

Recycling Tips for the SOLVE Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup

Adding recycling to your beach cleanup sites will take an additional effort on your part and on the part of your local hauler, so it is between you two to decide whether you're up for it and whether it makes sense in your area. SOLVE is keenly aware and thankful that you and Local Haulers donate your services to this event, so while we are happy to support your efforts to recycle, we recognize the choice is absolutely yours!

The goal of recycling onsite is to help reduce the amount of waste sent to a landfill both from volunteer waste generated at the event (i.e. water bottles), and from recyclable litter on the beach. Recyclable litter may be limited. Haulers often can't accept items that are too sandy or dirty, or that aren't identifiable (i.e. without the #1-7 plastic type).

The following tips were gleaned from the organizers of the Nehalem Bay Cleanup who have been recycling for over a decade.

- 1) Different haulers on the coast have different recycling capacities, confer with your willing Local Hauler about what they can and can't accept. Ask if they have a print-out with pictures and a list of recyclable items that you can laminate and post onsite for volunteers.
- 2) Depending on the number of volunteers expected at your site, recruit "Recycling Beach Captains" to oversee the bins, and sorting process as volunteers return from the beach. OSU Master Recyclers are a great volunteer pool and local resource!
 - Setup: Provide a recycling station for your Recycling Beach Captains, a table preferably with some cover from the rain to pour out bag contents and sort through recyclables.
 - Provide sturdy gloves for sorters - dishwashing gloves work well.
 - A rinsing station for sandy litter is ambitious, but has been done at the Nehalem Bay Cleanup.
- 3) On Cleanup Day ask interested volunteers to either designate a partner or group member to hold the "recycling bag," or give two bags to a volunteer so they can begin sorting recyclables as they comb the beach.
- 4) Have Recycling Beach Captains direct incoming volunteers to the recycling station and dumpster. Compile trash bags so they're 2/3rds full for dumpster (keep track of # of bags or dumpster level!). Pour out recyclables on the table to sort, and keep track of # bags or size/type of recycling bins.