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WTE Contract Extended p. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Master Recycler Newsletter

State Toxics Reduction Enacted



Government offices and schools across the Northwest will be healthier places to work and visit thanks to a new “green” janitorial supplies contract developed by Oregon’s Department of Administrative Services in partnership with Washington’s Department of Enterprise Services.

The contract -- developed with support from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Washington Department of Ecology and Responsible Purchasing Network -- will supply public agencies with people- and planet-friendly janitorial supplies that reduce the use of toxic chemicals without increasing costs.

Reducing toxic threats is a top priority for both states and they are leveraging purchasing power to find solutions that protect both the economy and the environment. Oregon and Washington agencies spend more than \$20 million on janitorial supplies annually. The market impacts of this contract go beyond state purchasing as local governments and public schools may also take advantage of the price agreements.

“Government purchasing is a big economic driver. By encouraging the design and use of more responsible products, we can boost our economy while promoting better public health,” said Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber. “When states buy green goods and services that are comparable in quality, availability and cost to traditional ones, it’s a triple win.”

Oregon Executive Order No. 12-05, signed in April 2012 by Kitzhaber, calls on state agencies to support the advancement of green chemistry in Oregon through multiple strategies, including new state purchasing policies focused on less toxic products.

In Washington, Executive Order 04-01 directs all state agencies to purchase equipment, supplies and other products that do not contain persistent, toxic chemicals unless there is no feasible alternative.

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"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."
~Maya Angelou

Toxics Reduction...

(Continued from page 1)



“Environmentally-preferred doesn't mean green at any cost,” said Washington Gov. Jay Inslee. “We want goods and services that get the job done, at a fair price, with less harm to people and the environment – that’s best value for state taxpayers.”

The Department of Administrative Services negotiated prices with Coastwide Laboratories, Waxie Sanitary Supply, Interline Brands and West Coast Paper to provide government customers in both states with an extensive catalog of environmentally preferable products. The new price agreements begin Aug. 1, 2013 and may be extended in two-year increments until 2018.

The contract offers a comprehensive approach to green cleaning that includes low environmental impact cleaning products, tools, equipment, consultation and training.

“In the past, there was a perception that green products cost more and didn’t work as well, said Michael Jordan, State of Oregon Chief Operations Officer. “That has changed. Green janitorial products cost the same or less than traditional ones and are just as effective.”

Both states are pursuing less toxic products without compromising effectiveness or increasing costs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmentally preferable purchasing as products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. Best value is the right balance of price, quality, performance and environmental protection achieved through competitive procurement methods over the life of the purchased good or service.

“This model contract for certified ‘green’ cleaners is a successful and pioneering initiative that we hope other states will replicate,” said Alicia Culver, Executive Director of the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN). “It will protect custodial workers and building occupants – particularly children – from becoming exposed to chemicals than can cause asthma and other serious health hazards.” RPN developed the environmental specifications for this solicitation under a contract with the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO).

For a comprehensive guide to the toxicity of a wide range of household and personal products check out the Environmental Working Group’s consumer guides at www.ewg.org.

Waste-to-Energy Contract Extension Agreement Reached

Covanta Marion, Inc., a subsidiary of Covanta Energy Corporation, and Marion County announced an agreement that extends sustainable waste disposal services for the county at the Covanta Marion Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility.

The new agreement, which is for up to five years, was recently approved by the Marion County Board of Commissioners and begins in September 2014 after the expiration of an existing 30-year agreement.

“The new contract provides for the continuation of reliable waste disposal and extends a successful partnership between Covanta and Marion County that began in the mid-1980s,” remarked Commissioner Sam Brentano, Marion County. “The Energy-from-Waste facility coupled with innovative recycling programs has enabled Marion County to be a leader in solid waste management.”



Covanta Marion's plant in Brooks, OR



Covanta Marion is also an EarthWISE Certified business!

