

Spring 2018

Everyday Kitsap

CARING ABOUT YOUR EVERY DAY



EAT ME FIRST

A HANDY WAY TO
REDUCE FOOD WASTE

DREAM HOME, GREEN HOME

ECO-FRIENDLY TIPS

GO TIME

A MAGICAL TOUR OF
TRAFFIC SIGNALS

ENTER
TO WIN

Amazon Fire Tablet
Details inside



Kitsap County Public Works

EverydayKitsap

A Kitsap County Public Works
Publication

Solid Waste Division

Waste reduction and recycling, garbage, litter, small business, and household hazardous waste

Stormwater Division

Stormwater infrastructure and maintenance, water quality protection, and habitat improvement

Sewer Utility Division

Sewer service, wastewater treatment plants, and pump and lift stations

Roads Division

Engineering, construction, traffic, survey, right of way, and maintenance

For more information about any of our services or articles in this publication, or to report a problem please contact:

KitsapGov.com/pw
Kitsap1: 360.337.5777 or
email: help@kitsap1.com

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Kitsap County Public Works
614 Division St. MS-26
Port Orchard, WA 98366



An APWA accredited agency

Printed on recycled paper

director's note



Kitsap County Public Works is striving to make your every day a great day! Through the infrastructure and services we provide, Public Works supports the daily lives of people and businesses in Kitsap County. We are continually working to improve and make Kitsap County a better place to live, work, and play. You can help by following the tips and techniques we discuss in this magazine and becoming an advocate for a better way.

“ We are dedicated to making your every day a great day ”

Our every day lives impact the people and environment around us. By reusing products and materials more while disposing of less, we can reduce the amount of garbage in our waste stream. By being mindful of the products and methods we use to operate, clean, and manage our homes and businesses, we can reduce our impact on the environment. By joining in to clean up a roadside, build a rain garden, pick up our pet waste, or fix our leaking vehicles, we can improve our neighborhoods across Kitsap County.

Learn about how you can make a difference in Kitsap County and become a leader in your community. Let's work together to make every day a great day!

Andrew B. Nelson, P.E. - Public Works Director

Get Social

Connecting with us is easy

Report Public Works issues like flooding or drainage problems, potholes, broken stop signs or traffic signs, or illegal garbage dumping online at kcowa.us/report.

Need more help? Call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777 or get the latest news through social media.



facebook.com/KitsapWa



linkedin.com/company/kitsap-county



twitter.com/kitsapwa



vimeo.com/kitsap

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

Take a brief online survey about this magazine for a chance to win.

Amazon Fire 7" Tablet

Don't miss out!
Visit kcowa.us/eksurvey



Easy Greasy

Disposal tips and recycling options for fats, oils, and grease

If you prepare food at home with your health in mind, you might avoid cooking many fried foods. It's common knowledge that too much fried food can lead to weight gain and clogged arteries. But the clogs don't stop there. Improper disposal of used cooking oil can cause clogged pipes, sewer backups or septic system failures. Don't pour it down the drain!

When poured down a drain, fats, oils, and grease (FOG) can clog pipes on your property or in the sewer system. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of repairing the line on their own property, or even worse, cleanup and repair if there is a backup into the home. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 65 percent of sewer spills are FOG-related. The majority are in residential areas.

When disposing of these items, use the trash can, not the drain. FOG can be removed from plastic tubs with a spatula or paper towel before recycling the container. Hot water and soap may wash FOG down the drain, but it will eventually cool and solidify in pipes, where it can cause clogs and sewage backups.

Avoid putting FOG in the garbage disposal as well. It will grind up foods, but greasy particles can still cling to pipes.

CAN THE GREASE KITS

Kitsap County Public Works is asking residents to "Can the Grease" to help keep FOG out of sewers. Free kits are available to sewer customers while supplies last. Kits include:

- Reusable lid that fits most standard-size food cans
- Scraper to transfer grease to the can
- Instructions for proper disposal of grease
- Options for recycling cooking oil

To request your free kit, call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777 (have your mailing address and Kitsap County Sewer Utility account number ready)

USED COOKING OIL RECYCLING

Keep FOG out of our sewers and our landfills! Used cooking oil is collected and refined to make biodiesel, a clean alternative to petroleum fuel. Residents may recycle fats, used cooking oils, and

grease at a Kitsap County's recycling and garbage facility or transfer station, at no cost. For directions and hours, visit Recycle.KitsapGov.com.

