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Logo Gets New Gig! p. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Metal Recovery Project in Full Swing

After running a pilot project in the Summer of 2010, Marion County Environmental Services invested in equipment and staff to run a sophisticated metal recovery operation at the North Marion ash monofill in Woodburn where ash produced at the Waste to Energy Facility (WTEF) is deposited.



The screening plant

Large pieces of ferrous scrap metal are removed at the WTEF, but smaller pieces of ferrous metals and all sizes on non-ferrous metals have previously been deposited in the monofill.

In the new process, which came online permanently in late summer of 2011, ash that arrives at the monofill is screened and sorted through a system of conveyers, magnetic drums and hand picking to recover even more metals from the ash.

Over the past five months, Environmental Services has processed approximately 24,000 tons of ash and recovered 1,000 tons of ferrous metal and 11 tons of non-ferrous metal for a recovery rate of 4.1% and 0.5% respectively.



Loading the hopper

As an added benefit, the screened ash is being accepted at Coffin Butte Landfill for use as "alternative daily cover", i.e. an inert layer that is placed over the day's deposition of refuse.

This means that only very small pieces of non-ferrous metal and

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There is no "I" in team, but there is a "u" in volunteer!

-Unknown

Metal Recovery (cont.)



Recovered ferrous metal

other non-metal residuals such as bits of fused glass and ceramic will be deposited in the monofill, vastly extending the life of the facility.

The plant can process ash at a faster rate than it is produced at the WTEF. This means that it has the capacity to be offline on poor-weather days and “catch up” when it comes back online. There has also been enough operational time to “mine” the older deposits of ash for the metals they contain.

With current pricing for the ferrous metal at \$0.075 per pound and \$0.15 for non-ferrous, the project has generated a total of \$153,300 in revenue over a 5-month period. Revenue generated from this project covers

the cost of the equipment and personnel, and helps off-set the overall operational costs for the ash disposal system. Another added benefit of recovering this metal is that it will help improve Marion County’s overall recovery rate.

The project is the brainchild of Don Alexander, an engineer with Marion County Environmental Services. He anticipates a day when all components of the residual ash from the WTEF can be diverted to a higher use and Marion County operates an “ash processing facility” instead of a monofill.

RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES




IN MARION COUNTY (AND WEST SALEM) THERE ARE TWO EASY WAYS TO RECYCLE YOUR HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES.

- 1 If you have curbside recycling, simply place them in a zip-sealed plastic bag and place them in the small recycle basket.
- 2 Or drop them off at one of 18 area depots. Visit our website for locations.

REMEMBER: rechargeable batteries are better for your pocketbook and our planet!

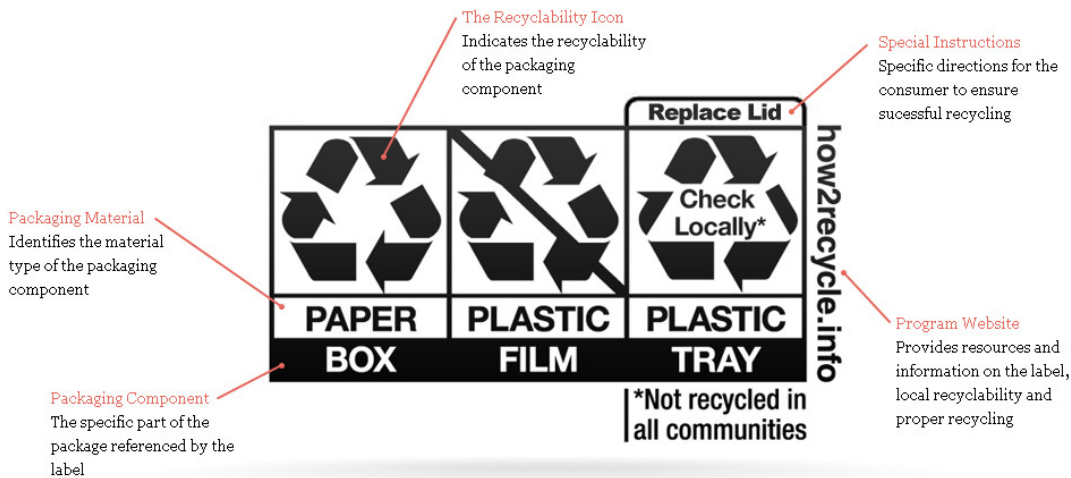
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 Public Works Environmental Services
503.588.5169 *Se habla español*
mcrecycles.net

Package Labeling Gets a Facelift

2012 will see the roll out of a national pilot of a new Packaging Recovery Label System-- a voluntary label developed by the organization's Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) to communicate to consumers how to recycle a package after its use.

