

October
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A Glass Act! p.2

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Master Recycler Newsletter



News to use



Plastic feed bag recycling is back!

After many months of non-acceptance, plastic woven bags are now being collected at both Marion County transfer stations. Just place them where the other plastic bags are collected.

As with any other type of plastic, they need to be relatively clean and without pebbles or an excessive amount of dirt/grime.



Hot off the press (almost)!

California Governor Jerry Brown just signed a law that will require businesses to separate their food scraps and yard trimmings for composting or anaerobic digestion. A major benefit to the composting and digestion of rotting organics is that it deters the production of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.



Straub Environmental Center is

hosting the innovative and creative approach to reuse and recycling— From Cart to Art. Artists, businesses and individuals will be sharing unique ways to be stewards of the earth by taking gently used items from their recycling carts to create art! Donated art will be auctioned off to aid in providing free or low-cost environmental education for the greater Salem/Keizer community.

Details:

Saturday, October 11

6pm - 8pm

2505 Mission St. S

(The former Capitol Subaru building at the corner of 25th & Mission)

\$20/person to attend

Food, drink, entertainment, and more are included with your admission.

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"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."



- Jimi Hendrix

News from around the Northwest:

Seattle OKs \$1 fine for adding too much food to garbage bins

By Daniel Beekman, The Seattle Times (9-29-14)

The Seattle City Council passed a new ordinance Monday (Sept. 22) that could mean \$1 fines for people who toss too many table scraps into the trash.

Under current Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) rules, people living in single-family homes are encouraged but not required to dispose of food waste and compostable paper products in compost bins. Apartment buildings must have compost bins available, but residents of apartment buildings aren't required to use them. And businesses aren't subject to any composting requirements.

Under the new rules, collectors can take a cursory look each time they dump trash into a garbage truck.

If they see compostable items make up 10 percent or more of the trash, they'll enter the violation into a computer system their trucks already carry, and will leave a ticket on the garbage bin that says to expect a \$1 fine on the next garbage bill.

Apartment buildings and businesses will be subject to the same 10 percent threshold but will get two warnings before they are fined. A third violation will result in a \$50 fine. Dumpsters there will be checked by inspectors on a random basis.

Collectors will begin tagging garbage bins and dumpsters with educational tickets starting Jan. 1 when they find violations. But fines won't start until July 1.

"SPU doesn't expect to collect many fines," says Tim Croll, the agency's solid-waste director.

"The city outlawed recyclable items from the trash nine years ago, but SPU has collected less than \$2,000 in fines since then," Croll says.

"The point isn't to raise revenue," he said. "We care more about reminding people to separate their materials."

SPU asked the council to consider the new ordinance because the agency is falling short of its recycling and composting goals. Seattle's recycling rate for 2013 was 56 percent, a slight improvement over 2012 but not on pace to meet SPU's goal of 60 percent for 2015.



Volunteer dumpster divers are not that hard to recruit!

-Continued on next page-

“Our growth rate for recycling has stalled,” said Council member Sally Bagshaw, who sponsored the legislation.

“It’s surprising, but we still send 300,000 tons of garbage every year to a landfill in eastern Oregon. I think we can do a lot better than that,” Bagshaw said.

SPU estimates the new law will generate 38,000 tons in additional compost annually. Collectors already check garbage bins at single-family homes for recyclable items. When they find too many glass or plastic items, they leave the bins with a tag asking the resident to remove the items.

The council vote to pass the new composting measure was a unanimous 9-to-0. No public hearing was required.

Source: www.seattletimes.com

Master Recycler Call to Serve



October 6th, 7th or 9th ; 1:15 pm
Lead a Waste Audit at Hoover Elementary School

This waste audit is the first step in Hoover's efforts to become an Oregon Green School! New to this stuff? Bailey can walk you through the details and has all the supplies that you'll need for the activity.

To volunteer: bpayne@co.marion.or.us ; or call: 503-365-3191.

October 24—26
Salem Home & Remodeling Show
Oregon State Fairgrounds

Friday
3pm-5:30pm
5:30pm-8pm

Saturday
10am-1pm
1pm-4:30pm
4:30pm-8pm

Sunday
10am-1:30pm
1:30pm-5pm

Master Recycler volunteers are needed to help us get the word out about composting & recycling in good ole' Marion County. This fun show features all the updates you ever wanted to make on your bungalow and brings out a crowd that seems pretty interested in all things recycling-wise. Be there or be elsewhere (and square!)

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

Upcoming episodes of Waste Matters: On the Air

Tune in every other Thursday at 1:00 pm as host Alan Pennington chats with guests about their interesting and innovative waste reduction programs. The show broadcasts on 88.5 FM in the S. Salem/Turner area and streams online at www.kmuz.org.



Oct. 9: Guest **Pete Grell** of Garten Services gives us the scoop on how Garten deals with the tons of commercial grade material that they sort for recycling markets. Garten also processes batteries, electronics, and other odds and ends in the re-use/recycling world.

Oct 23: **Art Kuenzi** of Suburban Garbage Services and Marion County's **Griselda Puga** dish the soon-to-be-dirt on the state of commercial composting in our little slice of the world. There's probably more going on than you've imagined and it may be as near as your neighborhood school.

Join in on the conversation! One p.m. every other Thursday.

The Back Page



This just in...really: California Bans Plastic Bags

Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday (9/30) signed the nation's first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags at grocery and convenience stores.

Under SB270, plastic bags will be phased out at large grocery stores and supermarkets starting next summer, and convenience stores and pharmacies in 2016. The law does not apply to bags used for fruits, vegetables or meats, or to shopping bags used at other retailers. It allows grocers to charge a fee of at least 10 cents for using paper bags.



An endangered species?



Does Erma work in mysterious ways?

“There’s more than one way to skin a cat” is really just a useful euphemism for “there’s a lot of ways to complete Master Recycler payback hours.” Erma found “her way” by volunteering to help spread the good news through staffing event tables and working as a technician on the Waste Matters radio show. Erma, class of 2011, has completed her 30 hours...with more to come!



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