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Go Pallet Projects? p. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Online Recycling Class Launches

In collaboration with several non-profit organizations and government agencies, the Association of Oregon Recyclers launched an on-line, self-paced class called Recycling 101.

The class has taken a little over five years to grow from an idea to completion. Over thirty industry experts from material recovery facilities, local and state government, garbage and recycling haulers, recycling non-profits, processors, paper mills, landfill and compost operators, solid waste consultants, and several Oregon State University employees spent well over 2,000 hours developing the course. In addition to the time involved, the course cost \$81,000 to design. It includes approximately 20 high quality videos, interactive games and short tests spread throughout the eight modules.



To see an introductory video about Recycling 101 visit <https://pne.oregonstate.edu/catalog/recycling-101>

The cost is \$75 for individuals and \$50 for organizations that purchase 5 or more registrations.

What's the difference between Recycling 101 & the Master Recycler Class?

There are a number of differences between Recycling 101 & the Master Recycler Program. The Master Recycler class is the preferred course because it combines over 25 different speakers that each bring their own expertise. The Master Recycler class includes 40 hours of instruction and fieldtrips which provides ample time for meeting other students and asking questions of the speakers and course instructors. This makes the Master Recycler class more interactive and also gives students the opportunity to meet 20-30 of their fellow community members that have the same interests and motivations for learning the material. The Master Recycler class also has a real focus on Marion County's local and regional programs whereas the Recycling 101 course gives more of a state-wide perspective.

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"Don't look further for answers: be the solution. You were born with everything

you need to know. Make a promise to stop getting in the way of the blessing that you are. Take a deep breath, remember to have fun, and begin."-Jonathan H. Ellerby

Recycling 101...

(Continued from page 1)

While the Master Recycler class is the best way to get the information, clearly not everyone can commit to eight evening classes and three weekend field-trips. The Recycling 101 course provides flexibility so students can take the class over the course of a few days or even months. Recycling 101 does not include a volunteer payback element so it is a good option for employers that want to give their employees a solid foundation in the topics covered in the class, but can't require them to spend 30 hours educating the community. It's a great way for any busy person that needs to juggle the course around their work and family responsibilities. It's also appropriate for some people that may not be able to attend the evening classes or who live far away from the site that the Master Recycler class is taught. Recycling 101 will also be available in Spanish which will make this information available to a much larger segment of our community!

Should I become a Master Recycler or take the Recycling 101 course?

People in Marion County that sign up for Recycling 101 will eventually be able to become a Master Recycler if they wish. We plan to provide supplemental, in-person classes and field-

trips. These additional classes will be optional for people that wish to become an official Master Recycler. This will give these students a more complete understanding of the local programs available and the network of recycling facilities in the area.

Upon completing the additional training to gain an understanding about local programs, they will then be expected to complete the standard 30 hours of volunteer payback that all Master Recyclers serve if they wish to become an official Master Recycler. Once they have finished their payback hours, they will join the ranks of the more than 600 Master Recyclers that have completed the course and contributed over 13,000 hours of volunteer time!



Visit <http://bit.ly/1biqB3l> to see a video from Recycling 101 about composting.

Recycling 101

- *An online, in-depth, Oregon-oriented, recycling, waste prevention and composting training.
- *Provides flexibility to people so that they can take the course at their own pace.
- *Available in Spanish.
- *Explains where recycling goes after it leaves the curb – stressing the importance of end markets and proper preparation.
- *Makes the information available to rural communities.

The Association of Oregon's Recycling 101 class is available through Oregon State University's Professional and Noncredit Education program. For more information, visit: www.pne.oregonstate.edu/catalog/recycling-101



Use Pallets With Care



Reprinted from Earth911.org

On the surface, the ubiquitous pallet seems ideal for reuse: It's wood, it's recycled and it's free. How can you go wrong? We've even featured a roundup of cool pallet crafts here on Earth911.

