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## Get Ready With Us For Food Waste Prevention Week April 1-7

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It's officially Spring, and we're gearing up for a full season of Rethink Waste events, projects, and programs. Students in The Environmental Center's EarthSmart program even took their first landfill tours of the school year this week! In this issue, you'll learn about what we're preparing for Food Waste Prevention Week during the first week of April, celebrate the passing of Oregon's Right to Repair Law...and more!



## Love Food, Not Waste!

Did you know  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all food is wasted? And, spoiled food costs the average Oregon household over \$1,800 per year. From a climate perspective, the second largest contributor to greenhouse gasses by Oregonians on a consumption basis is food and beverage! The good news is, **preventing food waste in the first place** has 6-7x the greenhouse gas reduction potential compared to simply keeping food out of landfills through composting.

Food waste has social, environmental, and economic impacts. Together, we can change that by committing to **love food, not waste!**

With Food Waste Prevention Week coming up **April 1-7**, we're excited to share tips and tricks to address food waste here in Central Oregon. Stay tuned for posts, newsletters, and collaborations that week, plus the re-launch of the Rethink Waste Food Waste Challenge email series (now with a brand new look)!

### Food Waste Prevention Week

## News & Updates



**2023 Community Innovation Fund Projects Share Their Results**



**Discarded: An Exploration of What We Make, What We Toss, and What it Means for Our Community**

With greater support from Deschutes County Solid Waste and Visit Central Oregon, 2023 was a big year for the Community Innovation Fund (CIF)! We were able to increase the total and individual project funds available, transition to year-round rolling applications, increase promotions via press, social media, and direct outreach, and add staff capacity to support project development and implementation. These big changes resulted in big impacts, and we're thrilled to continue the momentum by supporting more projects in 2024! [Read the full blog here.](#)

Embark on a compelling exploration of our community's production and waste management practices. Across four exclusive behind-the-scenes events, this series by the High Desert Museum will highlight different perspectives around what we make, what we toss, and what it means for our community. Through these experiences, we will develop a better understanding of our collective interactions with production and waste and what these interactions say about our community's past, present, and future.

**\*Note that today (3/22) is the final deadline to apply to participate in this small cohort of 10 individuals! [Learn more here.](#)**

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## Oregon Passes Expansive Right-to-Repair Law



As advocates for measures that keep perfectly useful materials out of the landfill, we're pleased that this past legislative session closed with Oregon passing SB1596, or the Right to Repair Law. Despite [conflicting reactions from big smartphone companies](#), "Oregon became the fourth state to pass a bill giving consumers a legal right to fix their own home electronics [...] with legislation that requires manufacturers provide access to the tools, parts and manuals required to repair their gadgets." Read more on the story from Oregon Live [here](#).

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## Answering Community Questions

**Question:** Is there a way to compost "compostable plastic" either via residential curbside compost pick-up or as a commercial service here?

**Answer:** Dishware and packaging labeled "compostable", "biodegradable", or "plant-based" is not accepted for composting in Deschutes County and many other communities -

[here's why.](#)

A recent Oregon [Department of Environmental Quality study](#) also revealed that some "compostables" have a much higher carbon footprint upstream. For these reasons, we recommend a reusable route whenever possible. **The commercial compost pick up services provided by Republic Services and Cascade Disposal accept only food waste and yard debris, which is turned into compost locally at Knott Landfill.**

Have a question about local reduce, reuse, and recycling systems? Reach out and ask! It's likely others in the community are wondering the same thing!



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