

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County Public Works— Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

Introducing The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Welcome to the first edition of the Sustainable Business Bulletin, a monthly newsletter brought to you by Marion County Public Works— Environmental Services' EarthWISE Program.

The purpose of The Sustainable Business Bulletin is to provide your business with the most up-to-date environmental information. Each month, the Bulletin will be delivered to your inbox, full of information to help you and your co-workers recycle more, reduce waste, conserve resources and save money at work.

In the "Pass It On" column,

you'll find information that you can plug into your own newsletter to share with employees and co-workers. In the "FAQ" section, you'll find the answers to burning questions pertaining to the EarthWISE focus areas of recycling, waste reduction and prevention, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy efficiency and conservation, and water pollution prevention.

The Sustainable Business Bulletin will also deliver information such as garbage and recycling hauler rate updates, e-waste (electronic waste) legislation, energy tax

credit information and more. We'll make sure to keep up to date on current environmental legislation so you don't have to.



Scot reads, and recycles, his Sustainable Business Bulletin

If you would like to be added or removed from The Sustainable Business Bulletin, please send an email to Kim at: kdinan@co.marion.or.us

Important Dates:

November 4th: Daylight Savings ends

November 6th: Election Day

November 11th: Veteran's Day

November 22nd: Thanksgiving Day

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The Skinny on Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

Fluorescent light bulbs contain small amounts of mercury and should therefore be recycled. In Marion County, there are a number of ways to properly dispose of fluorescent bulbs used at your business.

1) Marion County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility can accept and recycle the fluorescent bulbs from your business. The facility accepts hazardous waste by appointment only. Call 800-444-4244 for pricing and to make an appointment.

2) Earth Protection Services, Lake Oswego. 503-620-2466. Call for hours, material preparation, and fees.

3) Eco Lights NW, Seattle, WA. 206-343-1247. Call for fees and to schedule a pick-up.

4) Environmental Protection Services of Oregon. 503-393-1239. Call for more information and fees.

Marion County is currently participating in the Change a Light, Change the World Campaign. When your

business signs a pledge to replace at least one inefficient light bulb with a more efficient one, you'll receive a \$3.00 coupon off the purchase of a compact fluorescent bulb at Office Depot. To sign the pledge visit:

www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es/changealight





Congratulations to These EarthWISE Certified Businesses

Marion County's EarthWISE Certification program is just a few months old and is quickly gaining momentum in the community. Congratulations to Marion County's first EarthWISE certified businesses, who have demonstrated their environmental leadership in our community by meeting the criteria to qualify for EarthWISE certification.

Advantage Precast Inc. (Keizer)
www.advantagebusinessgroup.com

Agri-Plas, Inc. (Brooks)
www.agriplasinc.com

AJ's Auto Repair, Inc. (Salem)
www.ajsautorepair.com

DeSantis Landscapes Inc. (Salem)
www.desantislandscapes.com

**Marion County Public Works—
 Environmental Services Department**
 (Marion County)
www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es

Sabroso Company (Woodburn)
www.sabroso.com

**Willamette Ear, Nose, Throat and Facial
 Plastic Surgery, LLP** (Salem)
www.entsalem.com



FAQ of the Month: When should I turn my computer and monitor off?

"Literature suggests that turning monitors and PC's off when not in use will extend, rather than shorten, their useful life."

Q: I want to do my part to save energy at work and I'm wondering, when does it make sense to turn off computers and monitors?

A: The electricity consumed by a desktop CPU and monitor is significant: about 150 watts for a CPU and a 17-inch color monitor. However, it doesn't make sense to spend half your work day powering your computer on and off. The rule of thumb here is to turn your monitor— a big power eater— off when it will not

be in use for 15 to 30 minutes or more, even if it is an *Energy Star* monitor. Turn your computer off if you'll be away for two hours or more, and always at the end of the day, unless it is a server or other critical application.

In the early days of personal computers, it was widely believed that personal computer components, such as hard drives, were more likely to fail the more frequently they were turned on and off. However, historic reasons for

not turning monitors and PCs off appear to have been largely addressed by the PC industry. In fact, some literature suggests that turning monitors and PCs off when not in use will extend, rather than shorten, their useful life.

If you have a question you'd like to see addressed in the next FAQ column, send it to Kim at kdinan@co.marion.or.us

(adapted from DEQ Fact Sheet)



Master Recycler Class— Send Your Employees!

