

November
2010



Sustainable Cities! Pg. 4

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

Welcome Sarah!

Marion County Public Works welcomes Sarah Keirns, the newest Waste Reduction Coordinator for Environmental Services. In her new role, she is working on commercial food scrap composting, multifamily recycling, styrofoam recycling, and the waste reduction grant program.

Sarah was born and raised in Rhode Island and attended the University of Maine at Farmington to study Geography and Environmental Planning and Policy. When she wasn't skiing, she took an interest in resource conservation, pollution prevention and toxics reduction. While conducting research as part of an internship at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, she made the discovery that the most innovative programs aimed at reducing environmental impact all seemed to be located in Oregon, so she decided to move closer to the action and



has been living in Portland for the past 6 years. She served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the Portland State University (PSU) Sustainability Office for a year and then was a student in the PSU Graduate School of Education, earning a Masters of Science in Educational Leadership and Policy with a focus on sustainability.

Most recently she worked for Clark County Solid Waste in Vancouver, Washington managing solid waste data and coordinating curbside recycling education and outreach activities. Sarah is also a Master Recycler volunteer in the Portland area and is looking forward to meeting and working with Marion County Master Recyclers.

In This Issue:

Rural Mixed Recycling?	2
SWMAC Positions	2
Seattle White Pages Opt-Out	3
Be Resourceful	3
Sustainable Cities	4
Living Buildings	4
Tasty Tidbits	5
Call to Serve	6
Events and Occasions	6
The Back Page	7



"A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depends on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the measure as I have received and am still receiving." -- Albert Einstein

Curbside Recycling Proposed for Rural County

There are two proposals before the Marion County Board of Commissioners that could affect garbage and recycling rates to those in the county outside of city limits.

First, the Board will consider a proposal brought to them by the Mid-Valley Garbage and Recycling Association for a rate increase on currently provided service based upon an annual Cost of Service analysis. The proposed increase within the UGB (outside city limits) is 7.8%, and 6.9% outside. The proposed rates also include an additional \$1 in rural and sparse areas for providing solid waste carts and starting automated solid waste cart service there as well. The last rate increase was four years ago. If passed, the rates would go into effect January 1, 2011.

The second item up for consideration is a proposal brought by County staff to provide curbside mixed recycling service to all rural areas of the county, which could result in a significant increase in the collection of recyclables. In order to provide this service, haulers would need to offset higher transportation and added costs with an increase of \$6.97 per month for rural customers and \$8.72 a month for customers in sparse areas.

However, these costs would be nearly offset for customers who currently have 65 or 95 gallon garbage carts as they would be able to downsize to a lower cost cart by diverting mixed recyclables to the new recycling cart. If passed by the Board, the new service would go into effect July 1, 2011.

“Since nearly one-third of our residents live outside UGBs, this proposed increase in recycling service could result in the Marion County achieving a recovery rate over 60 percent for the first time, a rate well above other areas of the state,” says Jeff Bickford, Public Works Environmental Services Division Manager.

A public hearing on both proposals has been scheduled for 9:30 am on Wednesday, November 24th. The meeting will be at the Salem-Keizer School District offices at 2575 Commercial St. SE, Salem. Let your voice be heard!



SWMAC opening



Marion County's Solid Waste Management Advisory Council is seeking new members. Open positions are available for a public health representative as well as three citizens-at-large. Among the issues the advisory council works on are waste reduction, protection of the environment, increasing public education concerning waste issues, and improving operations of solid waste management facilities.

The 16-member council meets once a month to develop, review and recommend plans that support an integrated, financially sound waste management system which protects public health and the environment. Meetings are generally held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Application forms are available at the Marion County Business Services Office, 325 13th St. NE, Salem, OR 97309 or online. Applicants should be at least 18 years old and residents of Marion County.

Seattle Yellow Pages



Residents and businesses in Seattle tired of getting two or three - or more - unwanted yellow pages phone books will soon have an efficient, effective way to stop those deliveries following an October 11 City Council vote.

The new Seattle ordinance also requires yellow pages publishers to begin paying for recycling of unwanted and outdated yellow pages directories beginning next year.

The new law creates an Opt-Out Registry that Seattle residents and businesses can access on the web, by phone or by mail and requires yellow pages publishers to pay the costs of operating the registry, for which the City expects to hire a contractor. The legislation also sets out penalties for yellow pages publishers who continue to deliver books when requested not to.

