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Important dates:

- June 28 Full Moon!
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 12-15 Marion County Fair
- July 20 - 22 Salem Art Fair
- Aug. 3 - 5 Fiesta Mexicana in Woodburn
- Aug. 24 - Sept. 3 Oregon State Fair
- Sept. 3 Labor Day
- Sept. 4/5 School begins
- Sept. 22 Autumnal Equinox

Once is not enough  
Garten Services tackles mixed recycling in a tough market

Garten Services has built an entire nonprofit around sustainability.

Not only does it operate multiple recycling and reuse businesses, it employs hundreds of people with disabilities.

The nonprofit sees its mission to create opportunities for people with disabilities as an essential part of the three prongs of sustainability: economic, environmental and social equity.



Garten employees recycle one million pounds a week.

Garten provides jobs to 244 people with disabilities in recycling, commercial laundry, mail services, packaging and assembly, custodial services, and secure document destruction. Its daybreak program in Dallas and South Salem provides day activities and other enrichment activities to another 250 people with disabilities.

Each of the distinct operations is run in an eco-friendly fashion. From energy-efficient lighting and machinery to conservation, Garten strives the earth.

But Garten's job has Chinese regulations pre-recyclables to China, out more than usual.

China used to take all of the plastics that were mixed in the comingled recycling blue bin—even though some of those plastics were not truly recyclable. China would separate the material that could be recycled and trash the rest.

At first—in 2013—China cracked down on contamination and asked sources to provide material that didn't have as much actual trash accidentally mixed in.

*"We will always be in the business of sustainability. It's good for our environment and our community."*  
Gaelen McAllister  
Garten Resource Development Manager

waste prevention and water conservation to tread as lightly as possible on gotten much harder lately. With venting the typical shipment of Garten has been forced to throw



13% of mixed recycling material Garten receives is garbage.

Because Garten Services has such an extensive machine and hand sorting system, it didn't have a problem meeting that standard.

But now, China is asking for less than 1 percent contamination and no one on the West Coast can meet that standard.

"It affects our business because people are still putting the materials in their cart but there is no market for it," said Gaelen McAllister, Garten Resource Development Manager. "And we have to trash it."

Garten's trash bill has been up to about \$60,000 a month. Those are costs that cannot be sustained, McAllister said.

"About 13 percent of what people put in their recycling is garbage that should not be there—items like take out containers, diapers, food waste, shoes, and hoses," she said. "If people can be more careful to only include recycling in the blue bin, more of what is really recyclable will get turned into new products and costs will be reduced. Simple mixed recycling advice: Keep it clean, dry, and trash free."

Garten has done its part by improving the efficiency in the recycling warehouse. Not only does the warehouse have more LED lighting, the nonprofit has added machinery that pulls out even more contamination. Last year, Garten added 2 new screens that pull out paper and cardboard. Another machine pulls out more aluminum. And a glass machine pulls out small shards of glass that not only contaminates bales of recyclables but also poses a danger to employees hand sorting the materials.

Until new markets can be found for the plastics that China used to trash, Marion County is asking people to keep plastic jars, cups and tubs, clamshells and take-out trays, plus egg cartons and shredded paper out of the blue bin.

"It's really hard for us because we have always been into sustainability," McAllister said. "Instead we are working on the other side, saying to consumers, 'Hey, your buying power can make a difference. If you stop buying so many of these items because they are not recyclable, then manufacturers will stop making them.'"

But Garten will continue to aggressively sort materials so that they are properly recycled.

It's an impressive feat.

COMMUNITY RADIO  
**KMUZ**

Tune into the latest stories about the 3R's  
**Waste Matters: On the Air**

KMUZ

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, an EarthWISE business or special waste reduction guest is featured on the Mid-Willamette Valley's only show devoted exclusively to waste! Our show, airing at 1:00 PM, explores interesting and unusual topics that you just might find fascinating. Do **you** have a story to share? Give us a call at 503-365-3188.

100.7 FM

88.5 FM

[www.kmuz.org](http://www.kmuz.org)

Every week, Garten employees recycle one million pounds of cardboard, paper and plastic (items found in residential blue bins.) About 320,000 pounds of shredded paper gets recycled each month through the nonprofit's secure document destruction program. And 400,012 pounds of electronics—everything from computer monitors to cassette recorders—are recycled each month. And each year, Garten's electronics recycling keeps more than 5.4 million pounds of electronics out of the landfill, where they can leach heavy metals into the ground.



Mountains of material come into the Garten Services recycling warehouse.