ILLUMINATING THE FOG

When you think of fats, oils, and grease in the kitchen, fried foods may come to mind. But there are other sources of FOG that may surprise you:

- ◆ Dairy products
- ◆ Gravy
- ◆ Mayonnaise
- ◆ Salad dressing
- ◆ Frosting
- ◆ Lard and shortening
- ◆ Butter and margarine



Dog Gone It

If your dog could speak, he'd say "Scoop once a week"

You would never allow a pile of dog poo to sit on your floor. However, you may not think twice about leaving a pile out in the yard.

But even after the pile seems to have disappeared, pathogens can be carried into your house on shoes and paws. Pet waste can contain pathogens that can make you, your children and your pet sick. And some of them can linger in your yard for weeks, waiting for a host.

Scooping your yard at least once a week will reduce the chance that you or your family (furry or otherwise) will find pathogens where you least expect them. Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash. Landfills are designed to safely handle pet waste. Other methods are not.



Need a little more help getting started?

Go to kcowa.us/scoopit to request a convenient bag dispenser to clip on your leash, and a sticker for your trash can to remind you to **SCOOP WEEKLY!**

If it's in the yard, it's in the house

Eat Me...First

Prioritizing food to minimize food waste

If you're like me, your fridge is magical. Seemingly overnight, it can turn a beautiful tomato into something gross and moldy in a produce bag.

It pains my heart to throw away food. Every time I do, I think about all the resources used to bring me that food—all the human effort, water, transportation, packaging, and more.

Americans waste 25% of the food we buy. That's like buying four bags of groceries and dropping one in the parking lot! It's not just a waste of money, it hurts the environment.

Is anyone else ready for solutions to this madness? Luckily, we're in good company. The worldwide movement to end food waste is growing, and food-saving tips and tools are popping up everywhere.

One of my favorite food-saving tools, the Eat Me First sign, is on the backside of this page. Simply cut it out and use it to designate an "eat now" area in your fridge. This area can be a shelf or a box (a shoebox works well). The sign quickly lets your family or housemates know which foods are priority, like those dinner leftovers and fresh berries that tend to be swallowed by the magical fridge.



Like this tool? Take a photo or video to build the local movement

Take a photo or video of the Eat Me First sign (found on backside of this page) in your fridge and post it to Instagram or Twitter with #FoodTooGoodToWaste.

We'll pull all these posts into a community gallery at kcowa.us/f2g2w. (Posts must be public to be added.)

Or go right to the webpage to submit your photo or video to the gallery.

Want more easy food-waste fighting tools?

We'll mail you a Keep It Fresh! fruit and veggie storage guide. Sign up at kcowa.us/f2g2w.

Confessions...

Behind the scenes with a vacor truck operator

My name is Justin “Bubba” Wilcoxson, and I drive a vacuum truck – it’s like a huge wet shop vac for the stormwater system. I inspect and clean our storm drains, making sure that they’re clean and in good condition so that they can do their job of moving water.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Every little kid is fascinated by water – making dams and sailing sticks in the streams of water, or playing in the hose. My job gives me a piece of that childhood joy, while also letting me be an everyday hero. Some of my best days are those where I can help people on our emergency calls. My truck and I come in when someone’s property is flooding, and in just a few minutes the floodwater is spiraling away, their home or garage is saved, and you get to see the relief on that homeowner’s face.



What’s the most interesting thing you’ve seen?

Some of the weirdest things I’ve found in storm drains have been baby dolls that look lifelike, wallets, and things that can’t fit down storm grates, like skateboards! By far the most common odd item we find are kids’ toys.

What’s a vacor operator’s best kept secret?

Most people don’t know that in Kitsap, we don’t get our water from the mountains. All of the water that you drink, play in, and enjoy comes from the rain. That’s why we work so hard to keep the system clean, to keep pollutants out and to keep the people in Kitsap safe. There’s a critical connection between what you put into the drains and the water that you fish, swim and play in.

TOO GOOD
Eat me
First
TO WASTE



Tiny Tips

Smart fixes for everyday challenges



Insect Yourself

Hire yourself some of nature's fiercest protectors and save some money on yard chemicals. Praying mantises and ladybugs can eat their weight in pests every day, and are fun to watch in your yard. Where do you get them? Check with your local hardware stores.



