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ISLAND COUNTY CHANGES TYPES OF PLASTICS ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING



#1 & #2 Plastic Bottles, Tub, Jugs, & Jars Only

(COUPEVILLE, WA, August 13, 2018) Beginning Saturday, August 18, 2018 Island County Solid Waste recycling facilities will **only accept #1 and #2** plastic bottles, tubs, jugs and jars in its recycling program. No longer will plastics with the resin codes #3 through #7 be accepted. “We are adapting to global market conditions which are having a direct impact locally, and we hope to be able to take more types of plastics in the future as markets develop for them.” said Bill Oakes, Public Works Director for Island County.

Until recently, China was the main importer of the world’s recyclables. In an effort to improve their environmental quality, China has imposed strict limitations on the import of post-consumer recyclable commodities. These limitations have disrupted recycling markets across America but most significantly along the west coast. To help ensure items accepted for recycling actually make it to recycling processors, Island County is now **only accepting #1 and #2** plastic bottles, tubs, jugs and jars which can be processed domestically and will meet the strict standards for import to China.

Recycling is important to many in our community and nobody wants to throw away something that can be recycled into another product. However, “Wish-Cycling” (placing items in recycling that are not accepted) only contaminates our acceptable commodities and could lead to rejection of our shipments by the processor. If we want it recycled, we need to recycle correctly; recyclables should always be empty, clean, dry, and if plastic, a **#1 or #2** bottle, tub, jug or jar.

No other recyclable commodities like mixed paper, newspaper, glass, tin, or metal are affected by this change.

Island County Solid Waste is a division of the Public Works Department. Anyone interested in learning more or having a presentation on how to recycle correctly should contact Joantha Guthrie, Solid Waste Manager at 360-679-7338 or joanthag@co.island.wa.us .