

# The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County Public Works– Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

## Your Trash May Be Another Company's Treasure

NW Materialsmart is a coalition of public and private organizations supporting the use of materials exchanges in the Northwest. Led by Metro and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the organization is funded by a wide range of governmental and non-governmental agencies whose collective missions are aimed at improving Oregon's quality of life by sustaining our natural environment.

NW Materialsmart is a cost-effective, environmental way to obtain and dispose of industrial materials. Whether your business is seeking materials or you've got surplus to get rid of, you'll find thousands of options for buying, selling, and exchanging materials.

So, what is a materials exchange? A materials exchange is a service that facilitates the use of on company's unwanted material as another's raw material. It is an information clearinghouse for available surplus, by-products, and used or other forms of unwanted industrial materials. A materials exchange iden-

tified both producers (sources) and markets (end-users) for a variety of materials. It operates on the principle that one company's "waste" may be another's feedstock. There is no cost for using the exchange, and it is up to the exchanging parties to negotiate materials costs and shipping among themselves.

Virtually anything non-hazardous may be listed on most materials exchanges, and exchanges such as IMEX ([www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex/](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/imex/)) also allow for listings of hazardous materials. Because listings are free, you are encouraged to list items, even if you doubt anyone would want them. Materials exchanges are internet-based, so it is not unusual for a business in Tennessee, or even China, to inquire about listings, but be patient, some homes for materials have taken six months or a year to find. Please remember, however, that you are still responsible for complying with all state and federal laws regarding stockpiling/storage of the material

while you are listing materials, as well as all state and federal laws regarding



*Exchange unwanted materials or find feedstock with materials exchanges.*

proper transportation, and end use of the material once it has been delivered to the new user.

Any person or business that has a surplus of materials to list, or is trying to find materials, can use the exchange.

To get started, go to [www.nwmaterialsmart.com](http://www.nwmaterialsmart.com) and click the "find an exchange" link. Decide which exchange best suits your needs. Submit your information about the materials, your contact information and (if asked) terms of cost, delivery, etc. Then wait for an interested party to contact you. Be sure to review current postings to see if other businesses already have what you need or want.

### Important Dates:

- **June 14– Styrofoam Collection Event**
- **June 15– Father's Day**
- **June 21– Summer Begins**
- **July 4– Independence Day**

### Inside this issue:

Materials Exchanges	1
Events and Updates	2
Carbon Offsets at your Business	2
How to Start a Green Team	3
OfficeMax's Reusable Tote Program	3
Contact Us	4
EarthWISE Member Directory	4

## Events and Updates



Recycle your Styrofoam on Saturday, June 14, 2008.

### **Styrofoam Recycling Event Saturday, June 14, 2008**

Businesses and residents are encouraged to recycle their unwanted Styrofoam for free during the upcoming Styrofoam recycling event. On Saturday, June 14th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. (or until full), Styrofoam will be collected for recycling at Willamette University's Sparks Fieldhouse (located next to the soccer field at the corner of 12th Street and Bellevue Street in Salem). Clean and dry block packing foams, meat trays, food containers, and Styrofoam egg cartons will be accepted. Unacceptable items include foam blocks with tape and

construction foams. Packing peanuts are also not accepted, but most mailing stores will accept them for free for reuse. Please call Marion County Public Works at 503-588-5169 with questions.

### **Congratulations to our newest EarthWISE Certified Businesses!**

Congratulations to the following Marion County businesses that achieved EarthWISE Certification in April and May: The Oregon Department of Energy, Willamette Valley Fruit Company, Coldwell Bankers Commercial Mountain West Real Estate, LLC., Marion Recycling Center, Carlson

Veit Architects, P.C., and Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.

### **We Want to Hear From You!**

Do you have great ideas about reducing waste, recycling more, or saving energy and water at your business but just don't have the tools and resources to do it? Let the EarthWISE program know! EarthWISE may already have the tools to help you and, if not, may be able to create what you need for free to share with you and other Marion County businesses. Send your ideas/needs to [earthwise@co.marion.or.us](mailto:earthwise@co.marion.or.us).

**“Does your business have a great idea to save resources but are lacking the tools to make it happen? Contact the EarthWISE program for help.”**

## What is a Carbon Offset and How Can it Work for My Business?

Carbon offsets allow your business to take action on global warming. Offsetting carbon emissions supports greenhouse gas reduction projects and hastens the transition to a clean energy future. Currently, carbon dioxide emissions in our atmosphere are at their highest levels in recorded history, spanning over 650,000 years.

Companies can purchase carbon offsets to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electricity use, and other sources. Offsets are typically generated from emissions-reducing projects. The most common project type is renewable energy

such as wind energy or hydroelectric dams.

Carbon offsetting can help your business become “carbon neutral.” This idea has gained momentum as businesses become aware of the potentially negative effects of an energy-intensive economy.

