

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County Public Works— Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

Foster Sustainability at Work

Important Dates:

- April 1— April Fools Day
- April 12— Free Styrofoam Recycling Event
- April 19— Free PVC Collection
- April 19— Free Earth Day Celebration at the Oregon Garden
- April 22— Earth Day
- April 23— Administrative Professional's Day
- April 25— Arbor Day

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Foster sustainable thinking at your workplace by forming a lunch hour discussion course, available from the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI). NWEI offers ready made programs requiring minimal input from management, designed to foster high-quality and effective sustainability education. NWEI programs serve to align organization values with employee actions, moving employees towards greater internal consensus on sustainability innovations.

Whether offered in conjunction with company wide sustainability initiatives or as a part of informal brown bag lunch series, NWEI programs play an essential role in sustaining and aligning organizational commitment with sustainability initiatives.

There is no outside presenter or teacher at these discussion courses. Rather, the role of facilitator rotates with each meeting. As a facilitator, employees receive practice leading in a group setting.

NWEI course study guides accompany the discussion course. These manuals must be purchased through the NWEI and are the only cost associated with the course.

To get started, form a group of 8 to 12 co-workers. Discussion groups meet weekly or bi-weekly to discuss readings from the course study guide. The study guide contains a diverse collection of short essays, articles, and book excerpts. Discussion questions and a suggested meeting format are included in each study

guide. Have the group choose a discussion



Take a closer look at sustainability with Northwest Earth Institute Discussion courses

course that they would like to be a part of. There are seven discussion courses available: Global Warming: Changing CO2course; Choices for Sustainable Living; Menu for the Future; Voluntary Simplicity; Healthy Children Healthy Planet; Discovering a Sense of Place; and Exploring Deep Ecology. To learn more, read summaries of each of the courses at the NWEI website: www.nwei.org or call 503-227-2807.

Events and Announcements

“Recycle your unwanted Styrofoam for free at the upcoming Styrofoam recycling event on April 12, 2008.”

FREE Styrofoam Recycling Event-April 12, 2008

Recycle Styrofoam for FREE from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2008, at Willamette University in the Sparks parking lot next to the soccer field on the corner of 12th and Bellevue Street. Accepted materials include clean block Styrofoam, meat trays, and Styrofoam egg cartons. Packing peanuts, packing foam with tape on it, and construction foam are not accepted. Packing peanuts are accepted for reuse by many local companies. For a list of businesses that accept packing peanuts call 503-588-5169. To be notified about upcoming Styrofoam recycling events send an email to kdi-nan@co.marion.or.us and put “add me to the Styrofoam list” in the subject line.

FREE PVC Plastic Recycling/Disposal– April 19, 2008

On Saturday, April 19, 2008, Marion County Public Works– Environmental Services will accept PVC/vinyl plastics

for free from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Salem-Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station, the North Marion Recycling and Transfer Station, and the Brown’s Island Demolition Landfill. Because PVC plastic contains chlorine, the best way to dispose of it is to bring it to the collection event. The event will recycle all material possible and safely dispose of the rest. For more information about the event please call 503-588-5169 or visit www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newest EarthWISE certified businesses: Dr. Holly Chamberlain D.D. S; Garten Services, Inc.; and NORPAC Foods– Stayton facility.

Panel Presentation on Sustainable Business Practices

Learn about opportunities for business sustainability from Marion County Environmental Services and local Salem businesses that have taken steps to become more sustainable at the Friends of Straub Envi-

ronmental Learning Center’s April Sustainability Workshop Series. The Sustainable Practices Panel Presentation will take place on April 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Straub Environmental Learning Center at 1320 A St. NE in Salem. The presentation is free and open to the public. Come learn more about the EarthWISE program. Businesses that have attained the certification will discuss their experience with the certification process as well as their experiences on the path towards becoming more sustainable. For more information visit www.fselc.org or call 503-391-4145.

Free Advertising for EarthWISE Certified Businesses

If your business was EarthWISE Certified before March 2008, be on the lookout for the Spring 2008 Waste Matters newspaper insert delivered to every home in Marion County mid-April. The newest edition of Waste Matters features a two-page spread of EarthWISE certified businesses. Be prepared for new customers!



Recycle PVC plastic for free at the upcoming one-day-only collection event

Pass it on— a monthly tidbit. April's topic: Choosing Better Cleaning Chemicals

According to U.S. EPA estimates, sixty billion dollars worth of employee productivity is lost each year in the United States due to poor indoor air quality in the workplace. Property managers have traditionally focused on providing an acceptable level of cleanliness at the lowest cost for custodial services and supplies. But clean doesn't always mean healthy for people or the planet. Green cleaning goes beyond appearance to focus on employee and custodial staff health, and lifecycle impacts of cleaning products.

