homes for qualified families in the community. The Habitat Store accepts a variety of items including working appliances, furniture, home décor, flooring, plumbing, windows, electronics, and more. Visit the links on the next page for more information or go directly to habitatbuilds.com/thehabitatstore.

LOCAL EVENTS

“Away is a place where it’s not about the money you spend; it’s about the memories you share.”

Listed below are upcoming eco-events in the Tri-Cities. Be sure to visit www.gogreentricities.org and link to calendar to check out all events or to add your own.



RiverFest 2018, Saturday Sept. 8

A fun, free, and educational family event featuring exhibitors, vendors, and entertainment to showcase the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Come tour a tug boat, play on a fish slide, and join us for plenty of hands on activities to celebrate our river system; and don't forget to stop by our Go Green Tri-Cities table! Held Saturday, September 8th from 11 AM to 3 PM at the east end of Columbia Park in Kennewick.



Pickin' Tri-Cities Vintage Show & Artisan Market, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15&16.

Look out Tri-Cities! Pickin' Tri-Cities Vintage Show & Artisan Market by Past Blessings Farm is returning at the TRAC Center located at 6600 Burden Blvd in Pasco. Admission is \$7 and is good for the whole weekend! Event runs Saturday, September 15th from 9 AM to 6 PM and Sunday, September 16th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Kids under 12 are free, free parking.



Elementary Adventures: Dinosaurs and Fossils , Wednesday, Sept 19

Come learn about prehistoric beasts through hands on activities. Located at the Mid-Columbia Library, Kennewick Branch, 1620 S Union St, Wednesday, September 19th from 4-5 PM. Kids ages 6-12.



History Through The Houses Tour, Sept. 23

Join Richland volunteers for a walk through the city's history. From pre-war to mid-century with a heavy dose of alphabet homes, this easy walk will cover approximately 3 miles. No registration required. Meet at the corner of Wilson ST. and Johnston Ave on September 23rd. Hike is weather permitting and is from 1 PM – 3 PM.

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Continued

The Habitat Reuse Store is located at 313 Wellsian Way. The donation hotline number is 509-943-0222 and the store number is 509-943-1330.

Donations are accepted Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the back of the building or you can [schedule a pickup](#) for large items.

[Appliances](#)

[Furniture](#)

[Home Décor](#)

[Glass and Mirrors](#)

[Electronics](#)

[Electrical & Lighting](#)

[Flooring](#)

[Bath and Plumbing](#)

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[Exterior and Shower Doors](#)

[Windows and Coverings](#)

[Outdoor](#)

[Tools and Hardware](#)

[Paint Hardware](#)

Recycling Partnership Announces Awards Through the Steve Thompson Memorial Grant Program

More than 60 recycling professionals from around the country will receive grants to attend the 2018 Resource Recycling Conference held in St. Louis October 22-24, thanks to a more than \$80,000 award provided by The Recycling Partnership, Closed Loop Partners and Resource Recycling Inc. through the Steve Thompson Memorial Grant program. The money will pay for travel, lodging, and registration costs for the recipients. While at the conference, the grantees will take part in workshops and social events organized for them by The Recycling Partnership. served as executive director of The Recycling Partnership's precursor organization, the Curbside Value Partnership, before retiring in 2014. He passed away in 2016.

For more information on the Recycling Partnership visit <https://recyclingpartnership.org>.

Special Thanks to Jared Paben and Resource Recycling.



UGLY Fruit & Veg

IT'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE THAT COUNTS!

Five Things To Love The Ugly Produce!

