

## Lane County to Host Ongoing Plastics Collection for Registered Community Collectors

**Lane County will partner with registered community collectors for ongoing plastics collection of #2, #4, #5's. Lane County will NOT host another one-day Plastics Roundup.**

### **Q: Why isn't Lane County hosting another Plastics Roundup?**

**A:** From survey results of April's event - 72% of attendees collected for their household only. Based on an evaluation of the carbon impacts and staff resources it takes to host a Plastics Roundup, we decided to work exclusively with registered community collectors.

### **Q: Why is working with registered community collector's better than hosting a Plastics Roundup?**

**A:** Lane County made the decision based on the following:

- **Increased Efficiency**– larger volumes of plastic are collected and brought to Glenwood;
- **Cost Effective**– Community collectors delivered more material by weight and volume than the Plastics Roundup event;
- **More Environmental**– consolidated trips instead of over 1,000 single, occupant passenger vehicles dropping off plastics;
- **Improved Education**– Community collectors are required to attend training -they become community advocates and educators;
- **Improved Material**– Community collectors collect more material that is higher quality.

### **Q: How do I become a community collector?**

**A:** Interested community collectors can [register here](#).

### **Q: Should I still be collecting #2, #4, #5 plastics?**

**A:** Continue to collect #2, #4, #5 plastics if you can locate a community collector. Materials must be clean (adhesive labels removed) and sorted in the following categories: #2 bottles & jugs, #2 tubs & lids, #4 bottles, tubs & lids, #5 bottles, tubs & lids. Depending on what materials you have, this could represent up to (4) four separate categories. However, you will need to locate a registered community collector who can then coordinate with Lane County to bring it in.

## **Q: How do I find a community collector?**

**A:** If you don't know a community collector or cannot find one, talk to your neighborhood association, farmer's market, community center, church, favorite nonprofit or business about becoming a "registered" community collector. Ask around, post to Nextdoor, Facebook or other chat sites.

## **Q: Why can't Lane County tell me who community collectors are?**

**A:** After last event we surveyed community collectors who felt afraid it would encourage drop-offs of incorrectly prepared materials. In April, a registered community collector (business) posted their location and got material left that wasn't sorted correctly and dirty.

## **Q: How do I register as a community collector?**

**A:** All community collectors will need to [register here](#).

## **Q: What is the timeline?**

**A:** Lane County community collectors registration is open and community collection can start immediately. In late September, Lane County will start accepting material from registered community collectors by appointment only.

## **Q: If I was a community collector for the April event, do I still need to register?**

**A:** Yes, community collectors will need to register again.

## **Q: If I was a community collector for the April event and attended a training, do I still need to attend a training?**

**A:** If you already attended a Lane County Plastics Roundup training you DO NOT need to attend a new one. If you are a new community collector, you are required to attend a training on how to sort and prepare materials, receive resources and discuss frequently encountered questions like, how to remove labels.

## **C, How will community collectors be able to drop off plastic material to Lane County?**

**A:** Once registered community collectors have 2 cubic yards minimum (visualize a washer and dryer), they can schedule an appointment online to drop off collected plastics.

## Q: I plan on locating a community collector, how should I prepare my plastic materials?

A: Materials must be clean (adhesive labels removed) and sorted in the following material categories: #2 bottles & jugs, #2 tubs & lids, #4 bottles, tubs & lids, #5 bottles, tubs & lids. Depending on what materials you have, this could represent up to (4) four separate categories.

## Q: Last event, Lane County collected #2 Paktech beverage handles, I noticed beverage handles are not being collected?

A: [Paktech](#) has partnered with [St. Vincent de Paul](#), local breweries and other partners to set up convenient, drop off locations in Lane County. For a list, [click here](#).

## Q: I already have plastic stockpiled, what should I do with it?

A: If you are motivated to locate a community collector or become one yourself, keep stockpiling #2, #4, #5 plastics. If you think it is too much effort, you should throw it away.

## Q: What can I do about the plastics I'm generating and not able to recycle?

A: 1. **Reduce your use of single-use plastics** - the easiest and most direct way that you can get started is by reducing your own use of single-use plastics. The best way to do this is by a) refusing any single-use plastics that you do not need (e.g. straws, plastic bags, takeout utensils, takeout containers), and b) purchasing, and carrying with you, reusable versions of those products, including reusable grocery bags, produce bags, bottles, utensils, coffee cups, and dry cleaning garment bags. And when you refuse single-use plastic items, help businesses by letting them know that you would like them to offer alternatives.

2. **Support Extended Producer Responsibility legislation** - a strategy designed to encourage manufacturers to design environmentally-friendly products by holding producers responsible for the costs of managing their products at end of life. An example in Oregon would be [PaintCare](#) or [E-Cycles](#) for electronic waste.

3. **Spread the word** - Stay informed on issues related to plastic pollution and help make others aware of the problem. Tell your friends and family about how they can be part of the solution, or host a viewing party for one of the many plastic pollution focused documentaries, like [Bag It](#), [Addicted to Plastic](#), [Plasticized](#), or [Garbage Island](#).

4. **Talk to legislators and local government officials** - Many municipalities are enacting plastic bag bans, passing EPR legislation. Your voice matters - call, write or email your concerns to elected officials. To find your local Oregon representative, [click here](#).