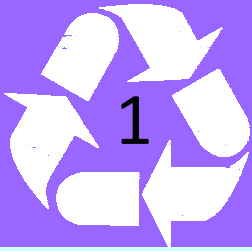


January
2010



We've got your number! p. 2

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Styrofoam Recycling Opportunities Shrink



Marion County's styrofoam collection program suffered a blow this month when the local processor decided to stop accepting all but clean, dry block styrofoam. Other forms of styrofoam, including meat trays, egg cartons, take out containers and coffee cups, although they are also #6 PS, are no longer accepted because they do not go through the shredder easily and have been causing too many problems with the machinery.

This change is being implemented immediately at the drop off depot at Fresh Start Market. New

signs are on order and should be in place sometime next week.

In the meantime, extra effort will be made to inform the public of this change. At least half of the material collected at the depot last year was comprised of the items that are no longer accepted, so this creates a challenge!

We will need all Master Recyclers on board to help educate people on the new policy and on ways to avoid bringing styrofoam home. Here are some ideas:

- Meat Trays: If you local grocer has a meat counter, pick out the cuts you want and have them wrapped in paper or buy in bulk so you need fewer trays.
- Egg Cartons: Many cartons are made of formed paper and easily recyclable.
- Coffee Cups: Keep a reusable mug handy.
- Take Out Containers: Bring your own! See the September 2009 MR Newsletter for tips on reducing take-out waste

Still having a hard time avoiding styrofoam? Check with local schools or crafters to see if they can use them for paint trays, organizers or other projects.



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"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Plastics Primer

Didn't memorize the plastics portion of your Master Recycler Handbook? Here is a great overview of all the types and their ease of recycling.

Plastic #1 – PET, PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate)

Where You'll Find It:

- Bottles for water, soft drinks, juice, sports drinks, mouthwash, ketchup, beer and salad dressings
- Food jars, such as peanut butter, jelly, jam and pickles
- Microwavable food trays



The Lowdown on Recycling: Plastic #1 is one of the most common and highly recycled resins. Most curbside programs will accept this plastic in bottle form. Plastic #1 is also the main resin targeted with container deposit laws.

Need-to-Know Info:

1. Recycling a single plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for up to six hours.
2. Recycled plastic bottles can be made into products such as clothing, carpeting, detergent bottles and lumber for outdoor uses.
3. According to the EPA, while overall recovery of plastics for recycling is relatively small – 2.1 million – recovery of some plastic containers has reached higher levels. PET bottles were recovered at a rate of 27 percent in 2008.

Plastic #2 – HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)

Where You'll Find It:

- Shopping bags
- Milk jugs
- Bottles for shampoo, dish and laundry detergent, household cleaners
- Water and soda bottles



The Lowdown on Recycling: Plastic bags are generally made from plastic #2. However, because of their light weight, plastic bags are often hard to recycle and left out of curbside programs. There is a high demand for this material, which usually exceeds the available supply, because many consumers are not aware that collection programs are available in stores & recycle depots.

Need-to-Know Info:

1. Recycling or reusing 1 ton of plastic bags saves the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil.
2. Recycled plastic #2 content can be found in plastic lumber, buckets and crates, bottles for non-food items, and even curbside recycling bins themselves.

Plastic #3 – PVC, Vinyl (Polyvinyl chloride)

Where You'll Find It:

- Blister packs
- Clamshell containers
- Bags for bedding, medical shrink wrap, deli and meat wrap
- Pipes, siding, window frames, fencing, decking and railing

The Lowdown on Recycling: PVC is not commonly recycled, nor is it biodegradable. More than 7 billion pounds of PVC are thrown away in the U.S. annually, and only 18 million pounds – barely one-quarter of 1 percent – is recycled.

Need-to-Know Info:

1. PVC requires 20 percent less energy to produce than other plastics.
2. To make vinyl products flexible, controversial plasticizers known as phthalates are used, accounting for nearly 90 percent of total phthalate consumption. This translates into more than 5 million tons used for vinyl every year.

Plastic #4 – LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)

Where You'll Find It:

- Bags for dry cleaning, newspapers, bread, frozen foods, produce and household garbage
- Shrink wrap and stretch film
- Container lids
- Squeezable bottles



The Lowdown on Recycling: Because plastic #4 is often in film form, it is sometimes not accepted in curbside recycling programs. However, its material is similar to plastic bags, and some major grocery store chains will accept this plastic packaging for recycling.

