



The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

Styrofoam recycling comes to Marion County

A first-of-its-kind Styrofoam collection site has been established at the Fresh Start Market in Salem.

The new program, a collaboration between PLC Recycling, the Marion County Fresh Start Market, and Marion County Public Works - Environmental Services, will enable local businesses and residents to recycle their foam without having to wait for the occasional Styrofoam collection events that happened only once or twice a year.

“I hate just throwing this stuff away and I’m really glad to find a place that will recycle it,” said a relieved Salem resident, Leona Guthrie.

The much maligned material may be dropped off at the County’s Juvenile Department’s Fresh Start Market where staff and adolescents will collect the foam and store it for shipping.

Styrofoam has always been a difficult material for recyclers to handle. The same properties that make it a great product for shipping make it difficult to recycle. Because it is so light it is usually prohibitively expensive to transport it to a recycling facility and there are not very many that have the equipment needed to process it.

Fortunately, PLC Recycling can do just that. PLC is a local company that owns Compost Oregon, an Aumsville business that composts all of the yard debris collected in Marion County. PLC Recycling operates a facility in Portland that can process Styrofoam and turn it into other usable products.

PLC also operates other composting facilities that regularly send loads of bark dust down to the Salem area. The trucks are empty on their return trip to Portland. Glenn Zimmerman, the operator of Compost Oregon and longtime member of the Marion

County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council, saw an opportunity. He offered to haul the Styrofoam up to the Portland facility as a free service to residents.

With the most challenging barrier to recycling—transportation—solved, it merely became a matter of setting up a location to collect it. That’s where the Marion County Fresh Start Market comes in.

The Fresh Start Market is run by the Marion County Juvenile Department which has agreed to accept Styrofoam from the public. Adolescents in their program learn valuable job skills while working at the market. Virtually everything that they sell is handmade by the juveniles and made from materials that would otherwise be thrown away or recycled. Styrofoam recyclers are encouraged to check out the food and other craft items for sale.



Fresh Start Market
3020 Center St. NE, Salem

STYROFOAM RECYCLING

**Fresh Start Market 3020 Center St. NE, Salem
Mon–Fri., 9:00 5:00 p.m.**

Accepted: Only clean, dry, block packaging foam, meat trays, egg cartons and takeout containers.

Not Accepted: Packing peanuts (most shipping stores will accept), flexible foam that bends without breaking, foam with tape, or construction foam.

Cost: The program is free to residents, but donations are accepted. Businesses must make arrangements by calling (503) 588-5324 and they will be charged a nominal fee.

Styrofoam 101 – the basics

Styrofoam blocks



Ground up Styrofoam “chips”



Extruder for making “plastic spaghetti”



A bit of background:

Styrofoam, a trademarked name commonly used to refer to expanded polystyrene, was invented in 1941 by Dow Chemical Company. Manufacturers of expanded polystyrene tout the environmental benefits of using their product, such as the reduced transportation emissions resulting from shipping lighter packages or the energy savings (compared to paper products) in the manufacturing process.

Recycling advocates on the other hand decry the wastefulness of shipping something that is so difficult to recycle and creating confusion by labeling it with the #6 recycling arrows without any disclaimer stating that it is

not commonly recyclable. Landfill operators dislike it because it takes up so much room in landfills and will not compact. Environmentalists are opposed to it because of possible health problems caused by styrene, and the litter problem that it has created, especially in the ocean. The general public doesn't like it either because it is such a symbol of “the throwaway society” and its association with the use of potent chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) greenhouse gases which were banned in the 1980's.

The recycling process:

Styrofoam blocks are put into a large machine called a densifier. The machine looks kind of like a huge clothes dryer and it heats and

spins the blocks around, removing the styrene gas. When the gas is removed, the plastic forms hard little clumps that look like cottage cheese. These “curds” are very dense. Depending on what is being manufactured, these curds are mixed with other plastic resin types and poured into the hopper of another machine called an extruder. The extruder mixes the plastics and melts them before forcing them through holes that form long strands of plastic, sort of like making spaghetti. The long, plastic “noodles” then pass through a water bath to cool and solidify before being sliced into tiny pellets. These plastic pellets then become the raw material for new plastic products.

Reuse possibilities for your business

Got a warehouse full of #3 widgets you can't use and don't know what to do with? Looking for a second hand conveyer system? NW Materialsmart just might be the answer.

NW Materialsmart is a coalition of public and private organizations that support an exchange for industrial businesses in our region. It's kind of like a Craigslist for

businesses. As they say on the Materialsmart web site, “one company's ‘waste’ is another's feedstock.”

www.nwmaterialsmart.org



Electronics Recycling for Businesses

Oregon E-Cycles, a new statewide program that begins January 1, 2009, provides free recycling of computers, monitors and TVs.

Anyone can bring seven or fewer computers (desktops and laptops), monitors and TVs at a time to participating Oregon E-Cycles collectors for *free* recycling. A list of collectors can be found at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/index.htm>.

