

October
2013



Winter Master Recycler Class p. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Master Recycler Newsletter

Used Clothes: Not So Charitable

Thanks to Portland Master Recycler Coordinator **J. Lauren Norris** for sharing with us this excellent and eye-opening article she wrote for the Portland Metro Master Recycler Newsletter.

As many of you know, I have been volunteering in Guatemala since 1993. The markets in Guatemala are incredible places to see textiles with vibrant colors and designs, however over time I started seeing an odd shift in what people were wearing.

In the early 90's all children wore the handmade textiles designed by their ancestors. But by the late 90's boys were wearing t-shirts and sweatshirts that they wanted me to help them translate. I started hearing mothers lament that their daughters also wanted to wear western clothes. They would work over the stoves discussing the merits and drawbacks to letting their daughters switch from their traditional ways to more western ways.

According to NPR, the average American discards more than 10 pounds of clothes each year. The EPA states that 13.1 million tons of textiles are landfilled. The recovery rate is about 15.3%. Several sources state that about half of that is recovered by going to reuse charities.

Charities receive so many donations that they can only keep clothes in retail outlets for a very short time. Goodwill reports that they receive one billion pieces of clothing every year. In order to not get backed up, their inventory never stays in their hands more than three weeks. The vast majority is then exported. According to NPR, the United States exports 1,000 tons of used clothes every day. The clothes are sold in bulk for 6 to 12 cents per pound to companies that export the clothes to developing countries. According to Oxfam, about 50% of used-



Market in Guatemala in 1993

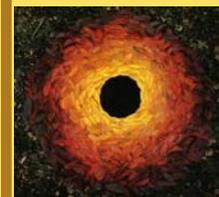


Same market in 2011

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"The starting point for a better world is the belief that is possible."
~Norman Cousins

Used Clothes...

clothes are shipped over seas to Africa and Latin America. Charities like Goodwill make about a \$2 billion in exports every year according to Oxfam.

The assumption is that the clothes help the countries receiving them, but Oxfam and the United Nations want us to think again. In 2002, the UN estimated that tens of thousands of textile workers in Africa had lost their jobs due to the used clothes industry. Alarmed by this trend, the United Nations encouraged developing nations to ban the sale of used clothes, which 30 countries have adopted today. The fundamental cause is that garments are being made so cheaply that they have essentially become a disposable product. They aren't meant to last. So as long as we are hungry for cheap textiles, materials will continue to be pumped through at this alarming rate. This trend is drastically affecting the livelihood as well as cultural ways of communities all over the world.

What can we do?

We can take care of our clothes. Wash them on gentle cycles, with cold water and low dryer level. I even dry my clothes on a clothes line whenever possible to avoid the extremity of the dryer. We can also fix our clothes. I sew my buttons on my clothes and take tougher jobs to be altered down the street to my local dry cleaner. The Portland area now has Repair PDX where you can participate in repair cafés. Volunteers mend clothing and textiles as part of each event.

All of my clothes come from thrift and consignment shops. I find it more fun than going to the mall and it is a lot closer. But if you are an online shopper, do not despair! These are fun options for you:

- [Poshmark](#)
- [Threadflip](#)
- [Copious](#)
- [eBay](#)



A closer look at textile donation sheds:



You may have noticed a proliferation of small textile donation sheds popping up around the area. While these do provide a convenient place take worn-out clothing, they are usually for-profit enterprises that donate only a small percentage of their proceeds to a designated charity. Some of them that claim to be charitable organizations have been called into question. Visit www.tvindalert.com for information on one company which has placed bins in our area.

Many local clothing charities are happy to accept worn textiles so they can earn the proceeds directly from selling them to textile markets; call ahead to find out. An even better use for those textiles may be to find local creative reuse groups that are looking for scraps for their projects (try the Salem Sleeping Bag Project at www.facebook.com/SalemSleepingBagProject).

Of course, the best way to manage waste is to prevent it, so now is a good time to scrutinize the clothes you buy for durability and reparability!

Operation Green Fence Update

An inside look at Operation Green Fence

By Patty Moore and Sally Houghton

Oct. 18, 2013

Resource Recycling editor's note: Patty Moore and Sally Houghton, of Moore Recycling Associates Inc., traveled to China in September to present at the 8th Annual China international Recycling Conference and Exhibition. During their time there they got an up-close look at the realities of China's Operation Green Fence, which has deeply affected many aspects of our industry by forcing scrap exporters to reach higher quality standards in order to move material into Chinese ports. A portion of Moore and Houghton's travel costs were paid for by Resource Recycling.