Need-to-Know Info:

1. The average growth rate of container and packaging waste through 2010 is estimated to be about 1.8 percent annually.
2. About 3 percent of all U.S. energy consumption comes from the production of packaging materials. Using recycled material for the production of packaging goods takes less energy than creating the product from the material's natural state.

Plastic #5 – PP (Polypropylene)

Where You'll Find It:

- Yogurt, margarine tubs
- Medicine bottles
- Bottle caps
- Ketchup and syrup bottles



The Lowdown on Recycling: Plastic #5 is a similar resin to plastic #2, which makes it more appealing to reclaimers who can use the material for water filtration systems, shipping pallets, sheeting and automotive bumpers and garbage and recycling bins.

Need-to-Know Info:

1. Out of the 100 largest communities nationwide, about one-third have curbside recycling programs for plastic #5.
2. Even though they typically aren't printed with a #5 symbol, most plastic bottle caps (like those on water and soda bottles) are made from polypropylene.

Plastic #6 – PS (Polystyrene)

Where You'll Find It:

- Food service items (cutlery, plates, cups, bowls)
- Foam packaging
- Packing peanuts
- Compact disc cases



The Lowdown on Recycling: According the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers (AFPR), more than 69 million lbs. of expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging were recycled in 2008. While most curbside programs do not accept EPS, AFPR offers a mail-in program for consumers.

Need-to-Know Info:

1. According to Virginia Lyle, deputy director of AFPR, all foam peanuts have recycled content, and most shape-molded polystyrene has at least 25 percent recycled content.
2. Several cities and programs are against using polystyrene foam and have banned its use in food service containers.

Plastic #7 – Other

Where You'll Find It:

- Bio-based plastics made from corn, potato or sugar derivatives
- Three- and five-gallon reusable water bottles
- Any plastic product that does not fit into resin categories 1-6

The Lowdown on Recycling: Many curbside programs will not accept plastic #7. Bio-based plastics are often lumped into this category. Consumers should keep in mind that these plastics are only biodegradable in a commercial composting system.

Need-to-Know Info:

1. The presence of BPA (bisphenol A) is a controversial issue for plastic #7. BPA is typically used as an additive in plastics manufacturing, as it makes the plastic more shatter-proof.
2. In the few instances when it can be recycled, plastic #7 quickly downcycles to non-renewable plastic.

-Adapted from Earth911.com



TASTY TIDBITS



Sustainable Flowers

Mary, Mary, quite contrary how does your garden grow....? Well, if Mary is growing her garden in a sustainable way, she now has a way to get her flowers certified!



Veriflora, a third-party certification programs verifies that potted plants and flowers have been grown with practices that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. The program also verifies product quality and safety.

Check the labels on flowers and potted plants that you buy for the certification logo shown here.

www.veriflora.com

Safe Scents

Here's a trade secret: that signature scent in candles, air fresheners or pot-pourri may contain any of 2000 oil, fixative, preservative and solvent ingredients which manufacturers are not obligated to reveal.



Unfortunately, these ingredients can also trigger allergies, asthma, headaches — or, in the long run, they may be linked to cancer and hormone disruption.

The Washington Post Reports that the 1976 Toxics Control Act exempts manufacturers from disclosing information that may hurt their bottom line.

The safest scents are natural strength: herb wreaths, pomanders made from oranges and cloves, simmering cider and baking cookies. A few drops of essential oil used with caution go a long way, too.

Power Reducing

A recent movie to check out on DVD:

Author Colin Beavan, in research for his next book, began the No Impact Project in November 2006. A newly self-proclaimed environmentalist who could no longer avoid pointing the finger at himself, Colin leaves behind his liberal complacency with a vow to make as little environmental impact as possible for one year.

No more automated transportation, no more electricity, no more non-local food, no more material consumption...no problem. That is, until his espressoguz-zling, retail-worshipping wife Michelle and their two-year-old daughter are dragged into the fray.

The film provides a front row seat into the experiment that became a national fascination and media sensation.



Trendy Re-threads



A new reused clothing store catering to teens and young adults opened in Salem in December. Plato's Closet, a national chain, is at 3884 Center St.