But it turns out that pallet wood can often be contaminated with toxic chemicals, harmful bacteria and other icky bad stuff you certainly don't want in your home or around your family.

"You have to consider where [the pallet] came from, what's been shipped on it and what you're going to use it for," explains Candice

Miller, a horticulture educator and expert from the University of Illinois Extension.

"I think a lot of people see these cool ideas on the internet and on Pinterest, and they go for it. They really don't think about what it's been treated with, where it's been or if it's really safe to use."

We know, it's a bit of a downer to suggest that all pallet reuse is a bad idea. So, before reusing a pallet at home, read on for some things to consider to protect your health.

How it was treated

To prevent the spread of invasive pests and pathogens, the USDA requires manufacturers to treat pallets and other wooden packing material before shipping internationally.

Pallets are either heat-treated (heated to a high temperature in kilns to seal the wood) or treated with methyl bromide – a toxic pesticide that has been linked to human health problems and ozone layer depletion.

The use of methyl bromide has been significantly restricted in recent years due to these health concerns, but Miller points out that it's difficult to tell how old a pallet is or how long it has been in use.

To be sure how a pallet was treated, look for the IPPC stamp on the side of the wood. Pallets marked with an "HT" were heated-treated and did not come into contact with chemicals during the treating process. Avoid unmarked pallets or those stamped with an "MB" for methyl bromide.

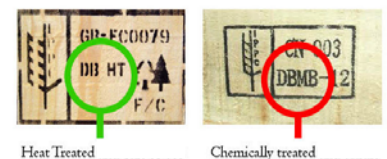
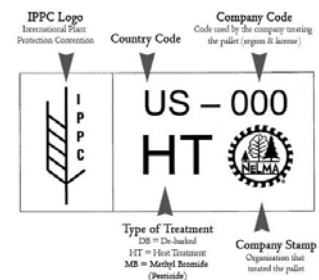
What it was used for

"The other concern is what's actually been on that pallet," Miller explains. "Was there food shipped on it where you could get bacteria and various things soaking into the wood? Were there chemicals shipped on it?"

Following the 2010 recall of E. coli-tainted romaine lettuce, the National Consumers League conducted exploratory tests on pallets to see if they could be potential carriers of harmful bacteria.

Ten percent of the pallets tested had E. coli present, while 2.9 percent tested positive for Listeria – a highly aggressive food borne pathogen.

Pallets can also be exposed to less-than-sanitary conditions on loading docks, shipping barges or trucks, and they may also be used to ship chemicals or other toxic materials. So, it's not hard to see why taking caution when sourcing pallets becomes critical.



Pallets....

Can't you just clean it?

You may have read an article or two online that advises cleaning used pallets with hot soapy water, vinegar or a bleach solution to vanquish bacteria and other contaminants, but Miller warns that these methods aren't always effective.

"Wood is very porous, and you're really never sure if you've gotten everything out of there," she tells Earth911. "The same thing with sealing or painting it. I don't think the effectiveness of that has been totally proven yet, either."

To avoid coming in contact with contaminated wood, be sure you can confirm the origin and use of a pallet before repurposing it at home. Pallets used locally for innocuous materials such as textiles or paper products are your best bet, but you still want to make sure these are from a trusted source.



How you'll be using it

Outdoor uses, such as bike racks and signage, are generally safe applications for pallet wood. But you want to be more careful if you'll be coming in close contact with used pallets, Miller advises.

"If it's something that you're going to sit on or you're going to be coming into contact with or obviously growing food on, that's something that I would be the most concerned about," she tells Earth911.

To be safe, do not use upcycled pallets indoors unless they came from a trusted source, and avoid growing food on or near used pallet wood. For the health of you, your family and the planet, never burn pallet wood or treated lumber in your fireplace.

Pallet sourcing tips

"Your best bet, although it's obviously not as great for recycling reasons, is to get a new pallet," Miller advises.

