

Winthrop celebrates Earth Day with recycle barrel unveiling

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Earth Day is 41 years old and going strong.

Throughout the world, communities recognize April 22 as a day to celebrate the Earth and give something back to our planet home. You can celebrate Earth Day 2011 by helping Winthrop launch its new public recycling barrels.

"It's a real community collaboration," says Casey Bouchard, co-owner of [Methow Recycling Roundup](#). He credits the [town of Winthrop](#), [Methow Recycles](#), and Recycling Roundup as the capital partners in the project.

Ten business sponsors each put up \$100 to have their logos painted on the barrels. The initial sponsors are [East 20 Pizza](#), [Old Schoolhouse Brewery](#), [Backcountry Coffee Roasters](#), [Central Reservations](#), [River's Edge Resort](#), [Farmer's State Bank](#), [Rocking Horse Bakery](#), [Methow Cycle & Sport](#), [Arrowleaf Bistro](#), and [Blue Star Coffee Roasters](#). To sustain the project, these sponsors will each pay a monthly service fee of \$15 for a half barrel, or \$25 for a whole barrel. Bouchard says that once he started showing businesses the first completed barrel, their interests were piqued, and he now has a business sponsor waiting list for phase two of the project.

Bouchard thanks [Lost River Winery](#) for providing the wine barrels at a discount; Mark Monteverde for his carpentry skills; and Brad Pinkerton for his creative ideas and artistry.

The six barrels will be installed along the boardwalk in Winthrop and in the town park, or seasonally at the town's ski trailhead. Each looks unique and is constructed from a wine barrel with a metal liner to accommodate mixed recyclables.

Bouchard says he's "starting the initial phases of a similar project in [Twisp](#), with more of a Twisp feel."

Betsy Cushman of Methow Recycles says the relationship between the two businesses is "working out really well" and she's "thrilled that Recycling Roundup is doing it." She reminds us that any materials brought to the recycling center cost something to process and they ask for donations to help defray those costs.

Recycling Roundup will haul the items to the center in Twisp, and pay a donation to Methow Recycles at a rate of \$1 per 10 gallons of glass, \$1 per cubic yard of cardboard, and \$3 per 1.7 cubic yards of other materials. Recycling Roundup's profit is in the pick up and delivery service.

Farmer's State Bank will be hosting the unveiling of the barrels at its second annual Earth Day celebration, in keeping

with its efforts to be “a more environmentally friendly business,” according to Beau Adams, bank vice president. In addition to using 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper at the bank, all the paper that leaves the building gets recycled. Adams says that as an employee benefit, Farmer’s State Bank staff may bring in their household recyclables to be picked up at the bank by Recycling Roundup.

The Earth Day event will take place in front of the historic bank building at 159 Riverside Ave. in Winthrop. An Earth-themed cake made by Arrowleaf Bistro, and fair trade organic coffee from Backcountry Roasters will be served at the reception starting at 10 a.m. this Friday (April 22).

Photo by Laurelle Walsh: Western sign painter Brad Pinkerton paints Winthrop's new public recycling barrels, each of which is unique.