

Confused About Recycling in North Central Washington?

Sustainable NCW (formerly Sustainable Wenatchee) launched its comprehensive waste and recycling guide for Chelan and Douglas counties in April of this year. The guide is called the “Waste Wizard.” This online search tool is available in both English and Spanish and is optimized for both desktop and mobile use.

Users can search any material they want to recycle, donate or properly dispose of, including household hazardous waste. The tool features over 350 materials with pictures, and over 100 drop-off locations with details such as address, website, phone number and operating hours. Popular searches include glass bottles, alkaline batteries, Styrofoam, yard waste, and latex paint. The Waste Wizard also features suggestions on reusing some materials and advice on how best to recycle at home via curbside recycling.

Sustainable NCW raised money to create the tool partly through the Community Foundation of NCW’s “Give NCW” campaign last year, raising over \$10,000. They contracted with a company out of Vancouver, B.C. called ReCollect to provide the website structure, but it was the hard work of two volunteers and one staff member who customized it for North Central Washington. Rick Edwards and Jenny Montgomery, both SNCW board members, and Jana Fischback, SNCW Executive Director, have been working on this project since mid 2021, with planning starting in 2020.

“We worked hard to make this tool as comprehensive as possible, so community members can easily find how to properly get rid of their waste – reusing, donating and recycling where possible,” said Jana Fischback. “We still lack some recycling opportunities in our area but this tool shows what we do have available, and hopefully will highlight where we have room for improvement.”

Sustainable NCW is responsible for the on-going maintenance and editing of the Waste Wizard website so that searches reflect the most up-to-date waste and recycling information for our area. Sustainable NCW is assembling a collation of local governments, businesses and non-profits to help support both the annual cost of the website subscription and related public education. Partners in this effort will be able to host the Waste Wizard search page on their website. To date, partners who have chosen to host the Waste Wizard include Waste Loop, the Wenatchee Rescue Mission, and 911 Glass Rescue. To become a website host for the Waste Wizard search page, partners provide a \$100 annual donation. Sustainable NCW uses those funds to pay for promotion of this important search tool for NCW.

To view the Waste Wizard, visit sustainablencw.org/wastewizard. For more information about the Waste Wizard, please email wastewizard@sustainablencw.org.

Sustainable NCW’s mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship and social sustainability in Chelan and Douglas counties through inspiring and educating community members to live more sustainable lives. Sustainable NCW is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, originally called Sustainable Wenatchee, which was formed in 2017. The organization changed its name in 2022 to better reflect the communities served.

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