

SERVICE STATION & AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOP WASTE REDUCTION



Thurston County Solid Waste

Waste reduction, the combination of waste prevention and recycling efforts, makes good financial sense. In addition to financial advantages, waste prevention benefits the environment, benefits society, and your company establishes itself as a good community citizen, providing immeasurable, lasting rewards.

Service Station & Automotive Repair Shop Waste Reduction

TIPS FROM THURSTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Waste reduction begins by understanding what is being purchased, how goods are used, and then is put to use by finding ways to eliminate, reduce, reuse, and recycle materials. A good strategy is to target the largest components in the waste stream, and implement the easy waste reduction steps first. Below are some ideas to help you identify waste reduction opportunities at your business.

WASTE REDUCATION

- Use a rag service for shop towels to reduce oily dumpster waste.
- Purchase your most frequently used materials in bulk to minimize container waste.
- Seal floor drains to prevent materials from entering the sanitary or storm water sewers.
- Do not wash off your parking lots and garage bays into grease traps, sumps, or storm drains. Keep run-off to a minimum by using dry cleaners and absorbents to clean up any spills.
- Recycle clean cardboard and other bulk material that you are throwing in your dumpster. If you can decrease your dumpster size you can lower your disposal bills.

MATERIALS USE & SUPPLIES

- Switch to non-chlorinated compounds, such as citrus-based solvents for parts cleaning.
- Cover all solvent containers and turn off your solvent sink when not in use. Solvent losses from evaporation can range from 25 percent all the way up to 40 percent.
- Always use spring-loaded funnels or pumps to dispense and collect fluids such as antifreeze, solvents, and used oil.
- Recycle used oil, antifreeze, and solvents. Recycle filters after drip draining or spinning out the oil.

- Use a filter on parts cleaners to extend the life of the solvent. Use dirty solvent when first cleaning parts.
- Pre-rinse parts before using hot tanks or jet-spray washers.
- Switch to a recirculating spray cabinet for cleaning parts instead of using solvents or hot tanks.
- Purchase or use a solvent distillation device for solvent-based cleaners. The material can be reused at a cost savings to your shop. Keep hazardous and non-hazardous waste separate to minimize disposal costs.
- Maintain an accurate record of inventory to prevent overstocking of hard-to-dispose-of items.
- Read labels carefully. Biodegradable does not necessarily mean environmentally sound, or that the product is exempt from regulations. So called “safe” products that are mixed with hazardous materials like solvents or heavy metals may have to be handled as hazardous waste. Maintain disposal records.
- Remove parts slowly after they have been in solvent tanks to prevent spillage.
- Use drip pads and pans to catch leaking fluids when working on vehicles.
- Keep parts cleaning equipment near service bays to reduce spills and drips.
- Immediately clean up all spills with rags or dry absorbent.
- Store solvents and used shop towels in metal cabinets and keep away from heat sources.

OUTREACH

Internal

- Keep employees informed and involved – provide regular updates to employees and management about waste reduction efforts. Everyone likes to hear a good word, and employees need to know that their commitments help achieve program goals. Positive communication and employee recognition (via newsletters, email announcements, recognition events) are critical to long-term success of waste reduction programs.
- Allow people involved with your business a chance to suggest ways to reduce waste. Consider operating a suggestion system that offers recognition for good waste reduction ideas.

- Have an annual employee training workshop to keep employees informed about reuse and recycling policies and procedures.
- Train new employees. Let them know they are expected to use resources carefully and to fully participate in waste reduction programs. Explain how to prevent waste and how to recycle materials.

External

- Let the public know about your waste reduction efforts. Send news releases about your efforts to local papers and trade and environmental publications.
- Join the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WasteWise program. The WasteWise program is a free program open to businesses, schools, local governments, and non-profit organizations of all sizes and from all industry sectors. WasteWise helps to meet goals to reduce and recycle municipal solid waste and selected industrial wastes. By participating in WasteWise your business can:
 - Reduce purchasing and disposal costs.
 - Access a toll-free helpline for technical assistance.
 - Receive an Annual Climate Profile describing greenhouse gas reduction.
 - Obtain public recognition in WasteWise publications, case studies, and meetings.
 - Network in member and regional forums.
 - Receive WasteWise Awards that recognize outstanding achievements.
 - Acquire outreach and educational materials.

For more waste reduction ideas and assistance visit the “Business Waste Reduction” link of www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org or call (360) 867-2491.