If your business is interested in purchasing carbon offsets you should first identify your carbon footprint. You can take a look at a certain section of your business, such as vehicle miles or airplane travel, or take an overall look by incorporating shipping, electricity use, travel, and all other carbon intensive practices. There are many carbon footprint calcu-

lators available, such as the calculators found at: [www.greentagsusa.org](http://www.greentagsusa.org), [www.carbonfund.org](http://www.carbonfund.org), [www.thegreenoffice.com/footprint/](http://www.thegreenoffice.com/footprint/) and [www.begreennow.com/calculator](http://www.begreennow.com/calculator).

Once you have determined the carbon footprint of your business, it is time to purchase carbon offsets. There are many non-profit organizations that sell carbon offsets, including the organizations that host the carbon calculators above. It is also a good idea to talk to your energy provider for information about purchasing clean energy through an existing program.



Carbon offsets are generated from emissions reducing projects, such as renewable energy.

## How to Start a Green Team at Your Business

At every business, it seems as though there are one or two employees completely dedicated to incorporating environmental sustainability into a company's business practices. How can a few dedicated employees help to spread the excitement company wide? Create a Green Team to help share ideas and tackle environmental improvements together.

A Green Team is simply a group of employees that work together to identify and improve business practices that effect the environment. A Green Team can reduce paper use, promote energy conservation, reduce waste in the manufacturing of a product, and much more, making a huge difference within the company.

Start by finding individuals within your company to form a Green Team with. It helps to have representatives from different departments such as facilities, fleet maintenance,

and purchasing. A diverse Green Team can identify low-hanging environmental fruit that may not be so obvious to employees in other departments.

Once your Green Team has been identified, hold an initial meeting to come up with project ideas. Ask that each Green Team employee bring a few ideas to the table and then decide as a team which projects should be pursued first. Make sure to keep clear lines of communication open and always ask permission from other staff and managers before making changes. To incorporate change effectively, all members of your business must feel as though they have had a change to voice their opinion.

As your Green Team begins implementing projects, you will want to know how effective the projects are. Always keep track of your progress. Before getting started, it's a

good idea to identify a baseline. For example, if your Green Team is going to focus on reducing paper usage, it is a good idea to work with your purchasing department to find how the average amount of paper that has been purchased monthly in the past year. When your baseline is established, you will have good information to compare your work to, and you will be able to judge your effectiveness.

Finally, keep in touch with your Green Team. Arrange a meeting with your team members once a month to keep updated on what each member is working on. Set up an email list so you can communicate with your team between meetings. Share information about the successes of your Green Team with your coworkers and don't forget to celebrate those successes with a (sustainable) Green Team party.



Your Green Team can help turn this into an energy efficient, compact fluorescent bulb.

**“A Green Team is a group of employees that work together to identify and improve business practices that effect the environment.”**

## OfficeMax Reusable Tote Program

Existing OfficeMax customers are invited to take advantage of OfficeMax's new Reusable Tote Program. An innovative addition to OfficeMax's customer offerings, the Tote Program consolidates orders into plastic totes that are delivered on a weekly basis. Delivery drivers then pick up the tote, with any used toners for recycling, then reuse the tote on the next delivery.

The Tote Program reduces your company's waste by reducing dunnage and cardboard

waste that is usually associated with typical orders. Tote Program customers are asked to use scheduled weekly deliveries, consolidating orders and conserving fuel. There is no cost for existing OfficeMax customers to get involved in the Tote Program. Potential customers must be pre-qualified before participating in the program.

OfficeMax will also provide you with a Carbon reduction report and a carton reduction report specific to your

business. This report will help you to identify the positive environmental impacts your business will have by switching to reusable totes.

To get involved in the Reusable Tote Program, contact Jim Chatfield, OfficeMax Account Executive, at jim-chatfield@officemax.com or 503-781-2970. You can also view OfficeMax's sustainable products online at [www.officemaxsolutions.com](http://www.officemaxsolutions.com). To log on use Username: Sustainable and Password: omx1.



Not a cardboard box.

## EarthWISE Member Directory

**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*

**Carlson Veit Architects**– Salem  
www.carlsonveit.com  
*Architecture + Interior Design*

**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*

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

**Coldwell Banker Commercial Mountain West Real Estate**– Salem  
www.cbcre.com  
*Providing property owners with comprehensive real estate services since 1982.*

**Compex 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.*

**Marion Recycling Center**– Salem  
www.mrtrashrecycles.com  
*A national award-winning association of locally owned garbage and recycling haulers serving Marion County for more than 50 years.*

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

**Oregon Department of Energy**– Salem  
www.oregon.gov/ENERGY  
*Our mission is to ensure Oregon has an adequate supply of reliable and affordable energy and is safe from nuclear contamination.*

**Sabroso Company**– Woodburn  
www.sabroso.com  
*Fruit product specialists in foodservice 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*

**Willamette Valley Fruit Company**– Salem  
www.wvfco.com  
*Locally owned and operated company specializing in high quality frozen fruits, as well as all-natural, handcrafted pies and cobblers.*



Marion County  
OREGON

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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 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.

