

October
2012



Fall Grant Cycle! p. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

PVC Collection Goes Permanent



Rigid PVC/vinyl is now accepted at the Brown's Island Demolition Landfill for free year-round. There are three separate areas where it can be accepted. One area is for PVC pipe, a second is for ABS pipe, and the third is for all other rigid PVC plastics.

When the bays fill up, crews load the pipe into large boxes that are taken to NW Polymers in Molalla. Marion County crews then sort other rigid plastics into materials that Agri-Plas, a plastic recycler in Brooks, will accept. The rigid plastics that neither NW Polymers nor Agri-Plas can process are then put into the Brown's Island Landfill.

Challenges

While it's true PVC/vinyl plastic (also known as polyvinylchloride) is one of the most versatile types of plastic, it can potentially be dangerous. When burned, PVC/vinyl can create dioxins, which are cancer causing and can lead to impairment of the immune and nervous system. Since the majority of the garbage in Marion County is burned for energy recovery, it is important that we divert as much PVC from the garbage as possible.

"PVC/vinyl can be a dangerous type of plastic if mishandled. We hope that this new program will raise awareness about safer and equally effective alternatives to PVC/vinyl," said Jeff Bickford, Marion County Environmental Services Division Manager.

For over a decade Marion County provided collection events, usually around Earth Day, where the fee was waived for disposing of PVC. PVC that was collected was given to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, recycled, or disposed of as garbage at the Brown's Island Landfill.

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"Our lives are to be used and thus to be lived as fully as possible, and truly it seems that we are never so alive as when we concern ourselves with other people."

-- Harry Chapin

PVC Cont.



The recycling market for PVC has been turbulent in the past, but things have improved in recent years. According to Earth911, “The sheer amount of additives used in the production of PVC inhibits most large-scale, post-consumer recycling. PVC also inadvertently interferes with the recycling of other plastics when commingled, due to its unique chemical makeup. More than 7 billion pounds of PVC are thrown away in the U.S., and only 18 million pounds – barely one-quarter of 1 percent – is recycled.”

How PVC is Recycled

NW Polymers begins the recycling process by grinding the plastic into flakes. The flakes are cleaned and then put into an extruder which is a machine that heats the plastic into a thick liquid. The plastic is then formed into long spaghetti-like threads that are then cooled as they get pulled through a trough of water. The strands then pass by blades that then chop the plastic into small pieces. This then becomes the raw material for manufacturers that need PVC to make the types of materials listed below.

PVC/vinyl is commonly used in construction, outdoor lawn furniture, and other types of plastic that are designed to withstand the outdoors. Here is an example of products that often contain PVC/vinyl that are accepted at the site:



Construction:

- PVC & CPVC pipe
- vinyl window frames
- PVC cable covering
- vinyl flooring
- vinyl rain gutters
- vinyl siding
- vinyl shutters
- vinyl window blinds
- vinyl wallpaper
- conveyer belting
- non-slip PVC flooring (commercial/industrial)
- rigid PVC sheets used for fluorescent light diffuser panels

Consumer Items/Miscellaneous:

- plastic swimming pools
- truck bed liners
- outdoor lawn furniture
- other types of outdoor plastic
- shatter-proof PVC bottles/containers (cosmetics, etc)
- shrink-on PVC container seals for product safety
- large baby/children's toys
- many parts in automobiles
- vinyl-coated fabrics (i.e. rain jackets)
- audio records

The following PVC containing items are **NOT** accepted at the collection site:

- blood bags
- vinyl gloves
- syringe casings
- IV tubing

Get Your Grant Apps Here!!

Do you have a great idea to reduce waste? Marion County Public Works is now seeking Waste Reduction Grant applications. For the Fall 2012 offering, up to a \$100,000 is available for qualified projects to increase recycling and reduce waste in Marion County.

The objectives of the program are to reduce the amount of waste generated in Marion County and reduce the amount of waste disposed at Marion County facilities. Two general categories of proposals supporting these objectives will be considered:

- ◆ Projects that reduce waste going to Marion County disposal facilities
- ◆ Promotion and education programs

The application deadline for the Fall 2012 grant cycle is **October 31**.

Download your copy of the Waste Reduction Grant application at

www.mcrecycles.net. Please contact Griselda Puga at

gpuga@co.marion.or.us or 503-566-4149 for more information about the program.



STOP ILLEGAL BACKYARD BURNING!

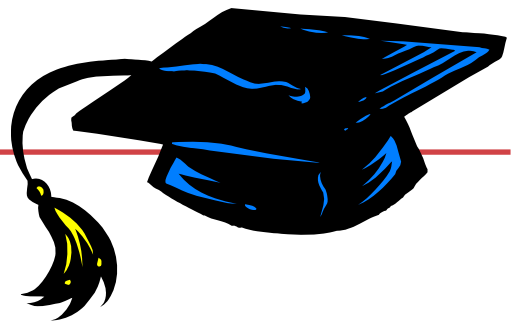
Backyard burning of household garbage produces harmful pollutants which cause serious health and environmental problems. Burning one pound of garbage in a barrel can emit 10,000 times more dioxin than processing it at Marion County's waste to energy facility.