The following are a few key takeaways Houghton and Moore developed after meeting with Chinese government officials, scrap processors and traders in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Hong Kong.

Tougher standards here to stay

The push for cleaner and more efficient processing is coming from the highest levels of China's national government. The current enforcement effort will end at some point, probably late this year or early in 2014, but the stricter regulations passed in 2005 and 2009, and enacted broadly early this year will not be relaxed. In addition to stronger import controls, there appears to be movement toward greater standardization in handling and processing regulations, material characterization and operating procedures. Checks on import material quality and paperwork accuracy will continue after the Green Fence comes down, so suppliers will find export buyers less able to be flexible.

Pushing forward on pollution

Scrap processing facilities in China must now show that they can operate within current pollution and energy efficiency standards. The government is also encouraging facilities to locate in recycling industrial zones, 10 of which have been established so far. Each zone will have the infrastructure, including water treatment and solid waste management, that will help reclaimers meet environmental standards. The zones have been underutilized in the past because scrap processors knew they'd be subject to much closer scrutiny there than they've been

accustomed to. But incentives to locate in the zones are likely to seem more attractive as regulation and strict enforcement become the norm everywhere.

A real effort toward domestic recycling?

For years, recycling and environmental advocates have urged China to find ways to recycle more of its own waste as consumer society continues to expand there. Government officials now seem to be taking seriously the notion of domestic recovery of recyclable materials. New disassembly facilities figure in the plan, and the government is extending the same types of technical and financial support evident in the import sector to improve the domestic collection infrastructure. Details are still scarce on the specifics of how domestic programs may evolve, however.

Small Chinese operations suffer

The recent crackdown on illegal imports – a joint effort of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, China Customs and AQSIQ (the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine) – has driven out of business many small operations and many facilities in southern China. And while the Green Fence is not aimed at reducing imports, the importation and use of scrap plastic has fallen. Large processors are operating at 60-70 percent of capacity and small facilities at 50-60 percent. Processors margins are very low, and have dropped 30 percent in the past year. Of course, the Green Fence is just one piece of the global economic picture, which also includes a weak economy in the EU – one of the major markets for Chinese goods – and the slowing growth in China's own economy.

Officials still busy enforcing and fining

While the Green Fence has been successful in reducing the importation of poor-quality scrap, customs is still uncovering illegal activities including non-complying material, false reporting of material types and values, resale of imported products once in China, and combined and purposely mixed loads. The perpetrators face increasing risks; penalties are high and include blacklisting from import activities. And, while the practice is not illegal, shipping through Hong Kong and transloading is beginning to be discouraged.

~From Resource Recycling



Winter Master Recycler Class Announced

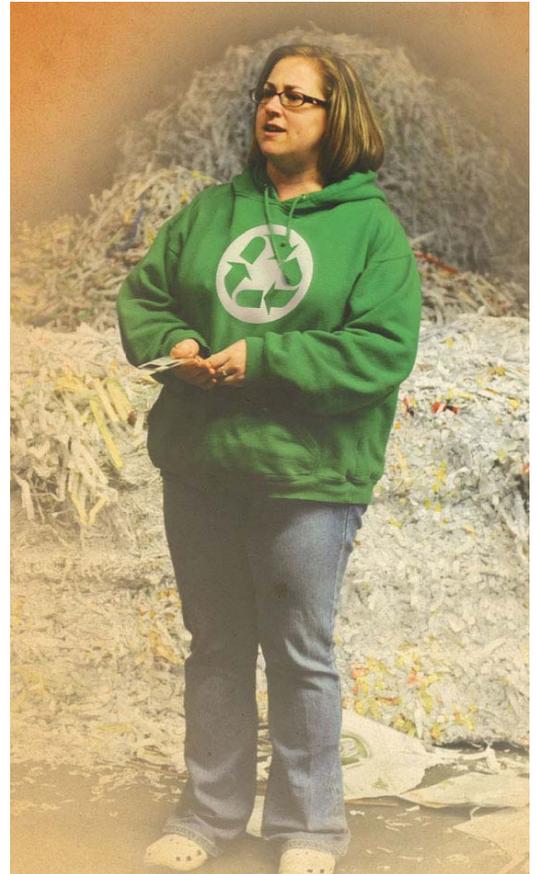
Registration is now open for the Winter Master Recycler Class starting Thursday, January 30th, 2014! The application deadline is Friday, January 5th.

