



Blue's News

Taking the Mystery Out of Glass Recycling

Winter/Spring, 2006

Many of us in Boise are great curbside recyclers, often filling our Blue Bins with more material than our trash cans. But when it comes to glass, we start wringing our hands. Why can't we put it in our Blue Bin, and what can we do with it?

If you are like most Boiseans, you've already asked your neighbors and co-workers for answers. If you were lucky (or had the insight to ask a recycling zealot), you now have the real scoop on local glass recycling. But if you're still unsure.. read on!

Here are some of the most frequently asked glass recycling questions, *and* the answers: ☺

Why isn't glass picked-up curbside?

Recycling trucks have limited space—they can only hold six commodities. In Boise, the trucks pick-up plastic, cans, newspaper, magazines, mixed-paper, and cardboard. Because glass is heavy, sometimes dan-

gerous and not marketable in our region, it doesn't make the *cut* when it comes to truck space.

What can I do with my glass?

You can take your glass to one of the eleven glass drop-sites, or three recycling centers around town (see both lists on this page.) These drop-sites are on the "beaten path" and accessible 24 hours a day. This means you can conveniently drop your glass off *anytime* while you're bustling around town.

But wait! Before you head out the door with your glass, here are a few crucial guidelines:

- Take the light bulbs out of your bag. Regular bulbs have too much metal, and those in the fluorescent family contain mercury, and are considered hazardous waste (these can be dropped at any hazardous waste site.)
- Weed-out the glass impos-

ters: ceramics, dishes, safety glass, windshields, Pyrex, & porcelain. They may look like glass, but they don't crush the same, and can't be recycled.

- Throw away all lids, corks, caps, and anything else that is not glass. Don't worry about labels—they're fine.

Now, back to business... The drop boxes themselves are white dumpsters with "GLASS" written in blue on the sides. Make sure you drop your glass *inside* the white container. Glass left on the ground may get broken or scattered. If your favorite drop-site is full, please head for the next closest site, or hold on to your glass for another day.

Where does the glass go?

All of the glass collected by BFI/Allied Waste goes to a gravel pit owned by ACHD (Ada County Highway District).

How is glass used by ACHD?



ACHD plans to grind-up Boise City's glass, mix it with gravel (10:1 ratio of gravel to glass), and use it as their sub-base aggregate. This gravel-glass mixture will be the base under our asphalt roads.

What this means, in an environmental sense, is that ACHD will not have to quarry as much gravel to lay under their roads, and the glass that we recycle avoids the landfill!

You've got the right information. All you need now is a sturdy box, an interest in protecting our environment, and directions to the closest glass drop-site!

More glass questions ?

Call: 685-7739 or send e-mails to: rachele.klein@awin.com

Glass Drop Site Locations:

- Boise Co-Op— 888W. Fort St.
- Fire Station # 12 - 3240 Hwy. 21 (north of Federal Way)
- Fire Station # 3 - 2202 Gekeler Lane (south of Boise Ave.)
- Fire Station # 10 - 12065 W. McMillan
- Fire Station # 1 - 801 Reserve St.
- Fire Station # 8 - 4422 Overland
- Albertson's- 16th & State St.
- Fire Station # 5 - 212 S. 16th St.
- Lander Wastewater Treatment Facility - 790 Lander
- Fire Station # 6 - 6933 W. Franklin

Recycling Center Locations:

- Western Recycling - 1990 S. Cole Rd. (near Costco)
- Boise Recycling - 4725 Glenwood , open 24 hrs.
- Pacific Recycling - 5120 W. Emerald , open 24 hrs.

ALLIED WASTE SERVICES/BFI

Allied Waste/BFI
11101 W. Executive Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83713
Phone: 208.345.1265
Fax: 208.375.9591
E-mail: info@bfidaho.com

We're on the Web!
www.bfidaho.com

Allied Waste Teams-up with Lowe's

Allied Waste recently joined forces with Lowe's of Boise to improve the homes of three elderly women in our community. Lowe's supplied the materials and labor for the home improvements through their "Lowe's Heroes" program, and Allied Waste/BFI donated the trash services.

Twice a year Lowe's identifies individuals who qualify for their "Lowe's Heroes" program. They are individuals in our community who need a helping hand with improving their homes, and consequently, their lives. The projects range from installing smoke detectors and painting, to remodeling entrances and exits for access purposes.

In October, the three women selected needed wheelchair ramps. The first woman, a retired school teacher in her 90's, loved visiting her neighborhood park, but was unable to leave her house because she could no longer navigate the stairs. The second woman had an existing ramp that had broken down, and the third woman moved into an electric wheelchair which was too wide for the ramp at her house. In one day, Lowe's employees built all three ramps, and Allied Waste/BFI hauled the scraps and waste away.

Allied Waste will continue partnering with Lowe's to help people in our help community. If you would like to nominate someone in Boise for a "Lowe's Heroes" project, you can call Chris Rinker at: 376-1001, or send a letter to: "Lowe's Heroes" 7990 Overland Rd., Boise, ID, 83709

Hurricane Katrina & Idaho Compassion

Late last August, the most destructive hurricane to ever hit the U.S. struck the gulf coast. Five days after the storm, 20,000 people were still in the Superdome with no toilets, and not enough food and water. Images of suffering and loss rolled across our screens and radios, and help poured out from around the U.S., including Idaho.

A local church and hospital were among those who responded to the crisis. Within a few days of the disaster, the two agencies had secured food, water, beds, and medical supplies to send to the victims. They had a truckload of cargo, but no truck or driver.

Ben Howie, an Allied Waste/BFI employee heard about their donors' plight, and felt compelled to help. Ben has a commercial drivers li-

cense, and drives a residential garbage truck in Boise. He was willing to haul the supplies to Louisiana, but needed a truck, time-off, and financial backing.

Allied Waste/BFI granted Ben paid leave and rented the truck. They then partnered with the church to share the fuel costs, hotel expenses, meals, and airline tickets home. With the truck and travel logistics worked out, Ben (with his wife and new baby) drove the supplies to Louisiana.

Ben and his family were in the Gulf Coast for a week. They dropped supplies in several of the affected areas. The damage they saw was surreal, and the pictures they brought back were reminiscent of those on the news. They returned home tired and changed by the destruction they witnessed.

Ben tied together Idaho resources to bring relief to people in Louisiana. He saw the opportunity to help people 2,200 miles away, and he embraced it. Allied Waste/BFI is proud to have Ben Howie on their team and serving your community.



A neighborhood destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Ben Howie, 2005
(Picture not available online)