Small businesses (10 or fewer employees) or individuals that have more than seven of the electronic devices listed above will be directed to send their "e-waste" to

processing facilities, like Garten Services in Salem. Large businesses (11 or more employees) will need to contact an electronics processor directly.

Oregon E-Cycles is an example of product stewardship. Product stewardship means that all parties involved in designing, manufacturing, selling and using a product take responsibility for environmental impacts at every stage of that product's life. It works something like this:

Manufacturers: Recycle their share of returned product.

Retailers: Provide information about Oregon E-cycles at point of sale.

Consumers: Bring electronics to collection centers for recycling.

And where can local businesses take their e-waste in Marion County? A few places are listed below:

Large and small businesses: Garten Services

Salem
503-581-4472 ex. 3306
www.garten.org/services/admin/oregon/C46/

Large businesses

CRT Processing

503-722-2236
www.crtprocessing.com/

Total Reclaim

503-281-1899
www.totalreclaim.com/

For more information:

www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/index.htm



Oregon E-Cycles hopes to keep electronics out of the waste stream.



Bottle Bill brings changes to Oregon recycling

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, two major changes are taking effect for Oregon's bottle bill that affect container types and retail rules. Here are some reminders for Oregon retailers.

Oregon is adding bottled water to the list of containers that can be redeemed for a 5¢ deposit. The types of containers

that are included in Oregon's Bottle bill are:

- Water/flavored water
- Beer/malt beverages
- Soda water/mineral water
- Carbonated soft drinks

All redeemable containers must be labeled with the OR 5¢ refund value. Retail outlets of 5,000 square feet or more are

required to accept bottle and can returns of all brands and sizes of beverage containers for each type they sell. Retailers under 5,000 square feet may continue to refund only brands and sizes they sell.

For more information about the bill, visit www.oregon.gov/OLCC/bottle_bill.shtml.



Plastic water bottles find value in Oregon

EarthWISE Member Directory

We welcome our six new members*!

Advantage Precast Inc. – Keizer
www.advantageprecast.com

Agri-Plas, Inc. – Brooks
www.agriplasinc.com/

AJ's Auto Repair – Salem
www.ajsautorepair.com

Bentley's Grill – Salem
www.bentleysgrill.com

Carlson Veit Architects – Salem
www.carlsonveit.com

CB|2 Architects – Salem
www.cb2architects.com

Champoeg State Heritage Area – St. Paul
www.oregonstateparks.org

Chiropractic Physicians, P.C. – Salem
503-378-0068

Coldwell Banker Commercial Mountain West Real Estate – Salem
www.cbcre.com

Compex Two Computers – Silverton
www.compex2.com

dalke construction, Inc. - Salem*
www.dalkeconstruction.com

DeSantis Landscapes Inc. – Salem
www.desantislandscapes.com

D & O Garbage Service, Inc. - Salem*
www.mrtrashrecycles.com

Dr. Holly Chamberlain D.D.S. – Salem
www.hollychamberlaindentist.com

Garten Services, Inc. – Salem and Keizer
www.garten.org

Green Acres Landscape, Inc. - Salem*
www.greenacreslandscapeinc.com

Kristin LaMont, Attorney at Law – Salem
www.lamont-law.com

Lancaster Mall Operations Salem
www.LancasterMall.com

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services
www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES

Marion Recycling Center – Salem
www.mrtrashrecycles.com

NORPAC Foods – Stayton facility – Stayton
www.norpac.com

Oregon Center of Cosmetic and Family Dentistry – Salem
www.ItTakesAnArtist.com

Oregon Department of Energy – Salem
www.oregon.gov/ENERGY

Performance Health Technology –
www.photech.com

Phoenix Grand Hotel – Salem
www.phoenixgrandhotel.com

Sabroso Company – Woodburn
www.sabroso.com

SAIF Corporation - Salem*
www.saif.com

Saint Edward Catholic Church - Salem*
www.sainteds.com

Salem Conference Center - Salem
www.salemconferencecenter.org

Truitt Bros., Inc. - Salem
www.truittbros.com

United Way - Salem*
www.unitedwaymwv.com

Willamette Ear, Nose, Throat and Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP – Salem
www.entsalem.com

Willamette Valley Fruit Company – Salem
www.wvfc.com

Woodburn School District Offices –
www.woodburn.k12.or.us



Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

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Workplace Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://

WWW.CO.MARION.OR.US/

[PW/ES/EARTHWISE](http://WWW.CO.MARION.OR.US/PW/ES/EARTHWISE)

To learn more about the EarthWISE business assistance program, visit our website or give us a call. We're excited to work with you. If you would like to be added to the Sustainable Business Bulletin email list send an email to earthwise@co.marion.or.us with "add Sustainable Business Bulletin" in the subject box. To be removed from the list, put "remove" in the subject box.

