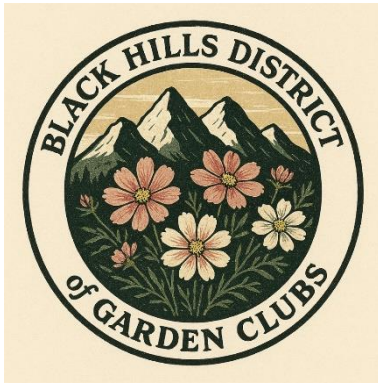




THE BUGLE



**BLACK HILLS DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF
GARDEN CLUBS**

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Reduce Reuse Recycle

Ecological Bits and Pieces

Hello, Black Hills District Members! I'm introducing a special Ecological edition of The Bugle to share various ecological breakthroughs/info that have been shared with me.

So, sit back, read the short articles and be sure to explore included links to learn more or for ways you can get involved locally. Enjoy!

Jackie McCoy, BHD Recycling Chair

Safe Feed, Less Waste: Crickets Clean Up Contaminated Corn (Source: USDA)

Corn is a cornerstone of livestock feed across the United States because it is affordable and rich in essential fiber, vitamins, and minerals. But fungal mycotoxins above FDA regulatory limits can pose serious health risks to animals, making contaminated corn unsafe for feed. To protect livestock, mycotoxin contaminated grain is often diverted from the feed supply chain, an important safety step, but



one that often results in the loss of valuable product for farmers and grain processors.

ARS researchers in Peoria, IL, and Stoneville, MS, explored a novel solution: using crickets to safely consume mycotoxin-contaminated corn and converting those crickets into a high-protein feed ingredient. Their research showed that crickets raised on contaminated corn and processed into insect meal contained nearly three times the protein of corn while reducing mycotoxin levels in the resulting insect meal by 96%. This innovative approach turns what would have been a financial loss into a new, safe, high-value coproduct. By upcycling contaminated grain through insect rearing, farmers and processors can recover value from unusable/devalued corn while keeping livestock safe and reducing agricultural waste.

Imagine a World without Chocolate (Gasp!)

<https://scientificdiscoveries.ars.usda.gov/tellus/stories/articles/how-sweet-it>

Find more great info on many topics at the link below!

<https://aglab.ars.usda.gov/explore-learn>



Founded in 2014 and powered by community support, Olympia Ecosystems has been protecting and actively restoring over 650 acres around Olympia, including the Deschutes River and Green Cove Creek watersheds.

Sept/Oct 2026 Newsletter

Meet R. Brent Lyles, our new executive director, read a special update from Daniel Einstein, learn about recent and upcoming work parties, and get a map to find out when we will see peak fall foliage in Washington.

<https://mailchi.mp/olyecosystems/may2026-8352071?e=36da21808b>

<https://olyecosystems.org/>



We protect our water

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

Adopt a Drain

How to adopt a storm drain

Volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Storm drains flow directly to rivers, lakes, creeks, and the Puget Sound, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution and help prevent localized flooding.



Sign up

Sign up online to adopt a drain in your neighborhood.



Keep your drain clear

Sweep leaves, trash and other debris off the drain surface year round.



Track your impact

Keep an estimated total of the debris you collect and enter it into your online account so we can gauge the cumulative results of our work.



We'll mail a yard sign

Post a sign in your yard to inspire neighbors to join you in preventing water pollution.

<https://wa.adopt-a-drain.org/>



RETOLD – Conveniently recycle your unwanted clothes and textiles!

As Seen on Shark Tank

“Retold Recycling founders Amelia and Alan had the opportunity to pitch to all the Sharks on season 14 of ABC’s Shark Tank. We struck a deal with

OG Shark, Mark Cuban!

Since airing, we have built a close relationship with Mark and his team and have their support for many upcoming initiatives.”

These bags are the easiest and most convenient way to keep your clothes, household textiles and fabric scraps out of landfill. Just stuff your bags and drop them in the post. Start your recycling practice today!



BENEFITS

Divert your unwanted items from landfills!

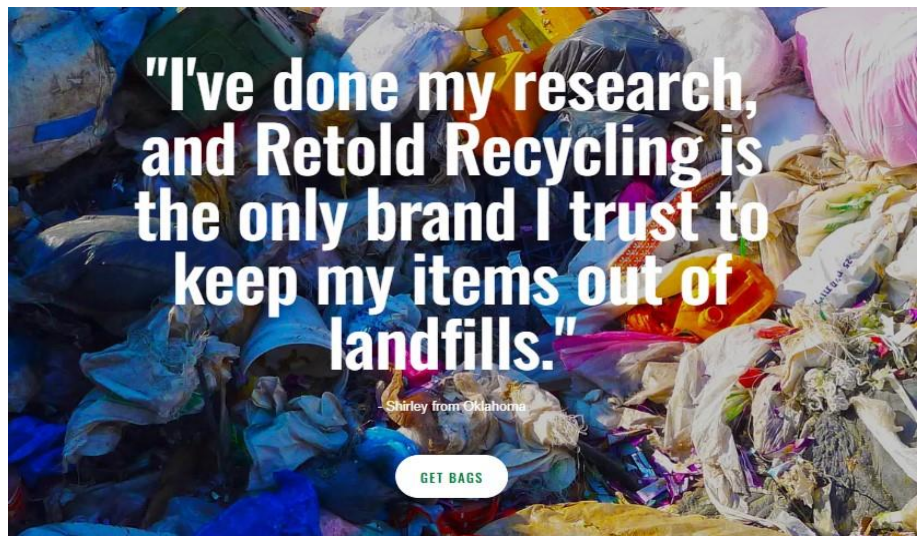
Holds approx 5lbs.

We accept all kinds of textiles!

Our bags are household compostable

We make every attempt to keep our recycling domestic

You'll get Retold Rewards with any subscription!



<https://www.retoldrecycling.com/>

Scientists turn carbon dioxide into fully recyclable high-performance plastics



For decades, scientists have tried to turn carbon dioxide into useful materials. The challenge is not a lack of interest. It is chemistry. Carbon dioxide is extremely stable, which means it does not react easily with other substances.

Scientists have developed a way to transform carbon dioxide into durable, recyclable plastics, paving the way for a circular economy. (CREDIT: Nature)

- Colorado State University researchers developed a catalytic route that directly combines carbon dioxide with strained bicyclic molecules to make high-molecular-weight polyesters containing up to 50 mol% CO₂.
- The resulting plastics span rigid and flexible properties while remaining thermally and hydrolytically stable, yet some can be chemically broken back into reusable starting materials at end of life.
- The work establishes a closed-loop materials platform rather than an immediate climate solution, since manufacturing scale, energy requirements, economics and the source of captured CO₂ will determine its practical environmental benefits.

<https://currently.att.yahoo.com/att/scientists-turn-carbon-dioxide-fully-200700558.html>

