

August  
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Trashion Winners! p. 2

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Master Recycler Newsletter

## The Second "R" Hits the Big Time!

While it's true that the "3Rs" have become a catalyzing movement of our times, the "reuse" part of this waste management trilogy is often overlooked.

Thanks to **ReuseConex**, the International Reuse Conference & Expo, this is about to change!

This conference is held only every other year, and this year we are fortunate enough to have it located just north of our backyard at the Double Tree Hotel in Portland, October 18—20.

If you work with a local reuse organization, if you shop at thrift stores or online resellers, if you buy or sell reusables, if you're interested in green-collar jobs, and if you're concerned about climate change – then join the Marion County Waste Reduction crew at this year's ReuseConex in Portland! You will find out more about the "triple bottom line" benefits of reuse, learn from and share best practices, and network with leaders in the reuse industry. The event's theme this year is: "Growing Reuse Communities." Register at [www.reuseconex.org](http://www.reuseconex.org)

Oregon DEQ is offering a **limited number of scholarships** to pay for conference registration. DEQ will pay for up to one representative from any Oregon local government (city or county), or that city's or county's designated representative of a not-for-profit community organization involved in reuse (such as building material salvage, computer reuse, etc.).

Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, and DEQ will hold six scholarships for attendees outside of Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties until 5pm Aug 22.

To request a scholarship, e-mail Cheryl Grabham at [grabham.cheryl@deq.state.or.us](mailto:grabham.cheryl@deq.state.or.us). Please indicate if you intend to attend the full conference or a single day. If you are not from a local government, please include an email or letter from your city or county identifying you as their exclusive designee for the purpose of this scholarship.

**Note: A scholarship for a Marion County representative has already been awarded, but there may still be openings to represent your local municipality!**



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"It is one of the most beautiful compensations

of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Trashion Winners!

On July 19th, a number of young Salemites hit the catwalk with fabulously creative entries in the first annual “Trashion Fashion Premier” hosted by Studio Sub Dio photography and Clockworks Café and sponsored in part by Marion County Environmental Services. Winners won a suite of prizes, many donated from local businesses. Entries had to be comprised of all repurposed materials. Visit Studio Sub Dio’s Facebook page for a closer look and more info on the designers!



“Amendment #1”



“Frugal Fairy”



Honorable  
Mention  
“Cup-cakes Please”



Honorable Mention  
“Lunch is on Me”



“Little Recycled  
Dress”



“Paper or Plastic?”



“Little Mermaid”



Grand Prize Winner  
“Trashique”



People’s Choice Winner  
“Ombé Sweetheart”



“Too Precious to Waste”



“Many Smiles”



“Wrap Star”



“Wonders of Color”



“Comic Relief”



“Reach for the Stars”



“I Come in Pieces”



“Cover to Cover”



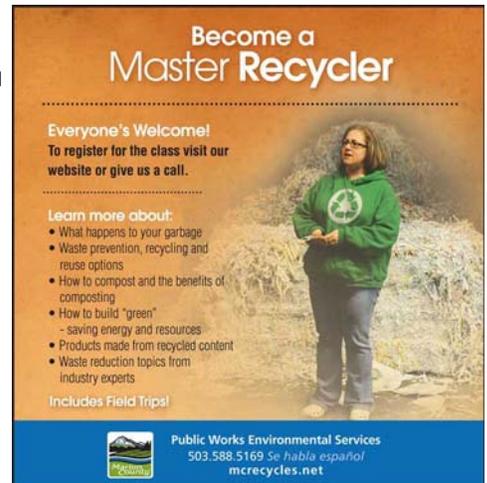
“Sassy Trash Duo”

# Tell Your Friends!

Plenty of spots are still open in the upcoming Master Recycler class! In fact, we are a few short of the minimum needed to hold the class. If you have any friends or coworkers who you think might be interested please have them visit our website at [www.mcrcycles.net](http://www.mcrcycles.net) and fill out the application today! The application deadline is officially this **Friday, August 17th**, but applications can still be sent in over the weekend (arriving by Monday morning the 20th).

Class members receive over thirty hours of comprehensive training in solid waste issues and opportunities. In return they will be required to pay back this training through their choice of a variety of outreach activities. Activities can range from staffing a recycling information table, leading fieldtrips, setting up or expanding a recycling program at a workplace, or organizing a neighborhood educational workshop. Payback opportunities will be provided for class members, but they are also welcome to design and implement their own waste reduction/recycling outreach project. We encourage creativity and personal initiative!