Other than buying new, you can also try to develop relationships with businesses in your area to source old pallets that were not used to ship food, chemicals or other materials that may contaminate the wood.

"It all varies locally," Miller says. "You're probably just going to have to ask around, and ask various businesses what they do with their pallets and find out information that way."

In some cases, you may also be able to source off-cuts from pallet manufacturers in your area. These wood pieces may be slightly warped, cut to the wrong size or otherwise inappropriate for use in a new pallet, meaning they may go to waste without a new home.

Call around to pallet manufacturers or distributors near you and ask how they dispose of their off-cuts. They may be willing to give them away or sell them at a low cost.

Recycled building materials retailers, such as your local Habitat for Humanity ReStore, are also great sources for low-cost reclaimed wood. Since using these sources virtually eliminates health concerns, they may be your best bet if you're concerned about pallet safety.

"I think it's just awareness," Miller says. "It's making people aware that you really do need to think about that wood before you use it. Even though it's a great idea to reuse things, you definitely want to think about it."

Operation Green Fence Update

From Plastics News – impacts the Green Fence is having on markets outside plastics. Another great reason to reduce and reuse before relying on recycling!

The recovered paper industry is adapting as China's "Green Fence" initiative causes some exporters to second-guess their shipments.

Prompted by extremely poor quality scrap imports, China's central government initiated stricter enforcement of existing quality requirements, with an inspection crackdown expected to last through October or November.

As Chinese customs report a 5.5 percent decrease in scrap plastic imports from January to April, trade of recovered paper, of which the solid waste industry is a major producer, is also seeing fallout.

"It's absolutely impacted us much more on the fiber side than the plastics side. It may have been originally kind of targeted for plastics, but boy it has really impacted fiber," said James Fish, Waste Management Inc.'s chief financial officer, during the recent Wunderlich Securities Inc. Investor Summit at Waste Expo in New Orleans.

Of the three top paper grades — old corrugated containers, mixed paper and old newspapers — mixed paper and ONP were hardest hit, said William Caesar, president of WM Recycle America, at the summit. Though shipments of OCC are still seeing an inspection rate as high as 50 percent, that grade doesn't have the quality problems of other grades.

Both mixed paper and ONP grades have experienced a slow slide in quality over the years. Inspectors are searching shipments for non-paper contaminants and moisture; the presence of either could cause a shipment to be rejected.

William Moore, president of international consulting firm Moore & Associates, said the quality of mixed paper, typically coming from residential collection services, has similarly declined.

"Mixed paper had really sunk to a level where it doesn't even come close to the [Pre-shipment Inspection] guidelines on the non-paper content," Moore said. "And if there's an upside to Green Fence, and I think there is, it kind of put a floor on quality, which had been slipping for 15 years."

Another great recent news piece from the Oregonian:

<http://bit.ly/17yjD2U>



TASTY TIDBITS

Backpacks Wanted!

The Salem Society of St. Vincent de Paul works to alleviate poverty and its causes.

They accept donations of food and clothing and are especially in need of **backpacks** (used is fine) with working zippers for the homeless and also for school-aged children.

To arrange a donation call (503) 364-3210

Or visit <http://svdpsalem.org>.



Nike App

Nike Inc.

officials believe a new app will allow its designers to source materials that are more environmentally responsible.

The app, called MAKING, ranks materials used in apparel manufacturing in terms of the use of water, types of chemistry, amount of energy and the levels of waste required during production. Designers can use direct comparisons to similar material types.

Nike created the app itself with input from London College of Fashion's Centre for Sustainable Fashion students.

From:

www.sustainablebusinessoregon.com



Smart All Around!

For Businesses, reusable transport packaging can replace expendable materials with durable and reusable totes, bins, pallets and pallet wrap. These reusables are typically made of durable plastic, metal, or wood, and often incorporate recycled content. Benefits include:

Cost: It lasts longer, reducing material and disposal costs.

Efficiency: Standardized and durable design can streamline production processes and make loading more efficient.