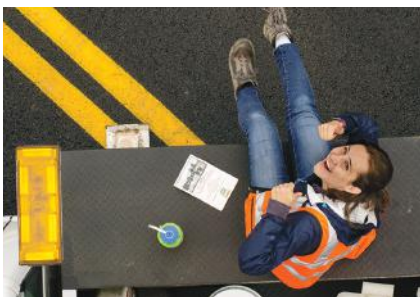
Go Slow

To get the most out of your gas tank, the best tip is the simplest: slow down. For every mile-per-hour that you drive above 55, a vehicle loses about one percent in fuel economy. Driving 75 instead of 65 lowers your car's fuel economy by 10%!

School's Out for Summer

If your college student wants to broaden their horizons and their future job prospects beyond fast food, try the Summer Employment Program. Students make a competitive wage in a variety of positions from surveying to road maintenance to outreach and education. Your student can earn money, build their resume and get their foot in the door for careers in Public Works!

Learn more at kcowa.us/summer.



Rinse Cycle

Cleaning your jars for recycling is a cinch. Add stubborn rinse-resisters like peanut butter jars to your next dishwasher load (be sure to remove the labels first!). Save water and the hassle of scrubbing them out before you toss them in the recycling cart.

What's Hair Got to Do With It?

Hair that gets washed down your bathroom sink drain can cause costly clogs to your plumbing system. Brush your hair over the counter rather than over the sink, and sweep it right into the trash can when you're done!



Welcome to Your Green Home

Eco-friendly tips for a healthy Kitsap home

Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash



Drop off household hazardous waste products for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility



E-Cycle at free locations for TVs, computers, monitors, and more

Don't flush unwanted medications

Take prescription medications to a medicine return location

Wipes clog pipes

Don't flush wipes, put them in the trash



Install green stormwater solutions to handle water naturally



Separate your waste – everything in its place

- Recycling
- Compost food scraps and yard waste
- Garbage




Only rain down the drain



Scoop the poop at least once a week

Bag it and put it in the trash



Be green when you clean

Make a safer choice for human health and the environment

LightRecycle

at free locations for CFLs and tubes

Can the grease

Fats, oils, and grease clog pipes and impact the sewer system

Curbside compost (where available)

- Toss all food scraps and plate scrapings into a kitchen container
- Empty frequently into your curbside compost cart

Compost yard waste and some food scraps in the back yard to make soil rich and healthy

Collect water in a rain barrel for reuse

Natural yard care is healthier for kids, pets, and wildlife

- Build healthy soil with compost and mulch
- Plant right for the site
- Practice smart watering
- Reduce use of pesticides and herbicides

Build a rain garden

Manage your stormwater while creating a beautiful addition to your yard

Learn more about any of these tips at kcowa.us/greenhome

Can't Stop This

Cool engineering behind traffic signals

Red means stop. Green means go. Is there anything else to know? For the curious types and “Magic School Bus” fans among us, here’s a deeper dive into the engineering that moves and stops us.

In the words of Ms. Frizzle, “Seat belts everyone! Let’s imagine the traffic control system as a human body.”

THE BRAIN

Next time you’re waiting at a light, look around for the traffic signal’s brain. This is a large metal box attached to the signal pole that holds the control electronics. The brain’s job is to constantly sense action at the intersection.

THE NERVES

The brain senses action in two different ways. At some lights, road engineers have installed a loop of wire in the pavement. This loop conducts electricity, which creates a magnetic field. When a car (a big hunk of metal) drives over this loop, it changes the magnetic field. The brain detects the change and knows that a car is waiting at the light.

THE EYES

Most signals in the county, however, sense with eyes — cameras mounted on the signal pole. The computer that receives the video stream recognizes when a car enters the “zone of detection” and tells the brain to change the light.

THE THERAPIST

Sometimes electrical systems — like the human body or a traffic signal — need a little help to correct unhelpful behaviors. Traffic signals are built with their very own “conflict monitor.” This computer program watches the whole



NW Bucklin Hill Road and Mickelberry Road

intersection to make sure only one signal is showing green. If it detects a problem, it immediately makes all the signals flash a warning.

AN EVEN BIGGER BRAIN

The county’s 44 traffic signal brains (with more coming soon!) send information to an even bigger brain, the real-time traffic management system housed in a Public Works office. The system is tended by technicians, who stand ready to troubleshoot problems.