Report the Backyard Burning of Garbage!
Call the Department of Environmental Quality at
1-888-997-7888

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

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Graduate Gallery



Congratulations to **Erika Breton** for completing her payback hours and earning her certificate!



"I did a lot of special events like the Compster Sale, the Oregon State Fair, the Earth Day celebration at the Oregon Garden, the Silverton Art Festival and the Fiesta Mexicana in Woodburn. A good chunk of my payback hours came from helping out at the Salem Saturday Market, with their Zero Waste Zone. That has been fun since there are immediate results and long term effects as well. When I'm volunteering there I'm directly impacting the recycling and composting that's happening that day but I'm also teaching people how to dispose of items so they'll know for next time. I've really enjoyed completing my payback hours because it's helped me get to know my community and find out what kind of fun things happen around here." - Erika

Ask Sally Sustainability...



Q: Is it really a big deal to throw away food waste if we recover energy from it in Marion County anyway?

A: There are many reasons that wasting food is problematic. Food accounts for nearly 20% of garbage in Marion County. Of the food bought in the United States, it is estimated that 40% ends up getting thrown away. This is especially sad in a state like Oregon which has one of the nation's highest rates of hunger. Also, the environmental impacts of food production such as fertilizer and pesticide application, water use, and transporting and processing food happen before the food ever reaches our plates.

Because food waste is relatively heavy compared to most other waste, it requires more fuel to take it to a disposal facility. Once it arrives at the waste-to-energy facility, it is burned with virtually no environmental impacts in regards to air emissions. However, because food waste is wet, it is relatively inefficient to burn. Worse yet, if food waste ends up at a landfill, it becomes one of the main contributors to creating an methane, a greenhouse gas which is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. While some landfills contain methane capture systems, they only capture 80% of the methane generated so food waste is directly responsible for the foul odors & global warming associated with landfills. The high moisture content also contributes greatly to the leachate which seeps out of landfills so it must also be managed at a considerable expense.

Once food becomes waste, the best option is to compost what you can in your own backyard and send the rest to a commercial composting facility and turned into a valuable soil amendment. Compost has several environmental benefits, including improved soil tilth, improved nutrient & water storage, erosion prevention, disease resistance, and decreased need for pesticides and fertilizers.

TASTY TIDBITS

Paint-go-round

After you prime your wall with good old Marion County beige or gray you may want to finish your project with something more flashy, like recycled MetroPaint. This article from Sustainable Business Oregon suggests it is gaining popularity!

Miller Paint Company last week signed an expanded contract with the Metro regional government to buy at least 40,000 gallons of recycled paint per year through 2017.

Portland-based Miller will then sell the paint, which retails under the label MetroPaint, at 50 Miller Paint stores across the Pacific Northwest, according to Metro.

MetroPaint, part of Oregon's nation-leading paint recycling program, is made at the Swan Island processing center. About 19 percent of the paint entering the recycling process is from Miller.

MetroPaint available in Salem:

Miller Paint
390 Lancaster Drive NE

Building Materials Bargain Center
775 Front St. NE



Cars to Coats



When **General Motors** has left-over sound-absorbing materials from the Chevrolet Malibu and Buick Verano, it doesn't just recycle the

material. Instead, GM donates the material to Veronika Scott of The Empowerment Plan.

Scott then turns the material into self-heated waterproof coats that can be converted into sleeping bags. These coats are then distributed to homeless individuals in Detroit and other cities.

~Earth911.com

Green Guiltiest

Of all the non-green activities that Americans engage in, the one they feel the guiltiest about is also a huge contributor to the nation's waste stream, according to a recent survey.

"This is an issue that gets right to the core of who we are as Americans. We were all taught to waste not, want not and trained that wasting food equals being a bad person," said Suzanne Shelton, founder and CEO of Shelton Group, which conducted the survey, in a prepared statement. "Yet the average household throws out 470 pounds of



food every year, making it the [second] largest component in our nation's landfills. So, I'm afraid we have plenty to feel guilty about."

~Resource Recycling

Loving Your Lunchbox

PlanetBox was looking for a way to provide a durable, non-toxic and recyclable lunch box design that could accommodate a variety of servings and food types. Their answer? The Rover and Launch lunch systems. The basic systems include a durable stainless steel multi-compartment container and a set of fun magnets to decorate the outside. Upgrade your system to include dipping containers, carrying cases, extra magnets, etc.

Visit them at www.planetbox.com



Proud to Be a Zero



Fans of EarthWISE certified business and green living trend setter Pringle Creek Community should check out the article on page 72 of the Summer Edition of *Trim Tab*, the digital magazine of the International Living Future Institute. The article hails PCC as one of the first two buildings to achieve the Institutes' Net Zero Energy Building certification. Find this issue and others at

<http://legacy.cascadiagbc.org/trimtab>.

Jobs!