"Seattleites are constantly looking for ways to reduce their impact on the environment, and the Council has heard from an overwhelming number of people who don't want phone books," said Councilmember Mike O'Brien, who chairs the committee and is the prime sponsor of the legislation. "Creating a one-stop shop managed by a third party will help reduce clutter, increase residential security, and, save Seattle Public Utilities customers, the people of Seattle, money. This is a win-win for Seattle."

Based on information supplied by some of the yellow pages publishers, Seattle Public Utilities estimates nearly 2 million yellow pages phone books are dropped off in Seattle every year, costing approximately \$350,000 to recycle.

Portland Be Resourceful

City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability recently launched Be Resourceful, a thoughtful consumption campaign designed to inspire Portlanders to get more of the good stuff in their lives.

Local residents are already finding creative ways to get what they need while spending their limited time, money, and energy on what matters most: enjoying healthier, more satisfying lifestyles and building strong relationships. Be Resourceful highlights the new opportunities and experiences you can create when you choose local resources

to borrow, share, and repair the things you need and choose to buy for value, durability, and utility. Thoughtful consumption allows us to look at everyday choices and purchases that reflect our values and to consider the upstream costs of goods and services.

The first theme of the campaign focuses on actions related to being resourceful in the kitchen and includes an interactive game and resources at community events. There is also an opportunity for Portland residents to share their own stories of resourcefulness at events and online.



Share your story and find local resources at www.portlandonline.com/bps/beresourceful.

Salem Gets a Sustainable Boost

Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) is a cross-disciplinary organization at the University of Oregon that seeks to promote education, service, public outreach and research on the design and development of sustainable cities. Each year one city is chosen to partner with SCI, and this year the City of Salem is the luck recipient!



In 2010-2011, SCI is partnering with Salem on 14 identified projects, including redevelopment schemes for areas north and south of downtown, restoration efforts on Minto Island, a city-wide civic engagement strategic plan, an integrated plan for safe bicycle and pedestrian access to downtown parks and paths, potential design schemes for city departments and a new police station, strategies for industrial by-product re-use and economic development plans. The fourteen projects are expected to involve over 500 students in 25+ courses across seven departments at the University of Oregon and one department at Portland State University. If you would like more information about the program, please visit www.cityofsalem.net/scisalem.

Challenge Accomplished



Four years ago, Jason F. McLennan, CEO of Cascadia Green Building Council and the International Living Building Institute, issued a monumental challenge to the green building movement calling on leading thinkers and practitioners to create “Living Buildings” that function as elegantly and efficiently as a flower, daring them to redefine the relationship of the built environment to the ecosystems it inhabits and, in the process, to create a new model for thriving within the limitations of the resources that sustain us.

Within months teams stepped forward eager to create developments that capture and treat all of their own water using ecologically sound processes; meet their energy needs onsite through clean, renewable resources; eschew worst-in-class chemicals; utilize only previously developed sites; and inspire a transformation of expectations from all who encountered them.

Today, two of those pioneering projects, Washington University’s Tyson Living Learning Center (Eureka, MO) and the Omega Center for Sustainable Living (Rhinebeck, NY), became certified Living Buildings. After an extensive third-party audit – and four years of incredible effort, perseverance and performance – both projects demonstrated that they had fulfilled every Imperative of Living Building Challenge. Because of their accomplishment, the Challenge is no longer simply a theory of change: it is now a proven strategy for transforming the built environment.

I’ve always wondered.....

Q: Why can’t broken glass be recycled when it gets broken anyway during the recycling process?

Broken glass is a safety issue, and it is for worker (and neighbor!) protection that it is important to only place unbroken container glass at the curb. It doesn't matter from a quality perspective if it breaks when it's collected at the transfer stations (provided that it's the right kind of glass) although the workers don't like people to intentionally break it because of safety. The glass itself would still be recyclable.



TASTY TIDBITS

Solar Savvy

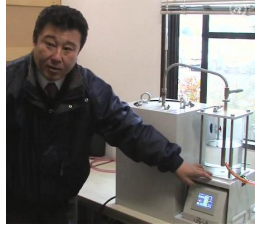


Solar panels may be coming to a road near you a bit sooner thanks to funding from the GE Ecomagination Challenge.