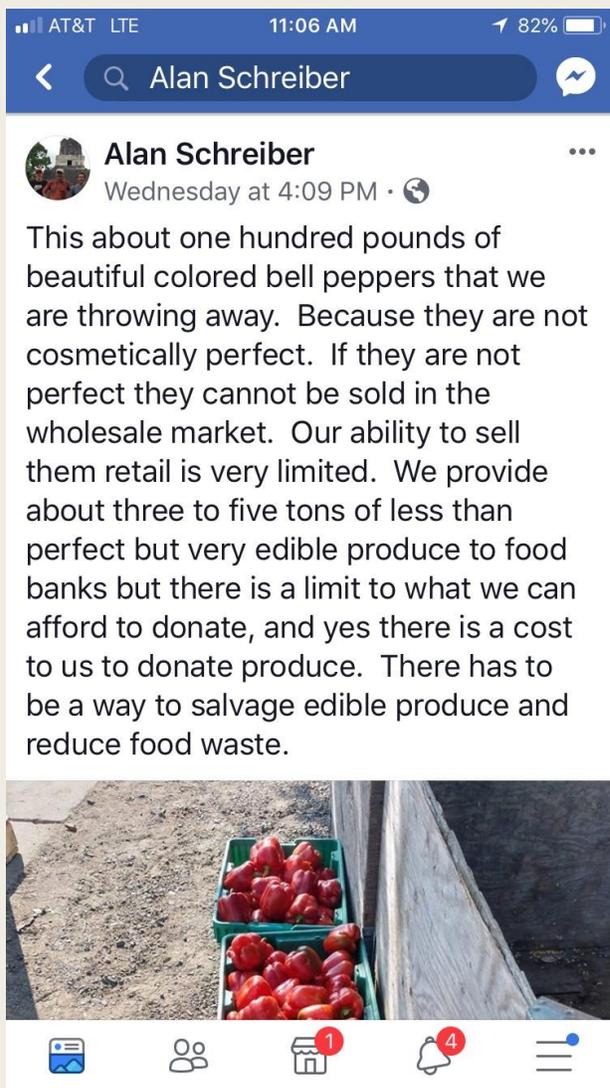
- 1. Buy It and Talk About It** at the farmers market, through a home delivery service, at supermarkets, or wherever you can find them. Share your pics @UglyFruitAndVeg.
- 2. Ask Your Supermarket to Sell It** for a 20-50% discount and educate shoppers too.
- 3. Get Schools to Buy It** and let children have fun eating more produce for less. Teach students that it is what's on the inside that counts! #KidsLoveUglyFruit
- 4. Ask Government to Support Farm to Food Bank** programs that get hundreds of millions of pounds of extra produce to those in need all around the U.S. each year.
- 5. Go Farm and Urban Gleaning** for those in need (or for yourself!). Ask local farmers how or check out www.fallingfruit.org for an urban location near you.

More details at www.UglyFruitAndVeg.org.

The “Ugly” Fruit and Vegetable Campaign, and What YOU Can Do to Get Involved

People tend to eat with their eyes first; meaning there is a whole lot of perfectly good produce ending up in landfills because of size, shape, and color. Because most produce we see for sale doesn't match our idea of what perfect fruits and veggies should look like, the issue of food waste in the U.S and around the world continues to grow at an alarming rate. At a time when nearly half of all the nations produce is going to waste due to cosmetic reasons, “ugly” fruits and veggies are capturing the world's attention. While there are plenty of small markets, corner stores, and farmers markets that have been selling less than perfect produce, many people around the world want to see more of these so called “uglies” as options at larger chain businesses. With that, the “Ugly Fruit and Veg Campaign” has been seen making it big on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, with goals to rally the public to make changes on all scales and to demand that this produce does not go to waste. Messages have poured in from teachers, parents, and kids of all ages trying to get involved. And let's face it, kids **love** ugly fruit, and they know that wasting perfectly good food just because of the way it looks is just plain wrong. Many fruits and vegetables can be seen mimicking many of our kids' favorite characters, such as “ugly” heart potatoes and curvy cucumbers. At the same time, a good lesson is being taught to kids and adults alike; that it's what's on the inside that really matters, and can even be thought to have an underlying message of body positivity.

In the U.S. the market for ugly fruit and produce seems to be picking up speed as a number of grocers have begun “ugly food” programs in the past few years. The Misfits brand of ugly produce, which Meijer Supermarkets has been selling in 25 of its U.S. stores, is the most expensive ugly-produce campaign in the



Alan Schreiber is a local Tri-Cities farmer

Toe-Tally Delicious!



country, carried in more than 300 stores across three supermarket chains in the U.S. alone. The misfits are not alone in their efforts to bring ugly fruit and veggies to the masses. In fact, several major grocery stores have embarked on their own quests in the last couple of years to bring to light similar projects. Walmart has marketed limited selections and has done promotions around single items as limited time campaigns, and Whole Foods has also launched a partnership with Imperfect Produce in 2016 in a handful of stores, and has now expanded to 20 stores after only a year in operation. Giant Eagle launched its Produce with Personality program in Pennsylvania in 2016 and has since expanded to Ohio. Although supermarkets have traditionally ignored the potential of ugly-produce programs in the past, that is quickly changing with the flurry of new programs in the U.S. alone.

