



The EarthWISE Bulletin

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County

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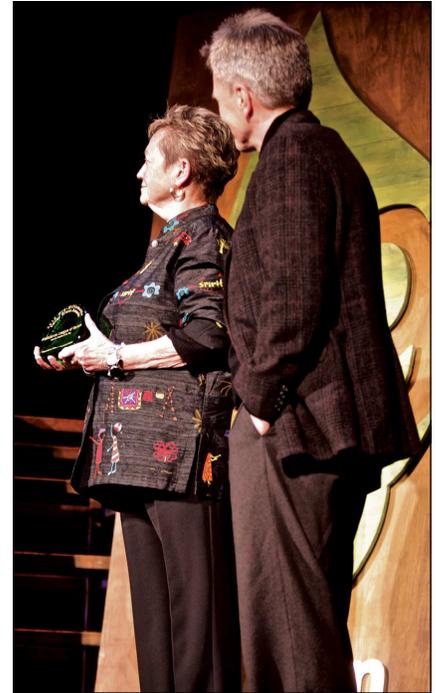
What's inside

Green Award winners	1- 3
Recent recerts	4 - 5
Factoids	6
Ask Mr. Sustainability	6
EW directory	7 - 8
Bottle Bill Forum	8

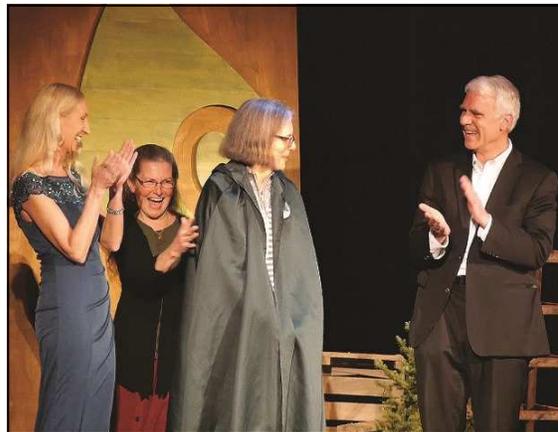
2016 Mid-Valley Green Award winners

"This year's Green Award winners are incredible sustainability leaders in their field," said Bailey Payne of Marion County Environmental Services. "Their impact will be felt for years to come within their industry and within our community. We are so grateful for their green efforts, and we hope these Green Awards show others in the area that they too can make a real difference."

Below are the winners of this year's Green Awards:



Business Recycler of the Year:
Assistance League of Salem-Keizer



Lifetime Achievement Award:
Bobbie Snead



Recycler of the Year:
Judy Skinner

Important dates:

April 22 Earth Day
(Nationally) ★

April 23 Earth Day event
at the Oregon Garden

May 7 Sheep to Shawl
at the Willamette Heritage
Center

May 8 Mother's Day

May 21 Upcycle Oregon
2016 at the Salem Con-
vention Center

May 30 Memorial Day

June 15/16 Schools out

June 19 Father's Day



**Green Service of the Year Award:
The Northwest Hub**



**Small Sustainable Business of the Year Award:
Friends of Family Farmers**



**Sustainable Wine Producer of the Year Award:
Bethel Heights Vineyard**



**Green Product of the Year Award:
The SEED Collaborative/
Modern Building Systems, Inc.**



**EarthWISE Business of the Year Award:
Marion-Polk Food Share**



**Green Apple of the Year Award:
Rich Swartzentruber**



**Large Sustainable Business of the Year Award:
Oregon Department of Corrections**

**COMMUNITY RADIO
KMUZ**

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



An EarthWISE business is featured every fourth Thursday at 1:00 pm to chat about their interesting and innovative waste reduction programs!

100.7 FM

www.kmuz.org

88.5 FM

Time to recertify already?
These EarthWISE businesses did



Oregon Lottery
2010 - 2016



Loren's Sanitation & Recycling Service, Inc.
2012 - 2016



Collier Law
2013 - 2016

SAIF Corporation
2008 - 2016



City of Salem Urban Development Municipal Airport
2010 - 2016

More EarthWISE recerts



CB|Two Architects, LLC
2008 - 2016



North Marion Recycling & Disposal, LLC
2012 - 2016



Chemeketa Community College
2011 - 2016



**VanNatta Public Relations
and Spire Management**
2011 - 2016

Ask Mister Sustainability

Probably a silly question but here goes: what's the difference between biodegradable and compostable plastic bags? I want to use them as food take-out bags and for lining the garbage bins in our kitchen.