ROBOTIC FUTURES?

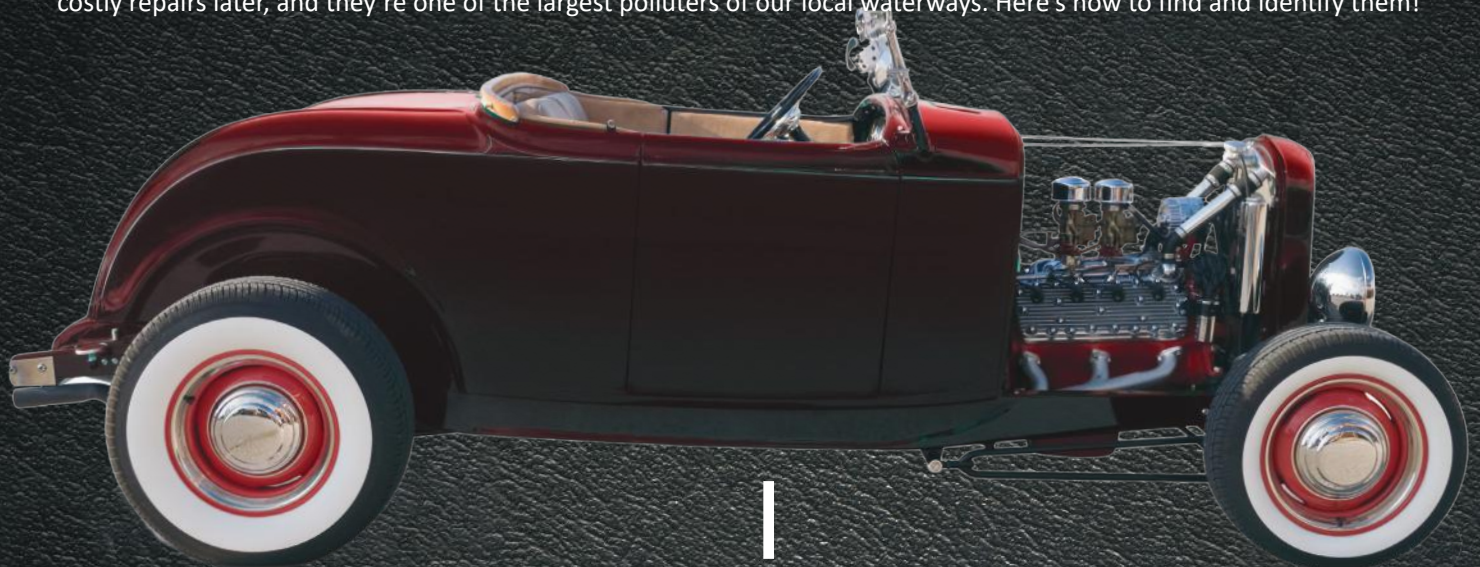
In 10 years, how will we get around Kitsap County? Driverless buses? Jetsons-style flying cars? Smart cars

aware of our every desire? As we move toward this exciting future, County road system engineers will be there keeping us up to speed.

If at any time you see a traffic signal in flash, or you have a concern with a traffic signal please contact Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777. Please note the intersection cross streets and the time of day when reporting to the Kitsap1 agent.

What the Leak?

Every little drop on your driveway can add up to a shorter lifespan for your car...and for Puget Sound. Ignoring a leak can mean costly repairs later, and they're one of the largest polluters of our local waterways. Here's how to find and identify them!



BACK

MIDDLE

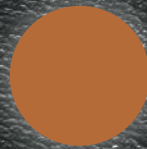
FRONT



Gas is light gold, but will look colorless on the ground.

Fuel

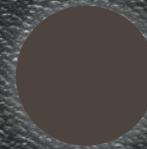
If you smell or see a fuel leak, get your car to a repair shop right away. Fuel leaks are a safety concern, because they can result in fires.



Reddish and thin, or brown and thick; middle and front of vehicle.

Transmission Fluid

Fluid leaks from your transmission are important reasons to consult a professional.



Light brown to black, very greasy and slick, found under the front half of vehicle.

Engine Oil

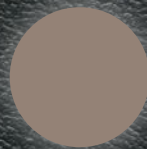
You may notice drips under your parked car, or the smell of burning oil while driving.



Clear and thin, under front of car.

