

December  
2009



Fresh Start Market p. 2

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Master Recycler Newsletter

## Keeping Your Tree Green



Many environmental experts have come to the consensus that a real tree is nearly always a better environmental choice than an artificial one. After weighing all the factors from manufacturing and shipping impacts to pesticide use, real trees still make the cut. The primary reasons are lower greenhouse gas emissions - especially for us here in Oregon where the shipping distance is minimal - because the trees themselves offset some of the carbon. They also provide local jobs and are recyclable.

Of course a live tree may be the best option of all. A local business, The Original Living Christmas Tree Company, offers a rent-a-tree service where trees are sold to watershed councils, parks departments, landscapers, etc. after spending time in your living room during the holidays. They offer delivery in the Portland area and a "you pick-up/return" service outside Portland. Visit [www.livingchristmastrees.org](http://www.livingchristmastrees.org) for more information. You may also want to check with a local tree nursery to see if they offer any similar service or to purchase one to plant yourself.

### Recycling your tree

Make your Christmas tree a gift to the earth when you are finished with it this holiday season by composting it! There are many options available, all of which will keep your tree from becoming waste and return its nutrients back to the environment. Be sure to remove all tinsel and ornaments, but flocked trees are okay.

1. Cut up your tree and place it in your yard waste cart. Make sure the lid can close.
2. Place it on the curb for a \$9 fee (verify with hauler). Trees up to 8 feet.
3. Check with local service organizations, such as Boy Scouts, to see if they offer pickups as a fundraiser.
4. Take it to a Marion County transfer station for \$3 Dec. 26 - Jan. 17.

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*There are two kinds of gratitude: The sudden kind we feel for what we receive, and the larger kind we feel for what we give.*  
-- Edward Arlington Robinson

# Fresh Start for the Holidays

Fresh Start Market & Espresso is expanding its business hours during this Holiday season. The shop is now open Monday thru Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, Saturdays, December 5, 12, and 19, from 9 am to 4 pm, and Sundays, December 6 and December 13, from 9 am to 4 pm.

There is a variety of fresh-cut Christmas trees, such as Nobles, Douglas Firs, Grand Firs, and Fraziers ranging in size from 3' to 10' and priced \$5 to \$40. Fresh Christmas Wreaths, each handcrafted and uniquely decorated, 16" \$12, and 20" \$16. A free cup of hot cocoa is available to Christmas tree shoppers after 1:30pm each day.

They have a variety of Holiday flavored coffees in 1 lb bags for \$8.25each, including Cozy Winters Night, Cranberry Cinnamon Crumble, Holiday Magic, Kringle Crumb Cake, Reindeer Carmel Crunch, Santa's Delight, White Chocolate Hazelnut, and Winter Delight. These flavors also come in small packages that make great stocking stuffers, for \$1.00. Call to pre-order these special coffee flavors.

Willamette Valley Fruit Co. pies are also available, including Apple, Marionberry, and Lancaster Pumpkin. Sugar-free Apple and Marionberry are available pre-ordered.

Stop by and browse the vast array of creative wood and metal items, unique and handcrafted by our own program youth. While browsing, enjoy a new menu item - caramel apples, and fresh popped popcorn after 1:30pm.

As always, the goal and purpose at the Fresh Start Market & Espresso is to create an environment for the youth of the Juvenile Department to develop new skills and allow them to continue paying back their restitution. Thank you for your continuing support.



Don't forget to bring your styrofoam for recycling!



**Fresh Start Market, 3020 Center St. NE. 503-585-4956**

## Oregon Green School Spotlight: S. Salem High School

South Salem HS is excited this year about the waste reduction portion of their Green School efforts! Consolidating recycling processing locations to two rather than four areas has allowed the school to maintain a high level of recycling, and the new sort/shred room can accommodate more student and staff workers, which makes efficiency and productivity higher.