If you have any friends or coworkers who you think might be interested please have them visit our website at www.mcrecycles.net and fill out the application today!

Class members receive over thirty hours of comprehensive training in solid waste issues and opportunities. In return they will be required to pay back this training through their choice of a variety of outreach activities.

Activities can range from staffing a recycling information table, leading fieldtrips, setting up or expanding a recycling program at a workplace, or organizing a neighborhood educational workshop. Payback opportunities will be provided for class members, but they are also welcome to design and implement their own waste reduction/recycling outreach project. We encourage creativity and personal initiative!

The eight evening sessions will begin on Thursday, January 30th, and will continue on Thursday evenings through March 20th from 6:15pm until 9:00pm at the Marion County Public Works office. The training also includes three Saturday fieldtrips to local recycling and composting facilities, which begin at 8:00am and finish between noon and 3:30 pm. **Spread the word!**



Straub Environmental Center Logo Contest



Help the newly-renamed Straub Environmental Center create their new logo!

Straub Environmental Learning Center has a great relationship with the community, so who better to turn to in helping to create their new image, but friends and families in their very own supportive community! The new name needs a new logo and everyone is invited and encouraged to participate. The sky's the limit!

The winner will receive a \$100 cash gift and free admission to any and all programs offered by SEC for one year!

The contest runs through November 18, and the unveiling of the new logo, along side the new name, will be at the Green Awards on March 1, 2014

Good luck and let's see the creativity flow!

Graduate Gallery



WANTED:

Master Recycler Class participants to complete & report their payback hours!

- Do you love what you learned and think others should know it too?
- Have you spend time educating family, friends and co-workers about the joys of waste reduction but haven't turned in your hours?
- Do you wish you had a lovely recycled wood framed certificate like the happy person to the left?

There's no time like the present! Opportunities to volunteer abound on page 7, and operators are standing by to take your hours reports at 503-365-3191 (or at least Bailey is!).

Get Your Composter Today!

GET A HANDLE ON YOUR FALL YARD CLEAN UP WITH THESE GREAT DEALS ON COMPOSTERS AND SUPPLIES AT **FRESH START MARKET**

 Ben's Bin \$20	 Compost Turner \$19⁹⁹	 Worm Bin \$26	 Oval Kitchen Collector Pail \$10	 Filter Kitchen Collector Pail \$16²⁵	 The Earth Machine HOME COMPOSTING 21ST CENTURY The Earth Machine CLEARANCE PRICE! \$34 REG. \$80
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CHECK OUT THIS UNIQUE MARKET'S GREAT COFFEE, FOOD AND GIFT ITEMS TOO!
3020 CENTER ST. NE, SALEM
CALL 503-585-4956


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



Free Fruit!

FallingFruit.org is an international project that shows where the general public can find fruits, vegetables and nuts that are free for the taking. (And yes, it's all entirely legal.)

A world map that looks like your average Google map, this version is covered with dots representing trees or plants that have produce available for the taking. Click on a dot near your location, and you can zoom in and get a description of the type of fruit/vegetable/nut available.

Find it at, you guessed it, www.FallingFruit.org



~From Earth911.org

Recycling Bias

NPR reported last month on a pair of Boston University professors' findings that the shape of a recyclable material plays a large role in people's recycling behavior.



A whole piece of paper is much more likely to be recycled than a partial piece and an intact can more likely than a crushed one because people tend to view the former as valuable and the latter as not.

Working to educate on these biases could be another strategy to increase recycling rates.

For the whole story visit:

<http://n.pr/15zuQWb>

CRT Crimes

An investigation by the Basel Action Network alleges that a firm tasked with recycling CRT glass from California has abandoned more than nine million pounds of the glass in three warehouses located in Yuma, Arizona.



The company allegedly responsible, Dow Management, was paid more than \$581,000 from a California state recycling fund to responsibly recycle the CRT glass. The firm has since been shuttered and Dow "principles are nowhere to be found," according to the Seattle-based watchdog organization.

The investigation also uncovered CRTs abandoned in Colorado by now defunct Luminous Recycling and in Maryland by CDM eCycling. Altogether, the stockpiles comprise tens of thousands of tons of lead contaminated glass.