The following leading companies have agreed to implement the label on select packaging nationwide starting in 2012: ConAgra Foods, Costco Wholesale, Microsoft, REI, and Seventh Generation.



GreenBlue has launched a website for consumers as part of the labeling system: www.how2recycle.info, which provides information on how to check locally, as well as information for local governments and companies interested in getting involved. Following the conclusion of the pilot phase, the label will be available to any interested companies to use.

The goals of the labeling system are to reduce confusion for consumers with clear instructions on how to recycle a package after its use, and to develop a consistent, accurate labeling system for companies that adheres to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) "Green Guides" and uses nationally accurate recyclability data.

"Consumers are faced with a confusing landscape of recycling messages and instructions that are often inconsistent or misleading," said GreenBlue Project Manager Anne Bedarf, who has led development of the labeling system for the SPC. "We believe this label will create a harmonized system that will help consumers and companies contribute to more effective resource recovery."

Given that recycling systems vary significantly by municipality across the country, each package component is labeled as widely recycled, not yet recycled, or limited recycling with instructions for consumers on how to check locally. The system was based on the successful OPRL system in the UK and developed through over three years of research, including extensive consumer testing and a national effort to collect updated recyclability data.

The labeling system has received support from numerous state and local governments addressing recycling challenges. "We strongly believe that recycling programs across the country and the general public's commitment to recycling behavior will greatly benefit from a clear and sensible package labeling framework," said Scott Mouw of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, noting the support of the state for the effort.

GreenBlue also released its new Labeling for Package Recovery report, which details the current challenges with inconsistent and misleading labels on packages, evaluates two international packaging recovery labeling systems, and discusses how an effective labeling scheme could address shortcomings of the US recycling and recovery system.

Package Labeling (Cont.)

The report presents requirements for an effective labeling scheme, where the label should:

- . Match its stated objective
- . Be actively administered and enforced nationwide
- . Be easily recognized by consumers
- . Have the ability to drive positive action
- . Be easily adaptable to new packaging material types, formats, and recovery systems

GreenBlue's Sustainable Packaging Coalition developed its comprehensive Packaging Recovery Label System specifically to meet these requirements for the US.

"We believe this report outlines how an effective labeling scheme will prompt consumers nationwide to take the correct action and significantly increase collection and recovery of packaging materials," said GreenBlue Project Manager Liz Shoch, the author of the report.



The Labeling for Package Recovery report is available free to download at: www.greenblue.org/publications.

-From GreenBlue

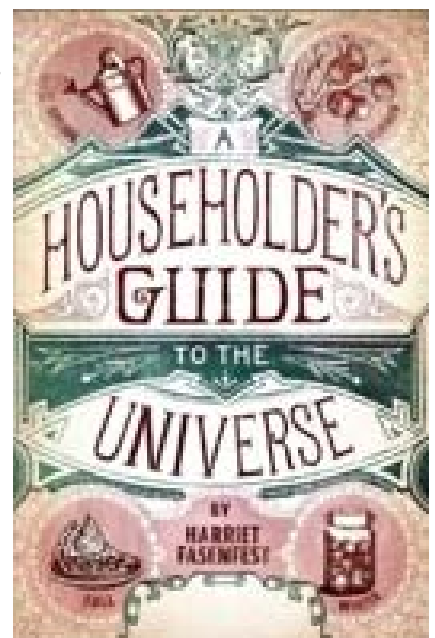
Householding Lecture Comes to Salem

Harriet Fasenfest, author and advocate, will be the next featured speaker in the Straub Environmental Lecture Series, which Marion County Environmental Services is sponsoring, at 7:00 pm on January 26, 2012 at the Salem Library's Louck Auditorium. She will present "Home Economics and Householding in the Modern World: What Does It Mean and What Would It Look Like?" Cliff Boyer wrote this article highlighting the speaker and her topic for the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center newsletter.

A Natural Economy of Householding

By Cliff Boyer

Harriet Fasenfest began a journey of self-discovery about ten years ago that took her from being "a vogue girl who dreamed of shopping in Paris" and Main Street business owner to being an author and advocate for a home-based economy that she calls "householding." Fasenfest is the next featured speaker in the Straub Environmental Learning Center's Annual Lecture Series, and at the Loucks Auditorium at the Salem Public Library on January 26, 2012 she will discuss "Home Economics & Householding in the Modern





Harriet Fassenfest

World: What Does It Mean and What Would It Look Like?" She will speak about the importance of householding as an individual response to a changing world of environmental limits and shifting economic concerns, as well as offer practical tips and advice on how to implement the practices of householding.