The eight evening sessions will begin on Thursday, September 6, and will continue on Thursday evenings through October 25th from 6:15pm until 9:00pm at the Marion County Public Works office. The training also includes three Saturday fieldtrips to local recycling and composting facilities, which begin at 8:00am and finish between noon and 3:30 pm. **Spread the word!**



## Extending EPR

A new report from a shareholder advocacy group has found that the U.S. is throwing away over \$11 billion annually in valuable materials. Its answer to the problem: the U.S. should be more like Europe in how it manages its waste.

"Unfinished Business: The Case for Extended Producer Responsibility for Post-Consumer Packaging" is a report from As You Sow that makes the case for how extended producer responsibility, a policy that makes manufacturers responsible for the handling of their end-of-life products, could drastically improve the U.S.'s low recycling rates.

According to the report, the U.S. generates more waste than any other country, but recycles far less than other developed countries. In the U.S., according to the report, the recovery rate for packaging is about 48.3 percent and 52.7 percent for paper and paperboard products. However, aside from paper, just 22 percent of packaging is recycled in the U.S.

European countries have much higher rates, in some cases higher than 70 or 80 percent, which the report attributes to EPR policies that shift the burden of collecting and recycling waste to the companies that produce it.

EPR is not a completely foreign concept in the U.S., according to the report, as there are more than 70 producer responsibility laws in effect in 32 states, covering products including paint, pesticide containers, carpet, electronics, thermostats and fluorescent lamps. However, packaging is absent from items covered by EPR laws in the U.S., with the exception of container deposit laws, which the report notes have been very successful.

According to the report, post-consumer paper and paperboard and packaging merit priority attention because they are the largest category of municipal solid waste. The report also calls for a greater focus on plastics, which dominate the packaging sector. The improper end-of-life management of plastic, according to the report, is linked to a serious problem of marine pollution.

### Oregon and EPR

Oregon currently has three extended producer responsibility laws:

- ➔ Bottle bill
- ➔ Electronics (TVs, monitors and computers)
- ➔ Paint



## Reading for All!



A fun new community resource is sweeping across the U.S. and the world. Started in Wisconsin, *Little*

*Free Library* is encouraging people to place small, weather proof boxes out in small towns and neighborhood streets and fill them with books to swap and share with passersby.

Some are inside community spaces, but many of them are placed outside in weatherproof containers in a myriad of creative and whimsical designs. There are currently 2,600 registered Little Free Libraries.

Learn more about them and how to place one in your neighborhood at [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org).

## Your Turn, Oregon

Montana's oldest microbrewery is offering a new service it hopes will benefit the community and environment.

The traditional German-style Bayern



Brewery is now recycling glass bottles from microbreweries across the state.

A new bottle washer cranks

out up to 200 cases an hour, and the fresh bottles are refilled at the brewery and shipped out for sale.

Bayern Brewmaster Thorsten Geuer said he believes it's the first brewery to have a bottle washer in place, and so far, the community is showing a major interest in the recycling project.

~from [www.kaj18.com](http://www.kaj18.com)

## Yum.....Yum?

The environmentally savvy would do pretty much anything to prevent packaging waste from ending up in a landfill – but eating it?

If WikiCell inventor David Edwards has anything to do with that, you'll be eating your food's packaging in no time.

It sounds like a radical idea, but the Harvard professor insists it can be done. Using the soft skins that protect the insides of fruits, vegetables and nuts, Edwards grinds and binds these components that are "held together by healthy ions like calcium." The skin mimics the tough, protective exteriors we find in citrus skins, coconuts and more. Inside the WikiCell skin, food like yogurt, ice cream, cheese and more can be packaged securely and, Edwards argues, deliciously.



~from [earth911.org](http://earth911.org)



## DIY Snacks

Continuing in our theme of make-at-home foods to avoid excess packaging, here is a yummy snack to reach for instead of individually wrapped bars.



Dried Fruit and Popcorn Bars

**½ cup brown sugar**

**1 teaspoon water**

**½ stick unsalted butter, melted**

**2 cups dried apricots, cherries and cranberries, roughly chopped**

**8 cups popped popcorn, warm**

In a small saucepan, heat the sugar and water to 230°. Transfer to a small bowl, then whisk in the butter. Add the dried fruit and toss well.

Place the popcorn in a large bowl, then pour the butter-fruit mixture over it, tossing gently to coat and combine.

Press the mixture firmly into a 9- by 9-inch pan. Let sit for 45 minutes. Cut into 9 bars. Serves 9.

## Handy Handbook

Looking for another option to refer people to that explains the ins-and outs of recycling in a simple, clear, format?



The Recycling Handbook, an online resource from Whole Living might be just what you are looking for.

Designed as a general recycling primer, it might be just the thing to help a Master Recycler get the conversation started and can be followed up with advice specific to Marion County, not to mention all the ways to avoid the need to recycle in the first place!