Marion County's Master Recycler Program is a community waste reduction and recycling education project. Participants in the course receive over 30 hours of comprehensive training in solid waste issues such as: an overview of Marion County's solid waste management system, recycling and waste reduction in industry, at the office, and at home, water, energy and resource efficiency as

it relates to commercial construction, the power of purchasing, composting and vermicomposting, household hazardous waste reduction, and watershed protection.

The Master Recycler Program is a wonderful opportunity to educate key employees on the most up-to-date waste management and recycling information in Marion County.

In 2008, Marion County will be offering two Master Recycler classes. The first begins January 10, 2008 and runs until February 28, 2008. The second begins March 6, 2008 and runs until May 1, 2008. For more information, or for an application, visit our website at: www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es/master or contact Kim at 503-588-5169 ext. 5920 - or- kdinan@co.marion.or.us



Marion County Master Recyclers network during a class break.

Pass It On: A Monthly Tidbit for Your Business' Next Newsletter

This month's topic: Transportation

Did you know that there are two common things that you do in your vehicle that can have serious implications on your health and the health of the planet? The good news is, both of these bad habits are easily undone.

Engine Idling

Vehicle exhaust is a leading source of hazardous air pollution. Engine fumes contain a dangerous mix of pollutants, including benzene, dioxins, and arsenic. These pollutants contribute to respiratory problems. Diesel exhaust also contains microscopic soot that children and adults can easily inhale into their lungs. Studies have linked these

particles to asthma, chronic bronchitis and heart disease. Idling also burns up to a gallon of fuel per hour. Excessive idling can be hard on your engine components like the battery and starter motor. The bottom line: if your vehicle will be stopped for more than 30 seconds (except at stop lights, of course), turn the vehicle off.

Don't Top Off

Topping off your gas tank is a habit that contributes to air pollution problems. It also poses health risks by exposing you and others to the fumes that escape from an overfilled tank. Next time you buy gasoline, tell the attendant in advance that you do not want it topped off.

One very harmful gas vapor is benzene. Benzene is brought into your body through breathing and skin absorption. The EPA has classified benzene as a potent human carcinogen causing leukemia. Not topping off reduces the vapors released from your gas tank. Likewise, your gas tank needs extra room to allow gas to expand. Topping off can foul up your system and cause your car to run poorly and emit more pollutants.

Next time you're heading out or filling up, remember that these two simple actions can help preserve your health and the health of the environment.

"Engine fumes contain a dangerous mix of pollutants, including benzene, dioxins, and arsenic."



What is the EarthWISE Program?

Marion County's EarthWISE Program provides free resources and environmental consulting to Marion County businesses. The program can provide assistance in any of the EarthWISE focus areas of: waste reduction & prevention, recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, outreach & education, water pollution prevention & conservation, and energy conservation. There are two main components to the EarthWISE program; both are free to Marion County businesses, the Business Assistance program and the Certification program.

EarthWISE Business Assistance Program

Marion County's Business Assistance program helps businesses save natural resources and money by reducing waste, recycling more, and conserving energy and water. The program provides businesses with free resources such as: recycling boxes, recycling stickers, recycling posters, employee training, environmentally preferable purchasing catalogs, and suggestions and recommendations to reduce energy use, water use, and waste. All services are customized to meet your business' specific needs.

EarthWISE Certification

High performing businesses that immediately

or over time meet pre-established criteria in the EarthWISE focus areas will earn the EarthWISE Certification. These businesses will receive public recognition for their green practices. Most businesses do not meet these criteria right away, and that's okay. Participating in the business assistance program helps many businesses reach EarthWISE certification.

Find Out More

Ready to get your business involved? Contact Kim at 503-588-5169 ext. 5920 -or- kdinan@co.marion.or.us or visit us on the web at www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es/earthwise



Advantage Precast, an EarthWISE Certified business, show off their EarthWISE certification plaque



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EarthWISE: Workplace Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[WWW.CO.MARION.OR.US/
PW/ES/EARTHWISE](http://WWW.CO.MARION.OR.US/PW/ES/EARTHWISE)

We Want to Hear From You!

The Sustainable Business Bulletin is a publication of Marion County Public Works– Environmental Services EarthWISE program. We'd love to hear from you! We're looking for information and feedback about the kinds of topics that you would like to see addressed in The Sustainable Business Bulletin. If you've got a question, chances are that other businesses in Marion County are wondering the same thing. Please send them our way so that we can address them in upcoming editions. All questions, comments, and other correspondence can be addressed to:

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Thanks!

Marion County Public Works– Environmental Services

To add or delete yourself from this newsletter, or if you prefer to receive a hard copy, send an email to: kdinan@co.marion.or.us