The husband and wife team of Scott and Julie Brusaw were the first recipients of a Challenge Award of \$50,000. Their project to pave roadways with solar panels received the highest number of community votes on the Ecomagination webpage. Learn more about the project at www.solarroadways.com

Tabletop Plastic-to-fuel

A very small-scale plastics recycling facility has moved from idea to reality thanks



to the work of inventor Akinori Ito, the developer of the Blest Machine.

The machine uses an electric heater to melt the plastic. Ito hopes that the machine will show people that items they consider to be garbage still have practical value, like fuel, and has been touring schools in Japan to educate children.

Right now it's only available in Japan and runs \$9,500.

Sink Rises to Top

One Winner of Architect Magazine's research and development award for 2010 is RUBBiSH: a recycled rubber sink.

Rubber from tires is melted down, cleaned, and then formed into a sheet which is stretched over a base frame made of any usable material and anchored down by the drain collar. This creates a shallow-sloped surface for water to be siphoned away, but not a clunky profile.



Bioplastics Bandwagon?

Odwalla, the juice-making Coca-Cola subsidiary, will switch the packaging for its single-serve drinks to bottles made almost entirely of plant-based plastic by next March.

The bottles that Odwalla will use will be at least 96 percent, plant-based HDPE (#2) derived from molasses and sugarcane juice.

The bottles are claimed to be recyclable in systems that already take HDPE, but there is no mention of compostability.

So far the plastics recycling industry has not posted a position on this particular bottle type, but they do take a position discouraging co-collection of PLA bioplastics with PET or HDPE resins.



Garten Binders take 2 (or 3)!



Garten Services has been able to distribute some of their large

stock of 3-ring binders through organizations that hold school supply drives. If you know of a contact for your school district that might be interested in finding homes for used binders please let Judy Skinner at Garten know.

jskinner@garten.org or

503-581-4472

Rebuilding Center Job Opening

The ReBuilding Center, a project of nonprofit Our United Villages, is seeking a Communications Coordinator. They are looking for a team oriented self-starter with a strong working knowledge of marketing and outreach.

In addition to a reuse warehouse, The ReBuilding Center includes DeConstruction Services, a sustainable alternative to conventional demolition, and ReFind Furniture, which offers a diverse line of green furniture and home accessories.

For more information visit their website at www.rebuildingcenter.org.



THE REBUILDING CENTER
of Our United Villages, a Non-profit Organization

Call to Serve



Thursday Jan. 6, Tuesday Jan. 13 or Thursday Jan. 20.

Earth Walk Tour

Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station

A Master Recycler is needed to lead a tour of the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station and the Earth Walk for approximately 18 high school students and their teacher. They would like to do the tour on any one of the days listed above from approximately 9:30 am - 10:30 am. If you would like to lead this tour, please contact Lindsay Weseman (lindsay.weseman@dallas.k12.or.us). Once you have confirmed the 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.

Ongoing Need

There is an ongoing need for Master Recyclers to help with maintenance at the **Oregon Garden** and **Deepwood Compost Demonstration Sites**. Help with maintaining worm bins is especially desired. If you have an hour or two each month to help at these sites, either by yourself or as a team with another Master Recycler, please contact Beth Myers-Shenai at smyersshenai@co.marion.or.us or 503-588-5169 x5920.

Events & Occasions

Now thru Nov. 21st, 2010

City of Salem Biking and Walking Survey

The City of Salem is looking for your input on needs for biking and walking (including wheeled users) in and around Salem. A survey is now available on the City's web site for you to provide input. Please take a few minutes to share with us your experiences and needs. We especially want to hear about the needs for kids to safely get to school on foot or by bike. Your input will help us to plan the future of Salem's biking and walking infrastructure. The survey will close on November 21, 2010. Please share this announcement with your friends! www.cityofsalem.net



ARE YOU A HOLIDAY DECORATING FIEND?

FRESHEN UP YOUR LOOK WHILE LEAVING MONEY IN YOUR POCKET - SHOP RESALE THIS YEAR!



Loads of great stuff available!
Check out Marion County's ReUse Network at www.mcrecycles.net

IT'S COOL TO REUSE!



PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



503.588.5169 SE HABLA ESPAÑOL | www.mcrecycles.net

The Back Page



Congratulations!

Art Bennett (left) and Jim Green (right) have both completed their 30 hours of Master Recycler service and have received their certificates of completion. Art compiled most of his hours serving at community events, while Jim spent most of his hours working with his staff at Kettle Foods to implement waste reduction projects.



Will YOU be featured next?



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

apennington@co.marion.or.us