



# The EarthWISE Bulletin

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

## Marion County

Volume 2, Issue 8

Summer 2011

### Important dates:

- June 21 Summer Solstice
- June 25-26 Salem World Beat
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 7 - 10 Marion County Fair
- Aug. 26 - Sept. 5 Oregon State Fair
- Sept. 5 Labor Day
- Sept. 8 Master Recycler Classes begin

### SAVE THE DATE!

The 2012 Mid-Valley Green Awards will be held at the Salem Conference Center on Saturday, March 3rd. More info this fall!

### Inside this issue:

2011 Green Awards	1 - 2
The A.J.'s Auto Repair story	3 - 4
Recent recertifications	4
E-Waste thriving in OR	5
Factoids	5
Ask Mr. Sustainability	5
EW Directory	6
PGE's free educational seminars	7

## 2011 Green Awards a Hit!

### Over 300 attend gala to honor winners



John Miller gives opening remarks

After sifting through almost 40 nominations, seven local businesses, organizations, and individuals were chosen for this year's Mid-Valley Green Awards. Each winner received the coveted Green Award plaque and a photo-op moment to bask in the glow of a very receptive and appreciative crowd.

A special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **John Mathews** for his 40-plus years of work in promoting recycling in Oregon. Harking back to his student days at Oregon State, John was both promoter and organizer of early recycling efforts that have culminated in his present-day efforts with Garten Services as their sustainability coordinator.

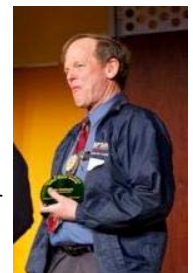
When presented with the unexpected award, a surprised John said the he was "speechless."

### Green Apple Of The Year

The newest addition to the annual awards, the Green Apple, recognized leadership in environmental education in the classroom or community. Chapman Hill Elementary teacher **Maureen Foelkl** was selected for her efforts in waste reduction, watershed stewardship, and energy conservation, both inside and outside the classroom.



Emcee co-host Bailey Payne presents Green Apple award to Maureen Foelkl



John Mathews



Marion County Deputy Sheriff Bob Ferris receives Recycler of the Year – Individual Award

### Recycler of the Year

The individual award for Recycler of the Year was given to **Bob Ferris**, a Marion County deputy who has worked at the Marion County jail for over two decades. Bob, a dedicated Master Recycler, has worked for many years to win over staff and administration to the benefits of recycling and waste reduction. Over the past year those efforts have paid off:

the County Jail is now realizing savings of over \$20,000 a year by decreasing the size and frequency of garbage collection.

“Given the financial situation that all levels of government find themselves in these days, it’s refreshing to find examples of personal efforts like Bob’s that lead to saving public dollars while reducing waste,” remarked emcee co-host Bailey Payne.

**Recycler of the Year - Business/Organization** was awarded to **Friends of Salem Saturday Market** for their development of a Zero-Waste Zone at the Market last summer. This dedicated group reduced garbage by 83% and educated thousands of visitors who learned ways to wean themselves from disposable food ware by composting, recycling, and reuse.



Friends of Salem Saturday Market

**Green Building of the Year**

**Salmon Run Industrial Park** was chosen for its unique efforts and innovative designs for an industrial project in the Mid-Willamette Valley. This speculative core and shell campus utilizes natural lighting, passive ventilation, and a storm garden bioswale to increase both the ambiance and environmental functionality of the site. It has attained LEED CS Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.



**Sustainable Business of the Year**

**Illahé Vineyards** received the nod for **Sustainable Small Business of the Year**. Thoughtful stewardship of the land, along with sustainable methods of reducing waste, energy and water, defines the way the Ford family operates their Polk County vineyard and winery; and yes, they even use horses to mow the grass and haul grapes.



The Ford Family



“Block” winners Chrissie Bertsch and Scott Snyder (R)

**Sustainable Large Business of the Year** honors went to the “Block”: **Salem Conference Center, Bentley’s Grill, and The Grand Hotel in Salem**. This consortium essentially works synergistically to promote sustainable practices within and without their respective operations. For example, when the Conference Center and Grill chose to be early adopters of food waste composting the Hotel joined in by collecting food waste in their break rooms and office areas. Outstanding efforts in promoting recycling, waste reduction, and energy conservation among their staff and customers demonstrated the “Block” as a worthy choice for this year’s award.