Last year, the Garten recycling center processed about 80.5 million pounds of recyclable material. Recycling this material instead of using virgin material saved 635,602 trees, enough water for more than 9.3 million baths, and the energy equivalent to 8.2 million gallons of gasoline. It is equivalent to removing 58,793 cars from the road for a year in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

But, like any good environmentalist, Garten understands that reuse is a much more environmentally friendly practice than recycling. For electronics, a team of workers refurbishes computers to be sold in Garten's store or on eBay. The Garten Electronics and Reuse Store, 3334 Industrial Way NE in Salem, has been so successful that it is now open two days a week instead of one.

For general recycling, workers are trained to notice still-good items and pull them off the conveyor belt. Workers have gleaned reams of paper, file folders, lunch trays, label makers and metal file cabinets.

Garten also works directly with businesses that would like to reuse materials.

For Vitro Flat Glass, Garten workers fix the foam and cardboard glass protectors that the company uses when shipping glass. By replacing pieces of foam or cardboard, Vitro Flat Glass can reuse the protector—sometimes up to 10 times—instead of replacing it after each shipment.

"We will always be in the business of sustainability," McAllister said. "It's good for our environment and our community."

~ Article by Beth Casper ~



Are you recycling right or are you an accomplice?

Keep workers safe and do the right thing. Visit [MCRecycles.net](http://MCRecycles.net) to get on the right track.

Environmental Services  
[MCRecycles.net](http://MCRecycles.net) | 503.588.5169



*Time to recertify already?*  
These EarthWISE businesses did



Country Financial  
2015 - 2018



City of Salem Urban Development Airport Division  
2010 - 2018

*More EarthWISE recerts*



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem  
2014 - 2018**



**Pence NW Construction, LLC  
2012 - 2018**

## Ask Mister Sustainability

**So...we spend all this time talking about recycling but it seems like we'll never catch up—there's always more stuff being produced. How do we get off this hamster-cage wheel?**

**T**here are many ways to go about this, but let me give you a couple of options that address this issue. The first that comes to mind is the use of an outright ban. For example, the City of Salem is debating whether or not they want to ban the distribution of single use plastic bags. If this happens, certain types of plastic bags will not be available any more...at least in Salem. Theoretically, this removes some of the problem of an item that is a global environmental contaminate and a wrecker of havoc in recycling systems.

While often reviled, plastic bags are cheap to produce and cheap to “give away,” thus, a mainstay in shuttling groceries from the store to a home. However, they can be easily replaced by either paper bags, boxes, or reusable shopping bags.

But imagine banning something like TV's...or computers...or electronics. Why would we want to do that? Because the components that make up their innards are full of heavy metals and goo that are very bad things to release into “the wild.” And if discarded carelessly, that is exactly what happens...both in this country and abroad. Just go to **YouTube** and see for yourself.

Yet, I've not witnessed a single ‘let's ban electronics’ movement... except when I have to deal with my teens' slavish obsession with digitals.



Nevertheless, to direct the proper disposal (and recovery) of the electronic intestines that have both reuse value and high contamination potential, a newish legal construct called product stewardship was born.

Product stewardship basically means that whoever designs, produces, sells, or uses a product takes responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the products' life cycle, including end of life management. The aim being, whoever has the most impact on its' life cycle takes most responsibility instead of it all falling on the consumer and local waste system.

In Oregon, the state legislature passed the Oregon E-Cycles program back in 2007 that ensures that electronics sold in our state are recycled in a responsible way that protects human health and the environment. Every computer, TV, printer or monitor sold in Oregon is covered by the folks who sell em. Sweet.

Oregon also has the Bottle Bill and Paintcare to deal with ... well... bottles and paint, as types of product stewardship programs. And while every program looks a bit different, the idea is the same—to make sure that these things have a home that can help keep them out of the landfill and use the goodness that's still embedded in their essence.

Oooooo.....I like the way that sounded.

So, imagine a world where everything is designed, used, repaired, and finally retired...and nothing is wasted. I want to live in that world. Don't you? That world, however, has to move beyond just 3 material categories and evolve into one that includes them all.

## Factoid Department

Approximately 24 million pounds of **Oregon** electronics were collected for recycling in 2017.

According to **DEQ**, just under 22 million pounds is expected to be recovered in 2018.

How long is too long? A glass beer bottle will take an estimated **one million years** to decompose in a landfill.

Straws suck in so many ways. Nearly **500 million** are used in the USA every day.

The **2017** national recycling rate for plastic bottles was a mere **23%**. After the deposit rate increased to 10 cents, Oregonians returned bottles **82%** of the time.

Using 23 different metrics, **WalletHub** declared **Vermont** the greenest of state in the country. **2nd? Oregon**. Last? West Virginia.

Kudos time ...Statewide, the **Oregon Department of Corrections** recovered a hair under 2.8 million pounds of material in 2017. #1 item? Card-board.