The store selectively buys popular name brand clothing for cash and offers them at prices even a cash-strapped teen can afford—especially if they've gone through their own closet to weed out those pants that were oh-so 2009!

Our Uphill Battle...

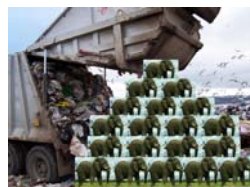
In 2008, Marion County residents generated an average of 2,902 lbs. per person of garbage. That's 141 lbs. more than the average Oregonian. It's also an increase of 38% since 1994 and an increase of 18% the past 10 years!

The average life expectancy in the US is 78 years, so the average person in Marion County will, in their lifetime:

Send **94,235 lbs.** (47 tons) of garbage to the waste-to-energy incinerator in Brooks.

Send **132,100 lbs.** (66 tons) of recycling to be recycled or composted.

Generate a total of 226,336 lbs. (113 tons) of waste. This is about the same weight as 19 African Elephants.



Paper for Reuse

A toner manufacturer here in Salem is offering boxes of one-sided paper used in lab-testing of toner (lab specifications require a fresh sheet for each test).

IMEX reuses as much as they can in the office but is left with a large surplus. It is currently sent to Garten for recycling, but they would like to find other people or organizations that can use it before sending it gets recycled.



It is free for whoever contacts Logistics and Marketing Supervisor (and Master Recycler!) Britt Sexton to arrange a pickup time.

Contact him at britts@imex-global.com or 503-375-4706

Events & Occasions....

Thursday, January 14, 2010 **Doors open 6:15 p.m., film at 7:00 p.m.**

Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE

Salem Progressive Film Series: Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives-The Environmental Footprint of War

In all its stages, from the production of weapons through combat to cleanup and restoration, war is comprised of elements that pollute land, air, and water, destroy biodiversity and entire ecosystems, and drain our limited natural resources. This outstanding, timely, new film explores the crucial need for public scrutiny of the ecological impact of war and reminds us of the importance of accountability and sustainability. Adults \$3, Students \$2. www.salemprogressivefilms.net or 503-588-8713 or 503-779-5288.

Thursday, January 28th 7 pm—8 pm

Straub Environmental Lecture Series— Ron Hirschi

Loucks Auditorium, Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty Street SE, Salem

Serious Sand: Lessons from Midway

Ron Hirschi, wildlife author and scientist, will showcase images from his recent journey to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and present a conversation about how plastic has gone micro in the marine environment. He'll also discuss his actions since returning from Midway (Pihemanu in Hawaiian), along with news from other participants in the journey to Papahānaumokuākea and how he works with kids to rid the world of plastic.

March 13, 2010

2010 Mid-Willamette Valley Green Awards Dinner and Auction

The 2010 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 on the Willamette University campus in Putnam University Center. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center's environmental education programs



- 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 or call 503-391-4145

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

Call to Serve



Volunteers are still needed for the Home Show on **January 15, 16 & 17.**

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

The following shifts are available:

Friday, 1/15

5 pm—8pm

Saturday, 1/16

1 pm—4:30 pm

4:30 pm—8 pm

Sunday, 1/17

10 am—1 pm

12—3 pm

Master Recycler Needed to Lead Tour:

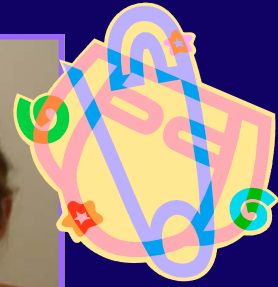
Tuesday, Jan. 19th 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

A Master Recycler is needed to lead a tour of the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station and the Earth Walk. There will be approximately 5 students ages 8 - 9 and their parents.

If you would like to lead this tour, please contact Carlee Justis (cdjustis@gmail.com). Once you have confirmed the tour date, please let Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us) know so that he can notify the transfer station and give you tips on how to lead the tour.

The Back Page

The Newest Master Recycler Arrives!



Master Recyclers Rachel and Erik Peterson welcomed Will to the world on Christmas Day at 7:25 a.m. He is reportedly getting an early start at sustainable living by wearing cloth diapers and pre-loved clothing!



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

5155 Silverton Rd. NE

Salem, OR 97305