~Compiled from Resource Recycling



Six Habits

A lot of food waste can be prevented by integrating little habits into your cooking routine:



1. **Make a plan.** Set aside a time to plan your meals and lists so you buy only what you need.
2. **Wash & prep ingredients.** You'll be more likely to use them if they are clean, chopped and ready.
3. **Organize by freshness.** Create an "eat me first" box for the most time-sensitive stuff.
4. **Use your freezer.** Anticipate excess and freeze casseroles, soups, herbs, etc. for later.
5. **Pickle it.** Prolong veggie life by making easy refrigerator pickles (try a quick search online).
6. **Label everything.** Use big, clear labels to solve the problem of mystery leftovers!

Another Winner!

Congratulations to Colleen McDonough of Salem for winning an Earth Machine composter after her daughter entered her name at the first-ever Salem Streets Festival.

Happy Composting Colleen!



It Goes Way Back

A recent conference titled "The Origins of Recycling" invited scholars from around the world to share their findings on the topic of ancient peoples reusing and recycling tools and other items.

It turns out evidence of recycling goes back at least 500,000 years and included recycling and reusing flint and bone.



According to the Associated Press, one scholar in the field says "the phenomenon reflects how despite living millennia apart and in completely different environments, humans appear to display 'similar responses to the challenges and opportunities presented by life over thousands of years.'"

Master Recycler Call to Serve



URGENT!!

Fri, October 25 - Sun, October 27

Shifts needed:

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

Salem Home & Remodeling Show - State Fairgrounds

Master Recycler 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. Be there or be elsewhere (and square!) Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us.



Flexible Date

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Mt. Angel is seeking a Master Recycler volunteer to help educate their customers and the community about how reusing construction and other materials that they accept and sell at their store not only helps Habitat for Humanity build houses for people in need, but is also a major help to the environment. A specific project has not been decided yet, but some ideas include creating a display and tabling at community events in the Mt. Angel/Silverton area, creating signs within their store to inform customers about the environmental benefits of buying used, presenting to community organizations about how the ReStore helps the environment, or helping them to become our next EarthWISE business. If you are interested in this, please contact LouJean Fobert at lfobert@NWVHFH.org or 503-845-2164.

Flexible Date

Wednesday from 3:00 - 4:30pm

A volunteer is needed to lead a paper making activity with an after-school environmental club at Turner Elementary School. We have all the materials and can show you how to lead this fun activity. If you can volunteer, please contact Bailey at bpayne@co.marion.or.us or 503-365-3191.

Flexible Date

There are approximately 30 Oregon Green Schools throughout Marion County that have programs in place to reduce waste, recycle, compost and save energy and water. Each of these schools conducts periodic waste audits where they save up a representative sample of the waste and then sort through it to analyze what they are throwing away. We have all the materials and can train you how to conduct these fun activities. Each waste audit takes approximately 60-90 minutes and the optional follow-up activity takes another 60 minutes.

October Update: we also get lots of request from schools that want classroom presentations which we have the materials for.

If you can help with either activity, please contact Bailey at bpayne@co.marion.or.us or 503-365-3191.

Flexible Date

Community Action Head Start

Master Recycler needed to teach 20 young children about recycling. Ideally, they would like someone to come sometime Monday - Thursday sometime before noon. One possible activity is to talk about what composting is and read them a story about worm composting that is geared for their

age (Bailey has a book). Another idea is to do a simplified waste sort activity (we have the kit). If you would like to help out with this, please contact Jennine Osorio at lunaleo27@yahoo.com or 503-991-3381 and then let Bailey (bpayne@co.marion.or.us) know so that he can arrange to give you the materials.

Flexible Date

Shangri-La

Shangri-La, a non-profit human services organization providing support to adults with disabilities, mental illness and economic challenges, is looking for a volunteer to join its Recycling Club as leader and captain, and teach recycling information to a small group of adults with developmental disabilities. Started through a grant from Marion County Waste Reduction, the Recycling Club spends an hour a week learning and educating others about recycling, reducing and reusing. The captain would be responsible for teaching or organizing the weekly session, and preparing any materials or making any arrangements necessary for the session. All activities must be approved by the LEAP Manager. LEAP is open Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Regular staff will provide supports for any personal needs of the individuals served. This volunteer opportunity requires an Shangri-La volunteer application, criminal history check, and required trainings. If you would like to sign up for this, please contact Ashley Erb at 503-581-1732, x328 or ashley@shangrilacorp.org.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