**EarthWISE Business of the Year**

**A.J.’s Auto Repair, Inc.** (see article on page 3)

The 2011 Green Awards were held at the Salem Conference Center on the evening of April 9th. Nearly 325 attendees enjoyed music and a silent auction that preceded the dinner and award ceremony. Monies generated by the auctions, an oral auction was held after the awards, support environmental education programs provided by the nonprofit Straub Environmental Learning Center.



“The Green Awards really fits our message of reducing waste and striving for sustainability,” said Jeff Bickford, Marion County Environmental Services Division Manager. “The fact that it helps the educational efforts by the Straub Center is a real bonus,” Bickford said.

# What makes an EarthWISE Business of the Year special? A.J.'s Auto Repair has a good story to tell

**The competition to earn an EarthWISE Business of the Year Award** is pretty tough. Every EarthWISE organization is special because they've proven that they meet a set of sustainability criteria that many businesses either cannot or have not tried to meet. But even within the EarthWISE family, there are some that just stand a little taller and push the envelope a little farther—and we learn from them. A.J.'s is one of those.



Bob Anderson and Glen Jones began repairing cars in 1972 out of a residential one-car garage. Today, A.J.'s Auto Repair can accommodate 18 cars at a time, and has a staff of 17. But the most impressive aspects of A.J.'s economic growth are the steps they have taken to minimize the environmental impact of an industry that creates a lot of waste and is inherently toxic.



Bob Anderson and Glen Jones

Bob explains: "I've been in the trade long enough to see people die from toxic-exposure diseases so we thought about how we could change things. Our goal was to find an environmental approach to auto repair, something that was economically and environmentally beneficial.

"The first step was the installation of an oil furnace in the shop that burns used motor oil and other lubricants, eliminating the need for other sources of heat. "The furnace puts out fewer pollutants than an idling car and burns very cleanly. Why every auto shop doesn't burn used motor oil, I have no idea."

A.J.'s now has three used oil furnaces and burns about 4,000 gallons of motor oil a year.

"Customers come in for an oil change. We change the oil, charge them for it, and then heat the shop with it. It's a great plan," Bob adds. He calculates that over ten years, the savings from avoiding the costs of oil disposal or natural gas heat will come to over \$42,000.

The next part of A.J.'s anti-waste plan was installation of a solvent-free, high pressure hot water-based washer that cleans parts in just minutes. They come out of the washer hot enough to air dry quickly, ready to be painted or rebuilt. Mop water, used to clean the shop floors, is also used in the washers to clean parts. An oil separator separates the oil from the water and that oil is used to heat the shops.

The net result: long term contact with dangerous volatile organic compounds is avoided while 1½ hours of technician time is saved each day not spent scrubbing parts. The return on investment for the washer system was about four months.

When it comes to other substances, A.J.'s customers leave with the same antifreeze and Freon gas their cars came in with. Again, Bob explains:

"The antifreeze that comes out of automobiles gets the freezing level and pH adjusted and then gets pumped right back into the same car. If it's too diluted, we'll add new antifreeze. However, by using this technique we've been able to purchase half as much new antifreeze as we did five years ago."

A.J.'s does basically the same thing with Freon. If an air conditioner doesn't work, all the Freon is vacuumed out, cleaned and filtered. System leaks are repaired, if needed, and the Freon is pumped back in.

A.J.'s has worked with the Oregon Environmental Council and the State of Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality on a free program aimed at reducing mercury pollution by removing mercury light switches in cars. Bob reports that being Salem's lead participant in the program has been good for business, even though they don't charge for the "switch out" service. Over one eight month period of time, they did over \$25,000 worth of work on nearly 90 vehicles that initially came to have their switch replaced for free. From a business standpoint, that worked pretty well.

"For any environmental task to work in business it has to pay—we have to make a profit. Whatever we invest in has to pay back in proportion to the investment. We've saved about \$100,000 in the last 10 years due to the environmental investments we've made and our business has doubled in the last five years, so we're doing something right.

"Sure, we've tried some little things that didn't work. But, we've never lost money on our major changes, because we research them pretty closely beforehand," Bob said.

Innovation is something that the staff is always striving for. Every Friday, they have a barbeque/company meeting and part of those meetings involves discussing environmental issues and what the company is doing. Perhaps it's their laid-back manner or, maybe, the teamwork approach, but there is something very different that makes A.J.'s a leader in both the automotive and environmental field.

Bob thinks he has the answer: "All of our people here participate in the process, which is how it works. If it was just me, it sure wouldn't work as well as it does."