Find it at [www.wholeliving.com](http://www.wholeliving.com) and search for "Recycling Handbook."

## A Big Boost

What would a nationwide increase in the recycling rate to 75% do for our economy?

Create 1.5 million new jobs, reduce carbon emissions equal to taking 50 million cars off the road, cut dependence on foreign oil, increase exports, save water, improve air quality and



reduce toxic waste, according to a report entitled *More Jobs, Less Pollution* recently released by Tellus Institute for the Natural

Resources Defense Council.

So what are we waiting for?

Get the full scoop at [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)

# Master Recycler Call to Serve



**Wednesday, August 22nd**

**Keizer Public Services Fair at the Keizer Rapids Park**

**Two shifts: 9:30am - 12:00pm & 12:pm - 2:00pm**

Master Recycler volunteers needed to teach residents about recycling and composting. If you can help out, please contact Alan at [apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us) or 503-365-3188.

**Any Monday - Friday in August**

**City Park in Donald**

**12:00—12:30**

A Master Recycler is needed to do a presentation for 20-40 children and their parents. The presentation could include the sorting game followed by a short talk reminding the kids about why they shouldn't litter and should either recycle, compost or throw away their waste. The venue is the city park in Donald. If you can help with this, please contact Bailey ([bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us) -or- 503-588-5169 x5991

## Events & Occasions



**Wednesdays, August 22 & 29 and September 5, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Permaculture: Using mother nature's design to harvest your bounty**

**Straub Environmental Learning Center**

If you're not familiar with the concept, "permaculture" takes naturescaping to a new level, using the principles of ecological systems to work to our advantage for local, sustainable agriculture. These principles are useful no matter how big or small your living space. This series will introduce participants to permaculture through lectures, images and videos, group discussion, hands-on exercises, and other methods to suit a wide variety of learning styles.

*August 29: Water Harvesting / Earthworks and Wastewater Processing.*

*September 5: Urban Strategies & Social Permaculture*

Classes are \$5 per person. Registration is required due to limited space, so RSVP today! Call or email the instructor, Kendy Radasky at [kendyrad@gmail.com](mailto:kendyrad@gmail.com) or 503-385-8675 to register.

**Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Energy and Water Trends, a free seminar for PGE business and Salem Water customers**

**Salem Conference Center**

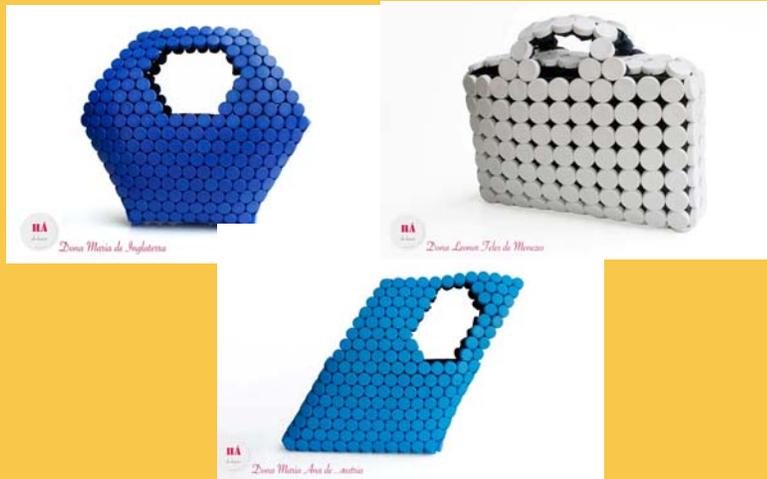
This free half-day seminar is geared toward businesses, non-profits, governments, schools & other institutions. Attendees will learn how they can wisely manage their organization's use of valuable energy & water resources in its day-to-day operations. Attendees will also learn about current local trends in energy use, and how they can participate in shaping the future. Register at [www.EnergyEducationCenter.com](http://www.EnergyEducationCenter.com) or call 503-464-8020 and press "1" for classes.

**Monday, September 10—Friday November 30**

**Oregon Master Naturalist Online**

The next offering of the Oregon Master Naturalist Online course is available for enrollment now. The course begins September 10th. This represents the first coursework for those wishing to work toward their full Oregon Master Naturalist title, and for those who simply want to learn more about the natural history of Oregon. Get more info and enroll at <http://pne.oregonstate.edu/course/oregon-master-naturalist-online>

## The Back Page



Two young architects in Portugal, Sandra Paulo and Bruno Barbosa, found a way to give bottle caps a second life as a stylish collection of hand-made purses and bags.

Find them at [www.hadehaver.pt.vu](http://www.hadehaver.pt.vu)



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