



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

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29 March 2000

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island

Subj: NAVY HOUSING CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Encl: (1) Recycling pamphlet

1. I would like to take this opportunity to talk to you about recycling and waste reduction. Recycling and re-using materials are ways to reduce the amount of discarded trash that ends up in a landfill. They also make maximum use of our resources and save the Navy thousands of dollars. NAS Whidbey Island provides curbside recycling as part of its effort to reduce waste and save money. I'm asking each of you to recycle as much as possible and participate in this curbside program.

2. Almost 30% of our Housing residents already use curbside recycling and contributed to the station saving \$32,000 last year and recycled 182 tons. For those of you who are actively recycling each week, I appreciate your efforts very much. Please keep up the good work. Recycling by people across the entire station helped the Navy avoid spending a total of over one million dollars for trash disposal while generating \$184,000 in the sale of recycled goods. Your efforts have also helped us win many awards. In the past two months alone our recycling program has been nationally recognized by the Conference of Mayors and the Chief of Naval Operations.

3. There are still about 70% of our Housing residents who are not participating in the curbside recycling program and who are throwing away items that could be recycled. In 1999 Housing sent more than 1500 tons of trash to a landfill in eastern Washington. That 1500 tons was 40% of all the solid waste sent from NAS Whidbey Island and cost the station over \$270,000.

4. All of us have items we can recycle or reuse. My goal is 100% household participation in the curbside recycling program. Enclosed is a pamphlet from Navy Whidbey Recycle that explains what to recycle. Each household has three bins for recyclable materials and a limit of two cans for trash disposal. By recycling, you could conceivably reduce to only one trash disposal can!

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5. Solid waste disposal costs continue to drive our need to recycle more, to say nothing of the fact that it is good for the environment. The city and county charge customers when they exceed their disposal container limit (in our case that would be two containers). I would like to avoid charging for exceeding the two-container limit, but in order to do that, I must reduce disposal costs by increasing the number of homes that participate in our recycling program. Recycling is no longer considered a revenue generator because commodity prices have gone down and labor costs have gone up. Recycling is now viewed as a cost avoidance initiative. Solid waste disposal rates continue to increase, so the more we recycle the less we have to pay for disposal of our trash.

6. I urge you to go over the pamphlet's list of recyclable items with your family and make a commitment to not put anything in the trash that can be recycled or re-used. To make sure your recycle bins are picked up, the Recycling staff asks that you keep trash out of the recycling bins. If you have more recyclable items than your three bins can hold, or have trouble limiting your trash to two cans, or need other information, call Navy Whidbey Recycle at 257-5481 or stop by building 2555 on Ault Field. They're standing by to help you.



L. G. SALTER

Distribution:
Housing Residents
NAS Whidbey Island