

Twisp goes 'heavy metal' for downtown recycling program

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Recycling with an artistic flair is planned for downtown [Twisp](#) through a partnership that includes the town, local recycling organizations and Methow Valley artists.

[Twisp's town council](#) recently approved \$1,000 to launch a public recycling initiative that will place recycling barrels, decorated by local artists, along Glover Street. Twisp businesses will be asked to sponsor creation of the recycling containers and support collection of the recyclables.



[Winthrop](#) launched a similar recycling initiative on [Earth Day, April 22](#). Ten [Winthrop](#) business sponsors provided money to have their logos painted on wine barrels, decorated in an Old West motif, that are placed along the town's main street and at the park to collect bottles and cans.

Twisp's public recycling program will operate like Winthrop's, but will have its own "Twisp style," said Casey Bouchard, co-owner of [Recycling Roundup](#), an on-site recycling pickup service. "It's creative and collaborative," Bouchard said. Partners in the project include Recycling Roundup, [Methow Arts](#), [Methow Recycles](#) and [Methow Resource Recovery](#).

Bouchard has acquired six 55-gallon drums, donated by Resource Recovery in Twisp. Local metalworker [Barry Stromberger](#) will retrofit each metal barrel with a removable top and slots on the sides where recyclable items can be deposited.

Methow Arts is collaborating in the project, arranging for several local artists to transform each recycling container into a work of art. Amanda Jackson, Methow Arts director, said artists will work in a variety of media including mosaics, metal art and painting.

Each barrel will have two business sponsors, and the "art will represent the businesses and their values, or logos," Bouchard said. "Each artist will meet with the two businesses to develop the concept for the barrel. If the businesses want to promote... a certain aspect or value, they'll have the opportunity to do that with the artist."

Recycling Roundup will collect the recycling and take it to Methow Recycles, the valley's recycling center in Twisp.

Twisp will provide the \$1,000 start-up money from hotel/motel tax revenues, and will pay \$500 each year to maintain the recycling program.

Work on the project will get underway this summer, and barrels will be placed along Glover Street as they are completed. Bouchard said the first barrels would likely be finished by the end of the summer.

MV News file photo by Sue Misao