Water

Most cars don't use straight water in the cooling system. If your car has air conditioning, you often see water dripping under the car on hot days.



Clear to brown, slightly yellow and slick; often appears near a wheel.

Brake Fluid

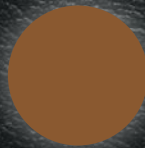
Losing even a small amount could impact how well your brakes work.



Yellow, green, or pink, greasy and slimy; front of vehicle near radiator or under engine.

Coolant (Anti-Freeze)

If your car is low or leaking coolant, you risk overheating, which could ruin your engine and leave you stranded.



Amber, reddish, or light brown and thin; very front of vehicle.

Power Steering Fluid

A leak in power steering fluid could decrease steering function and become a safety hazard.

Spills happen. Help us find them.



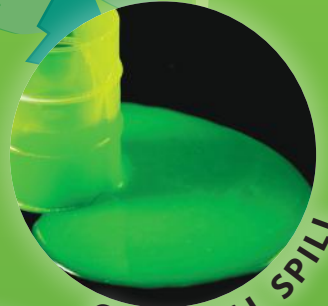
PAINT



OIL



LEAKY DUMPSTER



CHEMICAL SPILL



SUDS



CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF

ONLY rain down the drain.

We work hard to keep our waterways safe places to swim, fish, and play. And we know that you do, too.

Kitsap residents care about keeping our water quality healthy for people and fish. But sometimes spills happen. We need your help finding them so that we can clean them up before they reach our creeks, lakes and Puget Sound.

Call 360.337.5777 for more information or to report a spill.

Road of Dreams

Improving roads with your help

Want to give your local government a piece of your mind? Solve tough transportation challenges? Here's your chance!

Every year, we invite you to submit ideas for transportation projects—anything from intersection improvements to new bike paths. We add these ideas to our list of candidate projects. Since we can't construct them all, we must test each in a transportation "feats of strength" challenge.

It begins with an individual test, where each candidate project is objectively scored within 21 different categories. The categories measure things like: How well does the project preserve an existing road or bridge? Add capacity? Improve safety? Improve fish passage? Add non-motorized transport?

We tally the scores and the top 50% advance to round two: the cost and

funding assessments. The few projects that pass round two (the toughest challenge of all) move to the final round: scrutiny by the Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing.

Only six to eight projects per year (out of nearly 80) get the honor of joining the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) construction plan. Project ideas from the community typically fare well; nearly 25% of the projects on the current plan were submitted by citizens like you. This plan covers the next six years of work, but it isn't set in stone. We adjust it every year as funding changes and new priorities emerge.

Candidate projects are facing increasingly difficult challenges as project funding becomes less reliable. Only five new projects made it to the TIP plan in 2017 and five other projects were removed. Funding for these projects comes mainly from the gas tax and a portion of the property tax.

These taxes have remained relatively static over time, while the costs of construction have increased. As a result, there will be no official call for new projects this year, however we will be visiting community Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) this summer. All projects that have been previously submitted will remain in the program this year.

We're always looking for creative local, state, and federal funding sources. For example, we recently applied for Safe Routes to School funding to add sidewalks and bike lanes along Central Valley Road. The project will serve students from four schools and provide non-motorized travel options.

Want to submit your great transportation project idea to our transportation feats of strength challenge? Attend your local CAC meetings, or give us a call at Kitsap1: 360.337.5777 to discuss.



Ask the Experts

You asked, we answered!

I just bought a new computer. What do I do with the old one?

You can drop it off for free at E-Cycle Washington locations throughout the county. If you want to know What Do I Do With It? for any other items you need to recycle or dispose of, go to Recycle.KitsapGov.com. If you can't find it, give us a call – we can help!



My grass clippings and yard waste are natural! Why can't I put them in the ditch?

Yard waste in the wrong place causes trouble. When it gets into drainage ditches, it can cause flooding before it has time to decay. The rain also washes nutrients from decaying yard waste into our waterways. Too many nutrients lead to harmful algae blooms that close beaches and shellfish harvests.

Put branches, grass, and leaves in your curbside compost cart instead. Most homes can get this cart from their waste hauler. This keeps your yard and nearby ditches safe and tidy. You also get to support local businesses that make compost! Win-win!

I live near the Silverdale Way Road Widening project and wondered who pays for projects like these?