To determine the type of cleaning supplies used in your workplace, start by meeting with someone from your cleaning service to evaluate its current practices and determine what experience it already has with green cleaning methods. The following criteria can help you or your janitorial service choose safer, more sustainable products.

If your current provider isn't able to meet your needs, putting together a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) will likely attract more comprehen-

DOs

Biodegradable
 Non-toxic
 Low-VOC
 pH levels between 2.5 and 12
 Concentrated for shipping
 Perform best at room temp.
 Non-aerosol containers
 Minimal packaging

DON'Ts

Alkylphenol ethoxylates
 Corrosives or flammables
 Dibutyl phthalate
 Heavy metals including arsenic, lead, cadmium, cobalt, chromium, mercury, nickel, or selenium
 Ozone-depleting compounds
 Optical brighteners
 Unnecessary dyes and fra

sive quotes that are tailored to your needs. For a sample janitorial Request for Quotes (RFQ) document with green specifications contact the EarthWISE program at 503-588-5169 ext. 5920 or send an email to Kim at kdi-nan@co.marion.or.us.

Learn more about greener cleaners from these resources:

- Coastwide Laboratories is a private company that provides janitorial services for companies that want to use greener options. Coastwide provides a great deal of technical and background information useful to other companies. www.coastwidelabs.com
- Garten Services is a local company that provides superior "green clean" non-toxic custodial services. www.garten.org/services/admin/oregon/C15/

- The U.S. EPA provides information on green cleaning. Web site includes procurement guidance, case studies and online resources. www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/cleaning.htm
- Green Seal, a third-party certifier, offers standards for both household and institutional cleaning products. www.greenseal.org
- The Janitorial Pollution Prevention Project is aimed at reducing health impacts for janitorial staff. The website contains detailed information about green cleaning. www.wrppn.org/janitorial/jp4.cfm
- Toxic Use Reduction Institute provides toxic chemical reduction information. www.turi.org

Source: "Purchasing—Cleaning." Green Office Guide— Supplement to Sustainable Industries Jan. 2008: 38.



Employees breathe easy when non-toxic cleaners are used in the workplace.

"Sixty billion dollars worth of employee productivity is lost each year in the United States due to poor indoor air quality in the workplace."

EarthWISE Member Directory



Marion County
OREGON

Advantage Precast Inc.— Keizer
www.advantagebusinessgroup.com
Service, Concrete Products and Accessories

Agri-Plas, Inc.— Brooks
www.agriplasinc.com
Agricultural and other plastic waste recyclers

AJ's Auto Repair— Salem
www.ajsautorepair.com
A full service automotive repair and maintenance facility

CB|2 Architects— Salem
www.cb2architects.com
Provides design services with an integrated approach that ensures a high quality building at the lowest overall cost

Complex Two Computers— Silverton
www.compex2.com
Serves the area from Eugene to Portland with specialized computer services

Dr. Holly Chamberlain D.D.S.— Salem
www.hollychamberlaindentist.com
Comprehensive and Aesthetic Dentistry

DeSantis Landscapes Inc.— Salem
www.desantislandscapes.com
A family owned, nationally recognized landscape design, construction, and maintenance company

Garten Services, Inc.— Salem and Keizer
www.garten.org
Serving people with disabilities in the Willamette Valley since 1970.

Marion County Public Works— Environmental Services

www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es
Provides Marion County residents and visitors with innovative solid waste, parks, and water quality programs

NORPAC Foods— Stayton facility— Stayton
www.norpac.com
A farmer cooperative producing high quality frozen and canned vegetables

Sabroso Company— Woodburn
www.sabroso.com
Fruit product specialists in food-service and food manufacturing

Salem Conference Center— Salem
www.salemconferencecenter.org
A premier venue for meetings and conferences in Oregon

Truitt Bros., Inc.— Salem
www.truittbros.com
A successful family-owned-and-operated business in the shelf stable foods industry

Willamette Ear, Nose, Throat and Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP— Salem
www.entsalem.com
Providing comprehensive ENT (ear, nose and throat), facial plastic surgery, and hearing audiology services

Marion County Public Works— Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

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Salem, OR 97305

Phone: 503-588-5169
Fax: 503-588-3565

Workplace Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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 Kim at kdinan@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.