Safety: Reusable packaging eliminates box cutting, staples and broken pallets. Standardized sizes and weights that workers become familiar with help reduce lifting injuries.

Product protection: Reusable packaging is more resistant to chemicals and moisture, offers stronger insulation, and is sturdier than one-time or limited-use packaging.

Environmental performance: reusable packaging generates 95% less waste and 29% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than expendable packaging.

Sleeping Bag Project

Salem resident Dana Canning was inspired by the story of a Pennsylvania woman who took it upon herself to keep the homeless warm one home-made sleeping bag at a time.



After reading about it, Dana decided to do the same thing here and started the Salem Sleeping Bag Project.

The sleeping bags and mats are made from reclaimed scrap material and plastic and are distributed by Northwest Human Services.

Volunteers gather at the Broadway Commons Coffeehouse from 6-8 pm. Donations of money, material, and other supplies are also welcome.

www.facebook.com/SalemSleepingBagProject

Or call Dana at 971-239-5017

Now Go Compost!

Congratulations to our newest composter winner!

Ken Mead of Silverton was the lucky winner at the Marion County Fair activity hosted by Environmental Services. Thanks to all the Master Recyclers who helped make it happen!



Ken & his new friend

Job Openings:

Research Assistant

Institute for a Sustainable Environment

Location: Eugene, OR

Salary: TBD

Deadline: Open until filled

The applicant pool will be used to identify highly motivated, high quality candidates interested in contributing to existing institute applied research and technical assistance projects. Job duties will vary depending on the particular position and the available funding.

<http://bit.ly/1aJbpJ3>

Master Recycler Call to Serve



August 14

2 pm to 6 pm

Keizer Rapids Park

Come join Marion County's Environmental Services spread the good word about recycling, waste reduction, Master Recycling, composting, and a whole lot of other kernels of knowledge at the brand spankin' new Public Services Day. We're looking for a volunteer who can do all or part of this four hour event.

Is it going to be you? Contact Alan Pennington at: 503 365 3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us

Flexible August Date

A Master Recycler is needed to teach approximately 20 children ages 7-9 the basics of how to recycle using our recycling sorting game at a school in south Salem between 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. If you would like to help out with this, please contact Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us -or- 503-588-5169 x5991).

Sunday, September 8

Shifts available from 11 a.m. until 4 pm

Salem Sunday Streets– Downtown Salem

This is a first time event - both for us and the organizers who plan on closing streets between the Capitol and the walkway bridge that crosses the Willamette River. This will allow pedestrians, bikers, skateboarders, basically anything but a motorized vehicle, to travel freely from West Salem to Not-west Salem. We'll run an informational booth regarding our programs while slapping stickers and what-nots on friendly visitors who pass by. Will you help? Contact Alan Pennington at 503 -365- 3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us . Note: Alan will be out of the office until August 26th so there will be a lag time in response to your calls/emails.

Friday, October 25 - Sunday, October 27

Shifts available from 10 a.m. until 8 pm

Salem Home & Remodeling Show - State Fairgrounds

MR volunteers needed to help us get the word out about composting in good ole' Marion County. We should draw in tons of interested visitors who'll want to take home their very own bag of Brown Island Blend compost. This fun show features all the updates you ever wanted to make on your bungalow and brings out a crowd that seems pretty interested in all things recycling-wise. Be there or be elsewhere (and square!) Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us.

Saturdays through October

Salem Saturday Market

Downtown Salem

Zero Waste Station volunteers needed! Volunteers educate shoppers about how to sort their items and keep containers free from contamination. Hours are 9 am to 3 pm. Volunteers will receive a market gift card usable at any Salem Farmers Market. Email info@salemsaturdaymarket.org to sign up.