Fassenfest's transition began with her growing discontent over the displacement of local communities brought on by increased competition, particularly from large chain stores and restaurants, and the transformation of affordable housing into "fancy, high-design living quarters at fancy, high-design prices." She started reading authors such as Wendell Berry and Vandana Shiva who articulated a new relationship to the land and a different way of doing business. But her transformation culminated with a backyard epiphany that she calls her "Newton moment." While an apple didn't literally fall on her head, she looked at the huge, old pear tree in her yard and instead of seeing that tree as a nuisance that left rotting pears and attracted fruit flies, she saw it as a resource or "original asset." As Fassenfest says, her revelations "offered me an entirely new lens through which to look at my world." It also raised some questions that focused her work: How had she come to take those pears for granted, leaving them to rot? What had happened to her understanding of resources, labor, value and stewardship?

Householding is an ancient concept and according to Fassenfest, it "promotes the revival of a personal system of resource management, founded on principles of equity, thrift and stewardship." She has become enchanted with what she calls "the University of Grandmothers," elders who "understand seed and soil and possess an awareness and knowledge of being that says this is just what you do." They adapted their own ways of doing things particular to their needs, like using old vegetables as mixes in pot pies and soups, or old fruit as pie filling. In an era of fast food, microwave popcorn, and high-tech kitchen appliances that are rarely used, Fassenfest fears that this knowledge will disappear with the passing of that generation.

Fassenfest has written one book called "A Householder's Guide to the Universe" and is busy working on a second book. She says the first book is a personal narrative about her journey and offers some practical tips on implementing the practices of householding but the second will build on the humble simplicity of the University of Grandmothers. It will be more of a "how to" guide and will also examine what a curriculum of householding economics would look like with the idea of taking it to the schools. It will help readers develop a profile in which they take an honest look at what they want in their lives. Given the extent of environmental damage and current economic realities, Fassenfest believes we must lower our cost of living and determine our needs while eliminating more of our wants. It will take deep work but "what we're hoping for is a repair of the planet and of ourselves."



That Yoga Mat...

Thanks to Master Recycler Melissa Austin ('06) for this fun and informative article! Got a itch to spread the word about a great waste reduction idea or project? Please submit your ideas; this is **your** newsletter!

Cradle to Corpse Pose: Rolling out ideas on how to dispose of your used yoga mat

By Melissa Austin

Deep in the landfills of India, a new yoga sequence has been discovered, the recycle-your-mat-flow! And it goes something like this...

We all have it in mind to do what's most good for the environment, that's a common reason why we've gone through the Master Recycler program. This mindset also follows us to our yoga practice for which its physical foundation, our yoga mat, is a perplexing blend of plastics.

The day arrives when you declare your yoga mat worn-out and overused in patches, or maybe it's like-new and has been collecting dust; many reasons could be listed on why and how you've arrived to the point of needing to determine how to dispose of a yoga mat. Well let it be known that yoga mats in re-usable condition, as well as those scratched-up and flattened, all have a place to continue on in our community.

Through this article it is my aim to inform of local end-of-use options for disposing of your yoga mat, and you'll even discover some DIY ideas – so keep reading!

Most yoga mats from the 1990s to present are made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Today yoga mats are more commonly made of latex- and 6-P (phthalates)-free PVC; or a latex-free rubber; or newer-to-the-market TPE (thermo-plastic elastomer), which simply put, is a composite of rubber and plastic. You can find semi-eco-friendly mats partially made of jute, cotton, or rubber; but to acquire a truly natural, biodegradable, or 100% recyclable manufactured yoga mat you have very few options – and this is important to keep in mind if you want your next yoga mat to fit this criteria.

Now that you are informed about the typical composition of a yoga mat, let's go through some of your options for end-of-use disposal. The easiest way would be to throw it away as trash, where it would be taken to Covanta (our local waste-to-energy facility) to be incinerated, resulting in a minimal amount of ash and generated electricity. I heed you to make more of an effort in sustaining the life of the materials comprising your yoga mat. If in suitable shape, you may donate it for re-use to a local thrift store or shelter where it could be used by those who wouldn't otherwise afford a new one.

Being an out-of-the-ordinary plastic, you might think Agriplas would accept it; however their website states they do not take PVC or foam plastics. I couldn't describe a standard yoga mat any better than calling it foam PVC!

Saving the best for last, there is a wonderful and community-oriented re-use option to participate in! In Salem, Indigo Wellness Center's Yoga Studio will take your re-usable yoga mat and utilize it in their new Street Yoga program – where they will be offering yoga to homeless and at-risk youth. If you donate a mat usable for this program, Indigo will offer you a 15% discount on the purchase of a new mat from their yoga boutique.

