

THE HANFORD SITE

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Earth Month is Year-round at the Hanford Site

RICHLAND, Wash. – April 2019 is the 49th anniversary of Earth Month, and the Department of Energy (DOE) and Hanford Site contractors continue their commitment to growing and sustaining recycling efforts on the Hanford Site by recycling more than 50 percent of the sanitary waste – plastic, cardboard, paper, wood, furniture, scrap metals, electronics, and tires – generated in fiscal year 2018. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg; contractor Mission Support Alliance (MSA) coordinated the efforts that led to more than 2.67 million pounds of recycled materials.

Nearly 2.4 million pounds of sanitary waste were diverted away from landfills and sent to local recycling centers. Workers at Hanford also collected just over 300,000 pounds of universal waste, including fluorescent bulbs, batteries and other recyclable materials. This waste was sent to Hanford’s Centralized Consolidation/Recycling Center, then on to a recycling center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Thanks to a new transformer recycling program, retired electrical transformers are now dismantled for metal and oil recovery.

“Prior to the transformer management program, transformers were contained in a storage yard or sent to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility to be buried,” said Dan Morrow, MSA transformer management program manager.

In 2018, 29,000 pounds of recyclable transformer material and 4,300 gallons of used transformer oil were recycled, netting a cost avoidance for DOE and the Hanford Site of \$1.2 million and returning approximately \$13,000 in incentives, which were used to fund maintenance on the Site’s electrical systems.

“Earth Month is a good reminder for everyone to think about how they can make a positive impact, whether purchasing materials, planning the job, or ensuring that project completion includes smart disposition,” said Tom Ferns, DOE Richland Operations Office sustainability manager. “Our success in reducing waste sent to landfills is tied directly to workers across the Site understanding how they can protect their environment.”



Mission Support Alliance lineman Phil Doras loads a transformer onto a flatbed truck for recycling.

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About the Office of River Protection

ORP is responsible for the safe and efficient retrieval, treatment and disposal of the 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste stored in Hanford’s 177 underground tanks – the result of more than four decades of plutonium production. The River Protection Project is the largest and most complex environmental remediation project in the nation. ORP oversees the tank waste management mission by Washington River Protection Solutions, and the building of the world’s largest radioactive waste treatment plant by Bechtel National Inc. which will immobilize the legacy tank waste through vitrification.

About the Richland Operations Office

The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for the federal government’s cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash. Except for a tank waste mission managed by the DOE Office of River Protection, the DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on cleaning out and demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future. The office oversees Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 4,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov.

About MSA

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Leidos](#) and [Centerra Group](#), has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. MSA provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site to facilitate cleanup activities. MSA is responsible for areas such as site infrastructure, utilities, transportation, environmental integration, safety, emergency services and training, external affairs, information management and portfolio management. MSA: Partnering to move the mission forward. <http://msa.hanford.gov/>



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