But many ask if these short lived and often trial-and-error programs are enough to make a difference in the growing issue of food scarcity and food waste, not to mention the resources that go into growing the produce that often end up in landfills. Unlike other stores efforts, the Misfits is a committed, year-round program that offers four to eight produce types at a time, depending on what is in season. You can get anything from curled up cucumbers, to misshapen mandarins, and even bent bell peppers, and sells for 20-40% less than conventionally attractive fruits and veggies. A number of factors have helped the Misfits, and other “ugly” fruit and veg campaign pushers, to reach the public eyes, many claim it is all due to the hard work and efforts of those who want to see real, positive change happen.

If you would like to know more about the Misfits and how they are striving to make the world a more sustainable place, you can visit www.misfitsproduce.ca. Make sure to keep an eye out for others around the globe who are sharing pictures of their “uglies” and letting people know why they love them; because remember, it’s what’s inside that counts!



Did you know?

RECYCLING SAVES ENERGY

EVERY TIME A NEW PRODUCT IS MADE FROM RAW MATERIALS, LARGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY ARE CONSUMED. RECYCLING PRODUCTS DECREASES THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY IT TAKES TO PRODUCE THESE ITEMS.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?



Recycling uses LESS energy



so FEWER fossil fuels are burned



which REDUCES carbon dioxide in the atmosphere



and DECREASES greenhouse gases



which DECREASES global warming.



Using recycled scraps to make aluminum cans uses 95 percent less energy than making cans from raw materials.



It takes 75 percent less energy to make recycled steel than steel produced from raw materials.

ENERGY IS USED IN THE

STAGES OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:

4

- EXTRACTION OF RAW MATERIALS
- MANUFACTURE OF RAW MATERIALS INTO PRODUCTS
- PRODUCT USE BY CONSUMERS
- PRODUCT DISPOSAL

Energy plays a role in all 4 stages! Knock out one of these steps by recycling and you've saved energy.



For more recycling and energy-saving information, visit www.recyclemoreenc.org.

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As Tri-Cities Continues to Feel the Tightening of China's Recycling Policies, Latest List of Tariffs on OCC and Other Recycled Paper Hits U.S.

China is tired of putting up with our garbage; and now a new proposal from the country threatens to further disrupt the North American recycling market.

The U.S. exports around one third of its recycling, and it once sent nearly half of it to China. China has been a top buyer of recyclables from other countries, using them to supply its manufacturing boom; but it has recently announced this year that it would be drastically reducing the amount of recyclables from places like the U.S. This declaration came with claims that the necessary steps to properly clean recyclables are not being taken, and that this “foreign waste” includes too many non-recyclable materials that are “dirty” and in some cases “hazardous,” and that these types of wastes are mixed in with the solid waste that can be used as raw materials. In two filings with the World Trade Organization in 2017, the country listed twenty-four kinds of solid waste it would ban by the end of the year in order to protect people's health and the environment. For decades China has sorted through all kinds of waste from the U.S., but now that China no longer wants to do so, areas around the U.S. are starting to see stacks of recyclables piling up, and some businesses have stated that without any demand for it in the marketplace, drastic measures must be taken to get rid of this “garbage” and clear space for more; and the only way to do so seems to be to take it to local landfills. Although the Chinese government has indicated plans to phase out imports of all recyclables and bolster its domestic recycling efforts, the country has still brought in a significant amount of recovered material this year.

More recently in August, China's Ministry of Commerce issued the latest list of tariffs the country is planning to implement on imports of goods from the U.S. The list identifies OCC and all other recovered fiber materials that would be hit with the 25 percent duty. The action also covers all scrap plastics sent from the U.S. to China, as well as a number of scrap metals. The tariffs, which cover a wide variety of product categories in addition to recyclables, cover about \$16 billion in imports from the U.S. They were scheduled to take effect August 23, the same day the U.S. planned to enact tariffs on \$16 billion in imports from China. Both countries previously enacted tariffs covering \$34 billion in imports from the other country. China's latest announcement comes one day after the U.S. Trade Representative's office finalized its \$16 billion list, which will bring the current U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports up to covering \$50 billion in import value. To read more about these OCC tariffs [click here](#) or visit Resource Recycling's website.