If you'd like to try your hand at down-cycling your yoga mat into other functional items, here are a few ideas taken from JadeYoga.com: place under an area rug for a no-slip grip; cut the mat into squares and use them as baseball diamonds; kneel on while gardening; lounge on at the beach; open jars using pieces as grip pads; place under your sleeping bag while tent camping; cut out into shapes to create masks, costumes and props; block drafty places, like windows and doors, to save energy!

Now that we are out with the old, it's time to be in with the new and find a yoga mat to continue practicing on. Options I found while researching non-PVC yoga mats are natural rubber mats from JadeYoga™, DragonFly™, and Gaiam™. DragonFly™ also offers a recycled rubber mat, and Gaiam™ offers an unbleached cotton yoga mat (USA made).

Many companies list yoga mats as 'eco-friendly' which might mean latex- or PVC-free, or contain elements of natural rubber or jute. Use your best judgment with the knowledge you have on whether the new mat you purchase will serve your needs, as well as the environments. If choosing the 'most good' new yoga mat gets overwhelming, Gaiam Life has a webpage devoted to 'How to Choose the Right Yoga Mat' covering the aspects of material, eco-friendliness, cost, and more.

All in all, do what feels right for your situation, and make the best contribution you can to the yoga mat re-use and recycling movement. There are millions, let me repeat, MILLIONS, of students practicing yoga; and if we each responsibly discard of our unwanted yoga mats, we will be making a difference in our local yoga scene and our local waste stream.



Sources - the websites of: Gaiam, JadeYoga, DragonFly, AgriPlas, ENPLAST, Gaiam Life, StreetYoga.org; and JoAnn Kobel (MR '07) of Indigo Wellness Center & Yoga Studio.

Events & Occasions....



Thursday, January 12, 7 pm

Salem Progressive Film Series: GrowthBusters

Historic Grand Theatre, 191 High St. NE, Downtown Salem, OR

This documentary crisscrosses the nation uncovering startling new findings that suggest there is much more to our health than bad habits, or health care. Hooked on Growth is a feature-length documentary examining the beliefs and behaviors preventing us from becoming a sustainable civilization. For website and trailer: www.growthbusters.org/. Guest Speakers: David Gardner, Film's Producer, Director, Writer; Mike Swaim, Former Mayor of Salem, Salem Attorney, Small Business Owner. For more info: www.saleprogressivefilms.net or 503-881-5305.

Thursday, January 26, 7 pm

Straub Lecture Series - Harriet Fasenfest: Home Economics & Householding in the Modern World

Salem Library's Loucks Auditorium

Though Home Economics used to be a standard course of study for many of us, times have changed. Very few schools offer course work on the subject, much to the detriment of our society. But what would such a body of knowledge cover today and how would we make it relevant given today's environmental and economic climate? Join Harriet Fasenfest as she offers a new framing of this old discipline.

Saturday March 3, 5 pm

2012 Mid-Willamette Valley Green Awards Dinner and Auction

Salem Conference Center

The 2012 Mid-Willamette Green Awards dinner and auction is open to the public! Call or email 503-391-4145 or fselc@fselc.org to learn more about purchasing tickets to our dinner and auction at Salem Conference Center. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center's environmental education programs. www.midvalleygreenawards.org

Call to Serve



Friday—Sunday January 20, 21 & 22.

Oregon State Fairgrounds

Volunteers needed to staff table at the Mid-Willamette Valley Home Show.

Contact Alan Pennington at apennington@co.marion.or.us or 503-365-3188 to sign up.

The following shifts are available:

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1pm-5pm	10am-1:30pm	10am-1:30pm
5pm-8pm	1:30pm- 5pm	1:30pm- 5pm
	5pm-8pm	

Thursday, March 1st

Master Recycler needed to staff an informational table at the Department of Transportation's Conservation & Wellness Fair on from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. If you can volunteer for this shift, please contact Mindy Trask

(Melinda.TRASK@odot.state.or.us) by February 1st and also let Alan Pennington (apennington@co.marion.or.us) know so that he can pull together the supplies.

The Back Page



As a waste reduction coordinator, sometimes it is hard to get away from your job completely. Our own Sarah Keirns (and styrofoam goddess) snapped this photo while vacationing recently in Patagonia, Chile.



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

5155 Silverton Rd. NE

Salem, OR 97305

Waste Reduction Coordinators:

Sarah Keirns

503-566-4159

skeirns@co.marion.or.us

Beth Myers-Shenai

503-588-5169 x5920

smyersshenai@co.marion.or.us

Bailey Payne

503-588-5169 x5991

bpayne@co.marion.or.us

Alan Pennington

503-365-3188