The Community Closet recycling program is focusing on the first "R" of the famous three: Reuse. A South High student won a contest last year with the idea of creating a clothing and supplies "closet" on campus for homeless students. With her prize money she is modifying an approved space within the school. The recycling program is collecting items such as discarded clothing, shoes, notebooks, binders, and pens/pencils that can be reused. The same thing is being done with textbooks and paperbacks no longer being used by classrooms. The program is coordinated with Rotary, who picks up and sends books to BookBytes, a program to provide books to schools in Africa. This year the school anticipates donating 500 pounds of books.



## And We Have 7 Winners....



Marion County's Waste Reduction grant review committee announces the awardees for the fall 2009 grant cycle. These grants are funded through revenues from disposal of out-of-county medical waste at the Waste-to-Energy facility. There were 12 grant requests totaling \$203,378; the following seven were awarded a total of \$97,744:

### **Friends of Salem Saturday Market**

Grant funds were awarded to start the Market on the path to zero-waste. They have plans to boost education on the importance of waste reduction at the Market and in the community at large, provide more opportunities to recycle, and implement food waste composting.

### **Habitat for Humanity North Willamette Valley**

### **Habitat for Humanity Mid Willamette Valley**

Both of these independent affiliates of Habitat for Humanity were awarded grand funds to help them provide regular pick-up service for materials donated to their ReStore locations in Mt. Angel and Salem and to more widely promote their services to help increase donations and sales. The ReStores sell used building materials donated by businesses and residents (which are eligible for tax deductions). By expanding their service to offer pick-ups, even more valuable construction material will be diverted from disposal for reuse.

### **Marion-Polk Food Share**

More food will be going to the tables of hungry families and less waste will be going to Marion County disposal facilities thanks to this Marion-Polk Food Share Project. Grant funds were awarded to help MPFS expand their Fresh Food Alliance program to include more stores and the pick-up of surplus frozen meats, dairy and prepared deli foods. These packaged foods cannot easily be composted and are often thrown in the garbage if they don't sell.



### **Oregon Green Schools**

Marion county awarded funds to Oregon Green Schools to help with costs for their annual summit that brings students from Green Schools together once a year to learn and share. The funds will also support coordinator trainings and provide a small pool of funds to provide incentive awards for certified Green Schools outside the Salem-Keizer School district .

### **Queen of Peace School**

More options for recycling styrofoam and plastic bags will be available once this project gets started early next year! Grant funding will be used for materials to build public collection sheds at the school in south Salem. The school will transfer the collected materials to larger depots in the Salem area.

### **Salem-Keizer School District**

The School District will be using the funds to provide "mini-grants" of a maximum of \$1000 to schools for innovative waste reduction projects.

## TASTY TIDBITS

### Hot of the Presses!

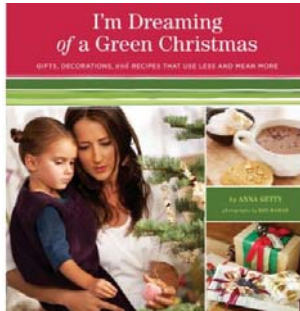


The Fall 2009 edition of *Waste Matters*, the treasure trove of information on Marion County waste reduction and recycling, hit Marion County mailboxes, front porches and driveways Nov. 18-21. If you live in Marion County and did not receive one, or you live outside the county and would like an electronic copy, please contact Beth Myers-Shenai at [smyersshenai@co.marion.or.us](mailto:smyersshenai@co.marion.or.us) or 503-588-5169 x5920.

### Green Guidance

A new book by Anna Getty, *I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas* is full of crafts, recipes and tips to help you celebrate the holiday in a meaningful and eco-friendly way.

The book puts an emphasis on using what you may have on hand in creative ways instead of consuming, and provides insights into impacts more recent "traditions" can have on the planet (think incandescent lights and artificial trees).



### Gathering the Lights

The fluorescent light recycling program at the Salem-Keizer Recycling and Transfer Station has been expanded and is now accepting lights every day of the week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Previously, residents were only able to bring them Thursdays through Saturdays for more limited hours. The limit is still 10 lights per person, but now Allied Waste employees will receive them from residents in the recycling depot of the facility.

The expanded collection hours have been made possible thanks to a partnership between Allied Waste, Covanta Energy, and Marion County.