Not a silly question at all. Both of those designations have created quite a bit of confusion and unintended waste. Let me explain.

Bag materials sold as "biodegradable" infers that the material will actually degrade from a solid into a gas or liquid over a relatively short period of time. How successful those plastic bags do that is a matter of much contention and most compost facilities won't accept them. Why? Because many of them degrade by crumbling into zillions of tiny pieces of plastic, but still remain a solid. Useful? Composting folks hate em. And land fills? In Marion County, where we incinerate our trash, it's a moot point.

A "compostable" bag means just that—it will compost. And, if the material has been tested by your local compost facility and it really does compost in the very short amount of time they need it to, they may accept it. Ask! Otherwise, they are going to treat that bag as a contaminant and pull it out of their system and send it to the garbage.

Either bag, compostable or biodegradable, is probably not going to be worth purchasing in most cases. Unless you're a food service provider, like a restaurant, and have **PRIOR** approval from your hauler about using a compostable bag (they'd never approve a biodegradable bag), I'd advise you to just save your money. They are most likely going to end up in the trash OR end up as a contaminant in some recycling system. Regular plastic bags, if clean, can at least be recycled at a grocery store or at the Salem-Keizer Transfer Station.



Beautiful compost with flakes of plastic bag. Commercial operators work hard to keep plastic out.

On the same topic, the vast majority of disposable cups have an almost invisible polyethylene layer embedded into the paper. Toss them into a compost pile and you get....ta da!plastic. No go. A few are made with **PLA** (polylactic acid) that will compost; however, it's up to your friendly neighborhood composting company to accept them or not. Check first! Same with compostable cutlery. Just because the package says it's so doesn't mean doodly-squat. And never, ever buy biodegradables!

Factoid Department

In spite of way cheap fossil fuels, wind energy in the United States passed the 70-gigawatt threshold in 2015, with 50,000 spinning turbines producing enough power to light up 19 million homes.

How's that? *The Washington Post* tells us that it's mostly due to better technology and increased financing.

According to the 2016 Environmental Performance Index which ranks ecosystem and human health protection, the top five countries were (in order): Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Slovenia. The United States was in 26th place. One can read about such at: epi.yale.edu/reports/2016-report

Startin' stuff young. A study of British children concluded that that the average 10-year-old owns 238 toys but plays with just 12 on any given day.

On our side of the ocean, 3.1 percent of the world's children live in the U.S. but own 40 percent of the world's toys.

Forbes Magazine tells us that the average American woman owns 30 outfits—up from nine back in 1930.

And most shocking? If you had the time to count all of the individual items in your house you might discover that you've hit the U.S. average of 300,000 things!

EARTH DAY

Free Admission and Shuttle.
Live Music, Exhibits, Crafts, Garden
Tours, Face Painting, Local Food,
Presentations & More!



Saturday, April 23
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
THE OREGON GARDEN
WWW.OREGONGARDEN.ORG

EarthWISE Member Directory

* Denotes new EarthWISE business

Automotive

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

Construction

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

Education

Chemeketa Community College
Chemeketa Center for Business & Industry
Straub Environmental Center

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'
Spring Valley Dairy
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area
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.
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
Garten Services, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley

Not For Profit (Continued)

Marion-Polk Food Share
SAIF Corporation
Saint Mark Lutheran Church *
Temple Beth Sholom
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
Lancaster Mall Operations
Law Office of Eden Rose Brown
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

Real Estate & Commercial Properties

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.
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
One Fair World

Tourism/Entertainment

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

Transportation

South Salem Cycleworks
Salem Keizer Transit

In our backyard:

AOR Spring Forum



The past, present, and future of Oregon's Bottle Bill

The Association of Oregon Recyclers' Spring Forum is just around the corner. Join in with folks from around Oregon in the Reed Opera House in Salem on Thursday, April 14th, as we examine Oregon's redemption system.

We'll explore the history of the Bottle Bill, how it came to be, and how it stacks up to the nation's other 10 redemption programs. Our panel of industry experts will then take the stage for an exciting afternoon of Q&A answering everything you've ever wanted to know about this iconic law. And finally, for those interested, we will take a quick tour of the NE

Salem Bottle Drop facility, located just up the road from our Forum Venue.

Speakers will include former Representative Vicki Berger, John Anderson from the OBRC, Peter Spendelow from DEQ, Jerry Powell from Resource Recycling, Inc. and others.



Registration for the event, which will run from 11:00am till 3:00pm, and includes a networking lunch, is now open. For more info or to register go to: oregonrecyclers.org.



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