How much of an impact does **China** have on plastic recycling? China and Hong Kong took **72%** of all the U.S plastic exported in 2016.

# EarthWISE Member Directory

★ Denotes new EarthWISE business

## Automotive

AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.  
Brooks Automotive  
Capitol Auto Group

## Construction

Arbuckle Costic Architects, Inc.  
Barnwood Naturals, LLC  
Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.  
CB | Two Architects  
dalke Construction  
Fluent Engineering, Inc.  
Jet Industries  
Modern Building Systems, Inc.  
Nathan Good Architects  
Pfeifer Roofing  
Studio 3 Architecture, Inc.  
White Oak Construction

## Education

Chemeketa Community College  
Chemeketa Center for Business & Industry

## Financial

Country Financial  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
SELCO Community Credit Union

## Food

Bentley's Grill  
BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants  
Cascade Baking  
Kerr Concentrates, Inc.  
LifeSource Natural Foods  
NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, & Salem Plants  
Rafns' Restaurant  
Roth's Fresh Market - Central Office, Sunnyslope, Vista,  
Hayesville, Lancaster, Stayton, & Silverton stores  
Spring Valley Dairy  
Sweet Couture  
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

## Government

Marion County Courthouse Square  
Marion County Dog Shelter  
Marion County Public Works—Silverton Road Campus  
OR Department of Administrative Services- 20 Buildings  
OR DAS - Salem Motor Pool  
OR DAS - Property Distribution Center  
OR Dept. of Corrections (DOC) CDC/Warehouse  
OR DOC Gath Road Range  
OR DOC Mill Creek Correctional Facility  
OR Santiam Correctional Facility  
OR State Corrections Institution  
OR DOC State Penitentiary  
OR Department of Energy  
OR DMV Headquarters OR Exposition Center  
OR Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training  
OR Lottery  
OR State Capitol  
Salem Center 50+  
Salem Civic Center  
Salem Fire Department  
Salem Housing Authority  
Salem - Information Technology  
Salem - Public Works Willow Lake WPCF  
Salem Shops  
Salem - Urban Development's Airport Division  
Salem - Urban Development's Director's Office  
Salem Public Library

## Landscaping

DeSantis Landscapes, Inc.  
The Garden Angels  
Green Acres Landscape, Inc.

## Medical

Holly Chamberlain D.D.S., L.L.C.  
Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.  
Mid-Valley Oral, Maxillofacial & Implant Surgery  
Northwest Rehabilitation Associates  
Spinnaker Pediatric Dentistry  
Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

**Not For Profit**

Assistance League of Salem - Daue House  
Assistance League of Salem - Encore Furniture  
Center for Hope & Safety  
Family Building Blocks - Chelsea's Place  
Garten Services, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
Marion-Polk Food Share  
SAIF Corporation  
Saint Mark Lutheran Church  
Salem Art Association  
Temple Beth Shalom  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem  
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Home

**Personal Services**

Designer Cut  
Phiz Spa

**Professional/Services**

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.  
ABC Window Cleaners & Building Maintenance  
Allied Video Productions  
Cascade Employer's Association  
Collier Law  
Compex Two Computers  
Law Office of Eden Rose Brown  
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

**Real Estate & Commercial Properties**

Coldwell Bankers Commercial Mountain West Real Estate  
The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Center  
Pringle Creek Community  
Wildwood | Mahonia

**Recycling/Solid Waste**

Agri-Plas, Inc.  
Covanta Energy, Marion Facility  
D & O Garbage Service Inc.  
Loren's Sanitation & Recycling Services  
Marion Recycling Center  
North Marion Recycling & Disposal  
Pacific Sanitation

**Retail/Wholesale**

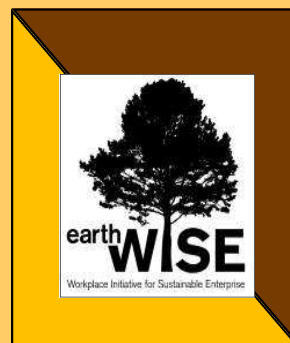
Cooke Stationery Co.  
Crosby Hop Farm, LLC  
Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Salem)  
Habitat for Humanity ReStore (Woodburn)  
One Fair World  
Rapid Refill  
South Salem Ace Hardware ★

**Tourism/Entertainment**

Grand Hotel in Salem  
Salem Convention Center  
Salem Riverfront Carousel  
Travel Salem

**Transportation**

Salem Keizer Transit



Questions? Answers? Comments? Looking for help?

Don't hesitate to call or email:  
**EarthWISE@co.marion.or.us**  
**503 365 3188**