### "Plastiki" Adventure

A British environmentalist and banking heir is leading an expedition across the Pacific Ocean in a catamaran made with a recyclable plastic hull stuffed with used PET bottles for floatation. The voyage will take them from San Francisco to Sydney, Australia via the Pacific Garbage Patch. The hull & bottles will be recycled when the craft reaches Sydney.

The purpose of the expedition is to draw attention to the extensive use of plastics for disposable items such as packing material, and promote the use of 100% recyclable plastics.

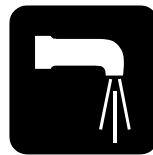
The voyage is scheduled to take off as soon as the "Plastiki" proves seaworthy. [www.theplastiki.com](http://www.theplastiki.com)



### The Tap is Tops

A study commissioned by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to assess drinking water delivery systems helps bolster the principle that "reducing first, then recycling" is the best environmental path to follow.

The study, "Life Cycle Assessment of Drinking Water Delivery Systems: Bottled Water, Tap Water and Home/Office Delivery Water," concludes that drinking tap water in refillable bottles is the more environmentally friendly action when compared to other forms of obtaining and consuming drinking water, including buying water in bottles and recycling them.



### Paint Stewardship

On July 23, 2009, the State of Oregon launched the nation's first producer-financed system for end-of-life management of leftover building paint. The bill was endorsed by the National Paint and Coatings Association, ODEQ, and Metro, among other stakeholders, as a result of a national negotiation facilitated by the Product Stewardship Institute.



The law establishes a statewide paint stewardship pilot program that will serve as a demonstration for other states across the nation.

[www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/prodstewardship/](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/prodstewardship/)

## Events & Occasions....



Thursday, December 10

7:00 p.m.

Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE, Salem

The Salem Progressive Film Series presents "Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home" Admission: \$3 Adults, \$2 Students

Saturday December 12 & Sunday December 13

11:00 am—4:00 pm

Silver Falls State Park Christmas Festival—South Falls Day Use Area  
20024 Silver Falls Hwy SE, Sublimity

Take the family to this 30th annual event for music, storytelling and crafts. \$3 per vehicle.

Wednesday, December 16, 2009 - 4th/5th Grades

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Straub Environmental Learning Center, 1320 A Street NE, Salem

Nature Kids: Youth Naturalist Series: Wind Power for Kids

Free! Come to Nature Kids in December to explore the amazing power of wind and what it is doing to help our planet. Find out how the Sun and Earth make wind. Discover windmills bigger than the Statue of Liberty that can power whole cities. Help your friends build a real windmill and make your own electricity! RSVP required due to limited space. Call or email 503-391-4145 or [fselc@fselc.org](mailto:fselc@fselc.org).

Saturday, December 19

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Straub Environmental Learning Center Restoration Work Day  
1320 A Street NE, Salem

(Weather permitting.) Help remove invasive and non-native species from our native oak savanna restoration site! Beverages and gloves provided; bring a reusable mug.



## Call to Serve



Payback hours are available for this great opportunity to educate about Green Building at the home show on **January 15, 16 & 17.**

**The following shifts are available:**

**Friday, 1/15**

2 pm—5 pm

5 pm—8pm

**Saturday, 1/16**

10 am—1 pm

12 — 3:30 pm

1 pm—4:30 pm

4:30 pm—8 pm

**Sunday, 1/17**

10 am—1 pm

12—3 pm

2 pm—5 pm

Contact Alan Pennington at  
[apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us) or  
503-365-3188 to sign up.

**- Notice -**  
**2010 GREEN Awards**  
NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE ORGANIZATION!

**CATEGORIES**

- Recycler of the Year - Individual, Educator, Business
- Sustainable Organization of the Year - Small Business, Large Business, Non-Profit
- Green Building of the Year

**DEADLINE** for nominations is Jan. 31, 2010. For more information and a nomination application visit: [www.fselc.org](http://www.fselc.org) or call 503-391-4145

Sponsored by the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center, Marion County Public Works, and Garden Services.



A last-minute gift for a gardener friend?



[Thereifixedit.com](http://Thereifixedit.com)



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

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Salem, OR 97305