So how does this affect those living in the Tri-Cities?

Demands for cleaner materials have driven up the costs of recycling in the Tri-Cities; especially in Pasco, where citizens can point even more blame on China for derailing a chance at a curbside recycling program. The city council has periodically looked at offering curbside recycling to supplement garbage collection, but it has been discouraged in the past due to costs. Now the city offers unlimited curbside garbage at no extra charge — which provides no incentive to recycle. Those were the sorts of factors the council already was considering when it prepared to again consider curbside recycling after the November 2017 elections. Then came news of China's plans to tighten its regulations, raising the cost of recycling and increasing uncertainty, leading the city to pass on it again.

Richland and Kennewick offer curbside recycling, with Richland residents paying \$5.75 a month for this service. Residents have yet to see the effects of changes in China directly. In fact, most of the recyclables picked up in both cities are shipped to Spokane, where materials are sorted to be sent to markets within the U.S., rather than overseas. The City of Richland contracts with Clayton Ward, which then finds another contractor to sort the mixed recyclables from blue curbside containers. They use Waste Management's *Spokane Materials and Recycling Technology* center, better known as the SMaRT Center.

Some years Richland is paid for recycling by the SmaRT center, which can help offset the cost they pay Clayton Ward for the initial handling. But lately, the cost of processing to higher standards in Spokane means that Richland pays the SMaRT Center to take the recyclables. If recycling costs continue to go up, the city may have to reassess its fees next year. The SMaRT Center is fortunate to have longstanding relationships in the domestic market, she said. But its costs still have increased as it has slowed down its sorting lines and added staff to make sure it provides clean, sorted recyclables.

Residents can help make sure they're helping, not harming, recycling effort by only recycling clean and allowable materials. A single, prohibited glass jar, not rinsed out of tomato sauce and tossed into a curbside recycling container, can break and contaminate an entire batch of recyclables.

"If you are not going to take the time to clean it, please just throw it out because you are contaminating the good recyclable material," said Jay Marlow, Richland solid waste manager. Remember, if you aren't helping, you're hurting; so, help keep our communities safe and clean by doing your part.

Thanks to Resource Recycling, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and Waste 360 for some of the information you find here. Be sure to check these sites out at <https://resource-recycling.com>, www.opb.org and www.waste360.com for more information on these stories and more important and up-to-date environmental news. Special thanks to Annette Cary from Tri-City Herald for her contribution as some of her writing was used in the making of this article.

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RESCHEDULED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

September 29, 2018

9 AM - 3 PM

Benton County Road Department
102808 Wisner Parkway



This event is a reschedule for the previously held event that was cancelled due to an explosive chemical (picric acid) being dropped off at the site.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Early closure may be necessary if we reach full capacity.

FREE to all County and City households in Benton County

Items Accepted:

Paints, propane tanks, cleaners, gasoline (less than 20 gallons), yard chemicals and fertilizers, motor oils, antifreeze, batteries (acid or alkaline), and fire extinguishers.

Items NOT Accepted:

Explosives, dynamite, asbestos, ammunition, biohazards, tires, medicines, electronics, gasoline (more than 20 gallons), business/contractor waste, and fluorescent bulbs and tubes.

NO CFL BULBS OR TUBES ACCEPTED

Call below or visit www.lightrecyclewa.org

No business or contractor waste accepted. See contact below for information on SQG waste collection opportunities.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Benton County Solid Waste
grant.dejongh@co.benton.wa.us
509-736-3084 or 509-786-5611

Thank you 2018 Sponsors!

For your support in sustainable living and eco-education in the Mid-Columbia

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Thank you for taking the time to read the first issue of the Go Green Tri-Cities Monthly Newsletter. If you have any suggestions on content or would like to contribute an article, send an email to news@gogreentricities.org.

Newsletter Contributions: Jasmine Myers, Lora Rathbone, and Gail Everett

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