Sources: [Sustainablenorthwest.com](http://Sustainablenorthwest.com) and A.J.'s Auto Repair

## Time to recertify already?

These Earthwise businesses just did



Spring Valley Dairy



Pacific Sanitation



Cherry City Remodeling



Lancaster Mall Operations



Cherry City Heating & Air Conditioning

## Electronic waste recycling continues to thrive in Oregon Residents and businesses embrace program

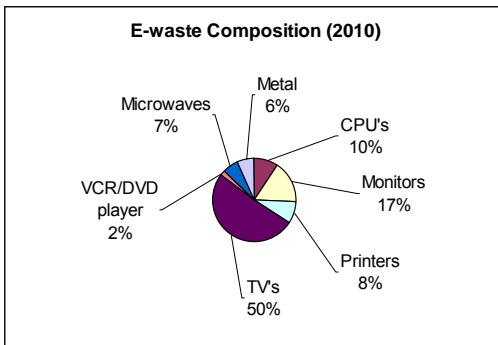


Oregonians are picking up on the E-Cycles theme. They brought more than 24.1 million pounds of their unwanted televisions, computers and monitors to the 250-plus collection sites throughout the state in 2010 – a 27 percent gain over Oregon E-Cycles program's first year of operation.

The free drop-off program, which electronic manufacturers fund and DEQ oversees, ensures that these common electronic items, which contain toxic metals such as lead and cadmium, get properly disposed of or recycled.

"These figures show that the program is working and is effective in handling the vast amount of electronic waste that we all generate," said DEQ E-Cycles specialist Kathy Kiwala.

For more information on the program, visit: [www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/index.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/index.htm).



### What did we add to the mix?

Curious as to what's in Marion County's E-waste? The graph on the left breaks down what residents and businesses discarded in 2010. The grand total added up to nearly 2 million pounds of electronic "stuff."

### Factoid Department

The latest DEQ waste composition study tells us that food waste makes up nearly 18% of Oregon's garbage.

That comes to about 450,000 tons of food we did not eat.

For a visual, try to imagine over 3.5 billion McDonald's quarter-pounders with cheese.

Marion County's share in all this is about 42,000 tons of food scrapings, just over 300 million of those McDonald delights.

All those quarter-pounders, if stacked up bun-to-bun, would make a tower over 17,000 miles high.

Paper makes up another 12.4% of Marion County's waste (27,428 tons).

Each ton of paper we recycle saves 17 trees.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tells us that the energy to produce one sheet of paper is 50 times more than the energy used to print on it.

Duplex (two-sided) printing, when set as the default on your printers/copiers, can reduce overall paper use by an average of 15%.

A small, paper-intensive business, using a case of photocopy paper per week, can save 39,000 sheets of paper per year by duplexing

**Make your next event a zero-waste event**  
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[www.garten.org](http://www.garten.org)  
garden  
ZERO WASTE EVENTS

**Switch OFF**  
Save ENERGY  
EarthWISE

In an effort to help your EarthWISE business save energy, we now have these handy little stickers to help you and your staff remember to turn off the lights when they aren't in use. You can also place them on computers or monitors. Just give us a call at 503-365-3188 and let us know how many you need. Cost?...free to waste reducers!

### Ask Mister Sustainability

**The EarthWISE assessment strongly suggests that computers and monitors be turned off at the end of the day. Wouldn't that switching off and on wear them out faster?**

An Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) fact sheet tells us that this belief stems from the early days of personal computers that components, such as hard drives, would fail more often if frequently turned off and on.

DEQ's response? More myth than fact. They have never found a study to confirm this. You can save up to 150 watts per CPU if you pull the plug at the end of the day.



# EarthWISE Member Directory

\*denotes new member

## Construction

Advantage Precast, Inc.  
Barnwood Naturals, LLC  
Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.  
CB | 2 Architects  
Cherry City Heating  
Cherry City Remodeling  
dalke construction  
Jet Industries  
LCG Pence Construction  
Modern Building Systems, Inc.\*



## Education

Chemeketa Community College  
Woodburn School District

## Financial

Bank of the Cascades - Hawthorne Branch  
Financial Products and Services, Inc.\*  
Oregon Community Credit Union

## Food

Bentley's Grill  
BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants  
Cascade Baking  
Jonathan's  
Kerr Concentrates, Inc.  
Kettle Foods  
LifeSource Natural Foods  
NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, & Salem Plants  
Sabroso Company  
Spring Valley Dairy  
Truitt Brothers, Inc.  
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

## Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area  
Marion County Dog Shelter  
Marion County Public Works—Silverton Campus  
Oregon Department of Energy  
Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services - 20 Buildings  
Oregon Exposition Center  
Oregon Lottery  
Oregon State Capitol  
Oregon—Salem Motor Pool  
Salem Fire Department  
Salem Housing Authority  
Salem—Information Technology  
Salem—Public Works Willow Lake WPCF  
Salem - Urban Development's Airport Division  
Salem - Urban Development's Director's Office  
Salem - Urban Development's Parking Services  
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

Garten Services, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
Marion-Polk Food Share  
SAIF Corporation  
Saint Edward Catholic Church  
Temple Beth Shalom  
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community

## Professional/Services

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.  
ABC Window Cleaners & Building Maintenance\*  
AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.  
Cascade Employer's Association  
Compex Two Computers  
JoyRide Cycling \*  
Kristin LaMont, Attorney at Law P.C.  
Lancaster Mall Operations  
T-Mobile  
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

## Real Estate & Commercial Properties

First American Title Insurance Company\*  
Pringle Creek Community  
Sperry Van Ness Commercial Advisors  
The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Center

## Recycling/Solid Waste

Agri-Plas, Inc.  
Covanta Energy, Marion Facility\*  
D & O Garbage Service Inc.  
Marion Recycling Center  
Pacific Sanitation

## Retail/Wholesale

Capital Sewing & Vacuum Center  
Habitat for Humanity ReStore  
Hillyer's Mid-City Ford  
Power Equipment Systems

## Tourism

Grand Hotel in Salem  
Salem Conference Center  
Travel Oregon  
Travel Salem



# PGE's Educational Seminars

FREE to PGE customers - 1/2 day seminars

PGE offers educational seminars on the wise and efficient use of energy to help its business customers become knowledgeable and familiar with new energy-saving equipment, systems, and related technologies. Topics include energy efficiency, solar photovoltaic and thermal systems, smart grid, water conservation, carbon footprint, and power quality.

<b>Monitoring Load Shape for Energy Savings</b>	<b>Sep. 14, Beaverton</b>
<b>Fundamentals of Efficient Lighting &amp; Controls</b>	<b>Sep. 28, Gresham</b>
<b>Fundamentals of Energy &amp; Managing Costs for Restaurant &amp; Lodging Establishments</b>	<b>Oct. 4, Portland</b>
<b>Monitoring Load Shape Workshop for Energy Expert Users</b>	<b>Oct. 5, Wilsonville</b>
<b>A Smart Grid Perspective of EE, Renewables, &amp; Demand Response</b>	<b>Oct. 6, Portland</b>
<b>Improve EE in Your Building - HVAC, Building Tune-Up &amp; Commissioning</b>	<b>Oct. 12, Wilsonville</b>
<b>Energy &amp; Water Efficiency - Double Your Savings</b>	<b>Oct. 13, Portland</b>
<b>Industrial Fan Systems</b>	<b>Oct. 19, Wilsonville</b>
<b>Industrial Pump Systems</b>	<b>Oct. 20, Wilsonville</b>
<b>Are LEDs Ready for Prime Time?</b>	<b>Oct. 25, Salem / Oct. 26, Portland</b>
<b>Advanced Technologies in Outdoor Lighting</b>	<b>Oct. 27, Portland</b>
<b>Solar Thermal &amp; Photovoltaic Systems</b>	<b>Nov. 3, Portland</b>
<b>Chilled Water Systems</b>	<b>Nov. 9, Wilsonville</b>
<b>Fundamentals of Energy &amp; Managing Costs</b>	<b>Nov. 15, Gresham</b>
<b>Energy Champions Workshop</b>	<b>Nov. 30, Hillsboro</b>
<b>Compressed Air Systems</b>	<b>Dec. 1, Wilsonville</b>

## FREE to PGE Customers - 1/2 Day Seminars & Workshops

Download a seminar or course syllabus at [PortlandGeneral.com/Classes](http://PortlandGeneral.com/Classes)  
To REGISTER, please send an email to [PGE.Seminars@pgn.com](mailto:PGE.Seminars@pgn.com) or call 503-464-8020. Classes may be added throughout the year. Check the website for updates or request e-mail notices of new class offerings!



To learn more about the EarthWISE business assistance program, visit our website at [mcEarthwise.net](http://mcEarthwise.net) or call 503 365 3188.

If you would like to be added or removed from the [Sustainable Business Bulletin](#) list contact: [Earthwise@co.marion.or.us](mailto:Earthwise@co.marion.or.us)