



Nez Perce Tribe Recycling Program Newsletter—October 2023

'apaqa'áño' 'ee kaa 'epeqícxnu' wéetesne

- Respect and take care of the earth.



Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division - Solid Waste and Recycling Program

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Interior Department Announces Progress to Phase Out Single-Use Plastics Across Public Lands

“The Interior Department has an obligation to play a leading role in reducing the impact of plastic waste on our ecosystems and our climate. As the steward of the nation’s public lands, and as the agency responsible for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats, we are uniquely positioned to do better for our Earth,” said Secretary Deb Haaland. “Our Department-wide efforts are inspiring bold action to phase out single-use plastic products as we seek to protect our natural environment and the surrounding communities.”

<https://doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-progress-phase-out-single-use-plastics-across-public>

MAKING SOAP FROM RECYCLED PLASTICS! Researchers from Virginia Tech have developed a new method to recycle plastics, such as those from milk cartons, food containers, and plastic bags, into soap. This can be done because the chemical structure of polyethylene—one of the most commonly used plastics in the world today—is very similar to that of a fatty acid, which is one of the components used in manufacturing soap. The method involves heating the long carbon chains in the plastics then quickly cool them.

<https://scitechdaily.com/an-unexpected-new-way-to-recycle-scientists-transform-plastic-waste-into-soap/>

Solid Waste & Recycling Program Tech I position available

Are you enthusiastic about protecting the earth and our water resources through responsible management of discarded materials as valuable resources (aka recycling)? Would you like to do a job that has far-reaching positive results? See the NPT job openings at

<https://nezperce.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NPT-9-26-23.pdf> for the job ad: SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING/TECHNICIAN I [HR-23-184] (Full-time/Lapwai).

“Talkin’ Trash”

Busy year so far — lots of news from the recycling shop!

44.4 tons of recycling shipped to markets so far in 2023!!

Feb 2023—32 bales to mill

18.5 tons of cardboard (OCC)

June 2023—37 bales to mill

20 tons of OCC

July 2023—mixed materials to broker

3.8 tons of plastic #1

0.5 tons of HDPE #2 colored

1.6 tons of aluminum cans

NEW BALER! We now have a second baler—a new one just for plastic bottles and cans—thanks to an IDEQ grant!



Lapwai Recycling Schedule

Community Recycling

October 6 & 19

Páyniwaas Parking Lot , 11 am—1 pm

Office Collections

October 12 & 26

Have a Sustainably Spooky Halloween—Make your costume from recyclable items!

