



Southwest Clean Air Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Roundup Nets 58 Burn Barrels

VANCOUVER, Wash. – The Southwest Clean Air Agency and Clark County Public Works would like to thank the Clark County residents who turned in their burn barrels on Saturday, October 2. A total of 58 burn barrels were turned in for recycling, in exchange for compost bins for everyone who wanted one.

Prior to learning about this event, most of the people who brought in their burn barrels were not aware that the use of a burn barrel is illegal in the state of Washington or that burning garbage has been banned since 1967. “Now that there is recycling out in the county, I don’t need to burn my paper,” said one participant.

“This event was a win-win for the environment and the people of Clark County,” said Pete DuBois, Waste Reduction Specialist with Clark County Public Works. “This was a great opportunity for us to encourage recycling efforts while helping communities solve pollution problems,” said Pete DuBois, Waste Reduction Specialist with Clark County Public Works.

“The added bonus for having this event was simply educating the public about illegal burning,” said Bob Elliott, Executive Director of the Southwest Clean Air Agency. “With the community benefits of this program, we hope to make this an annual event and expand it to other counties,” he added.

Burn barrels are still a common sight throughout southwest Washington, even though their use was banned in the state of Washington in 2000. Garbage burning is a more serious threat to

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public health and the environment than previously believed and has been illegal here since 1967.

Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. In fact, two households burning their garbage emit more cancer-causing substances than a state-of-the-art municipal solid waste incinerator serving tens of thousands of homes.

“Composting is a good alternative to outdoor burning and creates a resource instead of air pollution,” says Pete DuBois from Clark County Public Works. “It is an easy and inexpensive way to turn yard and garden refuse into a usable and valuable product. Compost turns organic matter like leaves, grass, weeds and wood chips into a rich soil conditioner.”

Founded in 1968, the mission of the Southwest Clean Air Agency is to preserve and enhance the air quality in southwest Washington. Serving the counties of Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum, SWCAA is responsible for protecting the public’s health through the enforcement of federal, state and local air quality standards and regulations.

For more information about outdoor burning, please visit the Southwest Clean Air Agency website at www.swcleanair.org or call 360-574-3058.

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Note: Photos are available upon request. Contact Kathy Carlson at 360-574-3058, ext. 39.

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