Recycling Service Manager

Garten Services is currently seeking to hire a full-time Recycling Services Manager in Salem. This position is responsible for overseeing the operations of the company's largest division, which specializes in fiber, metal, plastic, and electronics recycling. They are looking for a dynamic and versatile individual to manage operations and support the company's mission. Visit www.garten.org

Sustainability Leadership Certificate Program Manager

The University of Oregon Academic Extension invites applications to fill a part time position of Program Manager in the Sustainability Leadership Program in Portland or Eugene. The mission of the Sustainability Leadership Program is to provide practitioners with a theoretical foundation and practical tools for leading organizations, communities, and individuals to develop sustainable living and working environments. Visit <http://hr.uoregon.edu/jobs> and look for "Unclassified Positions."

Master Recycler Call to Serve



Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Howl-a-palooza – Salem River Road Park
3045 River Rd N. (Near Fred Meyer North)**

This is an exciting new event sponsored by Marion County and the Cities of Keizer and Salem to promote education and services that are available for local dog owners. Some of the activities offered include: Dog license amnesty; low-cost vaccinations; entertainment & activities, and a Howl-o-ween costume contest for dogs. Two Master Recycler volunteers are needed to staff a how-to-make-your-own-dog-toys from scrap items booth at the event. The volunteers must also be willing to make some dog toy demos to display. We have several easy to make ideas available. So, are ya feeling crafty? Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us.

**Friday, October 26 - Sunday, October 28
Shifts available from 10 a.m. until 8 pm**

Salem Home & Remodeling Show – Oregon State Fairgrounds

MR volunteers needed to help us get the word out about composting in good ole' Marion County. We should draw in tons of interested visitors who'll want to take home their very own bag of **Brown Island Blend** compost. 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. Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us.



Fall 2012 Master Recycler class listening to engineer Don Alexander at the North Marion ash-processing facility.

Events & Occasions



Saturday, October 20, 2012

FSELc Fall Edible Mushroom Retreat

Drift Creek Camp

Join Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center at Drift Creek Camp for a one-day edible mushrooming retreat with mushroom expert Lee Gray. Participants will learn to identify and collect a variety of edible local mushrooms and enjoy time at the beautiful Drift Creek Camp. Cost is **\$40/adult and \$25/children aged 4-11** and includes a meal Saturday. Children 3 and under free. Options to stay Friday or Saturday night. Call 503-391-4145 or email michelle@fselc.org for more information. Registration and refund deadline is October 12th, 2012.

Tuesday, October 11, 7 pm – 8:30 pm

Amateur Naturalist Series - Bats & Spiders

Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center

This series provides an introduction to a wide variety of nature and science topics. The Naturalist series is open to the public and no previous knowledge of the topics is required! Classes are \$5 per person and registration is required due to limited space. Visit www.fselc.org 503-391-4145 for a full description of all of the classes.

Tuesday, October 11, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm (2nd/3rd grade)

Tuesday, October 18, 4:30-5:30 pm (4th/5th grade)

Nature Kids Youth Naturalist Series - The Secret Life of Slugs

Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center

Through classes and field trips, students will learn about various science and nature-related topics. Classes are FREE! Visit www.fselc.org 503-391-4145 for a full description of all of the classes.

Thursday October 25, 2012 7:00 pm

Christina Eisenberg—Wolf's Tooth: Trophic Cascades and Biodiversity

Loucks Auditorium at the Salem Public Library

The Straub Environmental Lecture Series features noted scientists, naturalists and environmental advocates speaking on environmental topics critical to Oregon and the West. Thanks to the support of our generous donors and sponsors, all lectures are free and open to the public.

Friday, October 26, 2012 8 am - 5 pm

2012 Build Small | Live Large Housing Summit: A Market Revival for Single Family Housing

PSU Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201

This one-day housing summit will challenge architects, developers, builders, remodelers, urban designers, policy makers and real estate professionals to craft strategies for the growing small housing market. Participants will learn about successfully built projects, financing, space-efficient design, incentives and policy initiatives. Contact Nick Hartrich 503-228-5533 x02

Tuesday, October 11, 7 pm

Salem Progressive Film Series: HAPPY

Grand Theater, 191 High Street NE, Salem

Does money make you HAPPY? Kids and family? Your work? Do you live in a world that values and promotes happiness and well-being? Are we in the midst of a happiness revolution? Roko Belic, director of the Academy Award® nominated "Genghis Blues" now brings us HAPPY, a film that sets out to answer these questions and more. Taking us from the bayous of Louisiana to the deserts of Namibia, from the beaches of Brazil to the villages of Okinawa, HAPPY explores the secrets behind our most valued emotion.

The Back Page



The EcoARK is an 85 ft high structure comprised of POLLI-Brick, building blocks made out of recycled plastic and designed to resemble bottles. The interlocking bricks make the building easy to disassemble and provide good lighting and insulation to the building.

Nation Geographic produced an hour long show featuring the building and its designers as part of a series on megastructures. Find it at www.natgeotv.com/ca and search for "EcoARK."



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

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