Funding for County roads projects comes from two sources—the road levy portion of your property tax, and the State's motor vehicle fuel tax. The Road Levy is a part of the property tax based on the assessed value of your property. About 8 cents of each dollar you pay in property tax goes towards County roads operations and maintenance.

Motor Vehicle Fuel Taxes are paid when you buy gas. The State collects the fuel tax and gives us a percentage based on roadway miles and population. We receive approximately \$5.5

million annually and use these funds to pay for construction projects on the County road system.

Learn more about roads funding at kcowa.us/roadfund.



Do I need to call a plumber?

If something is blocking your drain, you may be able to fix it yourself with a plunger or by snaking the drain with a cable auger before calling a plumber. Prevent future problems by using sink strainers to catch debris. Keep drains clean with natural products such as baking soda and vinegar.



How do heavy rains affect our sewer systems? Can rain cause an overflow?

Heavy rains can cause rainwater to get into sewer pipes and increase flows to the sewage treatment plant. This is especially true where sewer and stormwater systems are combined. Kitsap County has a separate stormwater system, but rainwater can still leach into aging pipes. Crews monitor how much rain is getting into those pipes during the rainy season.

You can do things at home to prevent overflows, too. Disconnect your downspouts to keep excess rainwater from entering the sewer line. Occasionally have a professional inspect your line for cracks, leaks, and tree roots.

What Do I Do With It?

Your online guide to getting rid of unwanted stuff



Spring cleaning? Decluttering? Found some stuff around the house that you need to get rid of, but not quite sure what to do with it? Kitsap County's aptly-named "What Do I Do With It?" database is your one-stop shop for getting rid of stuff! Hop on your computer or smartphone and head on over to Recycle.KitsapGov.com.

You will find reuse, recycling, and disposal information from antifreeze to yoga mats. Some items – particularly hazardous and bulky items – can be tricky to dispose of. Bookmark "What Do I Do With It?" in your web browser, and fret no more.

Can't find what you are looking for? Click the "Can't find it" link at the bottom of the page or give Kitsap1 a call at 360.337.5777. We'll help you find proper waste disposal for household items in a safe and sound way.

Speaking of difficult-to-manage wastes, Kitsap County now has a free-of-charge secure medicine return program! There are only a handful of counties offering such programs in the country, and you now have access to it. There are several collection sites throughout the county, all of which you can find on the "What Do I Do With It?" site. Keep your old medications out of the wrong hands and ensure that they are disposed of in a safe and secure manner.

Keeping Our Community Clean and Safe!

We periodically adjust fees to cover the actual cost of providing solid and hazardous waste services to our community. On July 1, 2018, the fees will increase at County Garbage Facilities. The fees you pay fund programs, projects, and facilities that keep our growing community clean and safe, like:

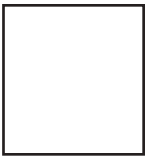
- Efficiency improvements to our aging garbage and recycling facilities.
- Household hazardous waste drop-off sites with no extra fee.
- Cleanup programs that remove litter and garbage from our roads and community spaces.
- Recycling programs that help you recycle more and preserve landfill space.

More information, including a complete list of fees, is available online at kcowa.us/wastefees.





Kitsap County Public Works
614 Division Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366



ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Eco-Style

Re-using, reducing, and recycling has never looked better



▲ Cuff Me

These colorful wrist bracelets are made out of old belts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LADY ELEANOR

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE POZNIAK



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLY BERRY (MODEL), SHANNON ANDERSON BINZ (MAKEUP)



▲ Leather up

Old leather jackets get a new life as a unique bag.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE HOBBS



▲ Cozy Coffee

No need to juggle your next "cup of joe". These reusable coffee sleeves protect your hand without having to use the cardboard version.



▲ Pop Some Tags

Hunt around in vintage and thrift stores for some classic styles that are forever timeless. This late 60's crepe shift used to be grandma's.

◀ Stacking Paper

Recycled paper jewelry saves the planet one bead at a time.

Made From China

This gorgeous jewelry ensemble features handmade, one of a kind pieces crafted from broken china tableware.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER KRAFT

◀ Tote it Around

Hit the stores with this reusable shopping bag made from recycled materials. This one is made out of quirky coffee bags.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI WELLS



PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI WELLS

▲ No Scraps

These stylish bowls are the next evolution of yesterday's fashion! Scrap fabric and cording create a beautiful product with zero waste.