Events & Occasions



Tuesday, October 22, 2013 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Creative Reuse Craft Night

Salem Public Library

DIY Halloween Lid Monsters - Everyone is invited to bring scissors and create kooky, spooky, reused lid monsters. RSVP is requested at info@diystudio.net. Free event for all-ages. www.diystudio.net 503-588-6052

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 - 7:30pm

"Conservation, Conservation Science, and Conservation Ethics," Lecture by Dr. Bill Wei **Hallie Ford Museum of Art-Roger Hull Lecture Hall**

This talk presents examples of research conducted at the Cultural Heritage Agency of The Netherlands, looking at the interplay between conservation, conservation science, and conservation ethics. Admission charged. www.cal.willamette.edu. 503-370-6855

Wednesday, October 23, 2013 - 6:30am - 6:30pm

Agriculture in the Willamette Valley

Salem Public Library

Speakers will discuss the present and future of Willamette Valley agriculture. Panel presentation by League of Women Voters. Program is free and open to the public. www.marionpolk.or.lwvnet.org. 503-363-7118

Saturday, November 2, 2013 - 7:00am - 7:00pm

Mushroom Retreat

Straub Environmental Center—Drift Creek Camp

Join SEC for their annual mushroom retreat in beautiful Drift Creek camp. Learn about harvesting edible mushrooms and get hands-on training harvesting many mushrooms that grow in our outdoor classroom, the forest. Tuition: \$40 adult/\$25 children. www.fselc.org. 503-391-4145

Thursday, Nov. 14th 7:00pm

Salem Progressive Film Series: *A Fierce Green Fire* **Grand Theater, Salem**

A FIERCE GREEN FIRE chronicles the largest movement of the 20th century and one of the keys to the 21st. It connects all major parts of environmentalism. It focuses on activism, people fighting to save their homes, their lives, the future – and succeeding against all odds. Doors open at 6:15p. Admission: Adults \$4, Students \$3 www.salemprogressivefilms.net. 503-881-5305

Nature Kids, 4:30 pm -

5:30 pm

2nd/3rd Graders - 2nd

Thursday of each

month

4th/5th Graders - 3rd

Thursday of each month

Straub Environmental Center

Join Bobbie Snead at Straub Environmental Learning Center to learn about where our food comes from, gray whales, invasive species, recycling and more. Call today to reserve your child's space in this popular program! Limited space - reserve today at nichole@fselc.org or call 503-391-3145. \$5/class or \$30/series (7 classes total)

November (14 & 21st) - Learn about gray whales!

Third Tuesday of each month (12 month series)

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Straub Environmental Center

Sand County Almanac Revisited

Aldo Leopold believed that people should learn how to discover beauty in commonplace events and places. Through reading Leopold's Sand County Almanac, participants will be able to explore an awareness and appreciation of nature in their own backyard. Each month, attendees will exchange thoughts on Leopold's book through group discussions, and writing and sharing monthly entries in their own nature journal. This 12-month class will meet on the third Tuesday of each month starting in September. Cost: \$5/class or \$50/series. www.fselc.org 503-391-4145

Jan. 20 to April 13, 2014 - Registration open now

Oregon Master Naturalist Online

Designed for those interested in Oregon's natural history and how our state's natural resources are sustainably managed. You will learn natural history of plants, animals, habitats and geology; history and processes of landscape change and relevant topics in present-day sustainable natural resource management. Option 1 (Required to become an Oregon Master Naturalist, with Ecoregion Specialization taught separately) online and onsite. Option 2: Online. Option 1: \$225; Option 2: \$325 <http://oregonmasternaturalist.org/>

The Back Page



A young artist couple was looking for a way to capture the beautiful light that played about their West Virginia retreat and decided that a wall of reclaimed windows was just the ticket for their seasonal mountain cabin. Total cabin cost: \$500. Watching fireflies blend upwards toward the starry night sky from inside: Priceless.

<http://yhoo.it/1bXr8IL>



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

5155 Silverton Rd. NE

Salem, OR 97305

Waste Reduction Coordinators:

Beth Myers-Shenai

503-365-3180

smyersshenai@co.marion.or.us

Bailey Payne

503-365-3191

bpayne@co.marion.or.us

Alan Pennington

503-365-3188

apennington@co.marion.or.us

Griselda Puga

503-566-4159

gpuga@co.marion.or.us