Flexible Date

Shangri-La (4080 Reed Rd. SE #150, Salem)

Shangri-La, a non-profit human services organization providing support and services to adults with disabilities, mental illness and economic challenges, is looking for a volunteer to join its Recycling Club as leader and captain, and teach recycling information to a small group of adults with developmental disabilities. Started over a year ago through a grant from Marion County Waste Reduction, the Recycling Club spends an hour a week learning and helping others learn about recycling, reducing and reusing. The Recycling Club Captain would be responsible for teaching or organizing the weekly session, and preparing any materials or making any arrangements necessary for the session. All activities must be approved by the LEAP Manager. LEAP is open Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Regular staff will provide supports for any personal needs of the individuals served. This volunteer opportunity requires an Shangri-La volunteer application, criminal history check, and required trainings. If you would like to sign up for this, please contact Ashley Erb (503-581-1732, x328 -or- ashley@shangrilacorp.org).

Flexible Date

Community Action Head Start (4611 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem) would like someone to come teach 20 young children about recycling. Ideally, they would like someone to come sometime Monday - Thursday sometime before noon. One possible activity is to briefly talk about what composting is and read them a story about worm composting that is geared for their age (Bailey has a book). Another idea is to do a simplified waste sort activity (we have the kit here at our office). If you would like to help out with this, please contact Jennine Osorio (lunaleo27@yahoo.com -or- 503-991-3381) and then let Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us) know so that he can arrange to give you the materials.

Another Payback Idea!

Ever thought of hosting a clothing swap? Here is a great video tutorial on getting one started. Feel free to check in with Alan, Bailey, Griselda or Beth if you have questions on using a project like this for payback hours.



Events & Occasions



Wednesdays, August 14, 21, 28, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Sense of Place & the Ecological Identity

Straub Environmental Learning Center

This class series is a guided exploration of our connection to nature through investigating what is called an ecological identity. By understanding our ecological identities and the emotional bonds to nature, one may be inspired people to live more sustainably. Each class is intended to stand on it's own but is designed to be experienced as a series so that the participant can define a thread of continuity from their own personal environmental ethic to an understanding of global environmental stewardship. Limited space. Please call 503-391-4145 or email fselc@fselc.org to register. \$5/class or \$20/session.

Now through August 24th

Salem Salon: UPCYCLE

Bush Barn Art Center

This fun, community-oriented exhibition is an open (non-juried) show designed to be inclusive and inspiring—both for local artists and for the public. The theme for the 2013 Salem Salon is “Upcycle.” All exhibited artwork is made using at least 50% recycled materials or trash. Works by youth and adult artists living or working within a 50-mile radius of Salem will be featured in the A.N. Bush Gallery.

Saturday, August 31, 7 am – 6 pm

Nature Hike at Jefferson Park

Meet at Friends of Straub Env. Learning Center

John Savage of the Willamette Valley Native Plant Society will lead a hike to Jefferson Park in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness Area about 20 miles beyond Detroit. This is a difficult hike (10 miles with 1,800 foot elevation gain) to view a wide range of forest, meadow wildflowers and spectacular Mt. Jefferson. Meet at FSELc at 7 am to car pool. Participants must pre-register with leader and is limited to 11. Bring food and water. Lunch will be at Scout Lake. To register and get carpooling instructions, call John Savage at 503-399-8615

Sept. 9 to Nov. 29, 2013 - Registration open now

Jan. 20 to April 13, 2014 - Registration open now

Oregon Master Naturalist Online

Designed for those interested in Oregon's natural history and how our state's natural resources are sustainably managed. You will learn natural history of plants, animals, habitats and geology; history and processes of landscape change and relevant topics in present-day sustainable natural resource management. Option 1 (Required to become an Oregon Master Naturalist, with Eco-region Specialization taught separately) online and onsite. Option 2: Online. Option 1: \$225; Option 2: \$325

TIDBIT!

In July we recycled an average of 65 compact fluorescent lights/day and if you lined up all of the straight fluorescent tubes we collected in July, it would stretch 2.25 miles!



The Back Page

Who says that a single shoe is no good? This lady and her three children beg to differ...



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