Since 1987, the Covanta Marion Energy-from-Waste facility has been a critical component of the county's sustainable, integrated waste management system.

The County has built a world-class system that prioritizes recycling and relies on energy recovery for material that remains.

Electricity and metal recycling revenues from the EfW facility enable the county to provide residents with innovative recycling programs including, among other things, a curbside collection program for non-traditional recyclable materials such as latex paint, household batteries, motor oil, antifreeze and cooking oil.

The county has also achieved a recycling rate of approximately 60 percent which is among the highest in the country and more than double the national average.

Under terms of the new agreement, the county will continue to supply 145,000 tons of municipal solid waste per year to Covanta. “Covanta is pleased to continue our long and mutually-beneficial partnership with Marion County,” said Paul Stauder, Covanta senior vice president of business management. “The county and its residents should be proud of the sustainable waste management system they have worked hard to establish over the years. These efforts have resulted in a true model of environmentally sound waste disposal that can be emulated by communities around the country. We are proud of Covanta's contribution in providing a critical component of that system through our Energy from-Waste facility.”



Graduate Gallery



Even in these tough “Operation Green Fence” times it’s not completely impossible to recycle plastic bags. Master Recyclers **Ellen Stevens & Roxanne Shoemaker (pictured)** had some leftover bags from the Assistance League’s Operation School Bell supply drive that they were recently able to recycle at Agri-Plas. Key to their success? A clean and carefully sorted load taken directly to the recycler.

Even in that condition there are no guarantees - although clear film has the best chance - but a quick check with Agri-Plas ahead of time at 503-390-2381 will let you know if it is worth the effort. Thanks for the photo Ellen!

Do You “Like” What We Do?

Then let us know on Facebook!

If you are a Facebook user and have already liked our Environmental Services page, be sure to visit us once in a while and also like the messages we have to share. It is amazing what a few engaged users can do to help spread our great waste reduction and resource stewardship message to the far corners of the county (and beyond)!



Proud of our EarthWISE businesses? Then check out the new one posted each Monday and like it!

Think more people need to know about the amazing Oregon Green Schools program or how to get rid of pesky unwanted yellow pages? Then like the recent posts!

It’s a super-simple way to help your Master Recycler voice reach a little further.

Haven’t like us on Facebook yet? Well, what are you waiting for??

www.facebook.com/MCEnviroservices.





TASTY TIDBITS



Mattress-Go-Round

The California State Senate

approved the Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act last week by a vote of 31-8. It also passed California's State Assembly 66-11.



The measure will create a nonprofit recovery organization, similar to Paint-care in Oregon, which would be responsible for planning, implementing and administering a system to collect discarded used mattresses, dismantle them and recycle their materials for use in new products.

The bill has also been backed by the International Sleep Products Association. Connecticut and Rhode Island have also passed mattress recycling legislation.

Visit www.ca4mattressrecycling.org.

Are You Up For It?

The Northwest Earth Institute's

EcoChallenge is an opportunity to change your life for good. For two weeks, October 15-30, they challenge you to change one habit for Earth. You choose your challenge, they connect you with other EcoChallengers, and collectively we prove that small actions create real change. Categories include:

- Water Conservation
- Energy Efficiency
- Sustainable Food Options
- Alternative Transportation
- Trash Reduction
- Choose Your Own

Visit www.ecochallenge.org to get started.



ReStore Donation Tips



Earth 911 recently tracked down a number of great tips to make donating building materials and household

goods to Habitat for Humanity ReStore a smooth operation:

1. *Have large items picked up.* Both the Salem and Mt. Angel ReStores provide pickup services (started with Marion County waste reduction grants!).
2. *Keep building materials in good shape.* If you are dismantling a building let your contractor know you are going to donate the materials.
3. *Keep quality in mind.* The items need to have resale value.
4. *Ask about appliances.* Even non-working ones may have value to them as scrap metal.
5. *Document your donation.* You'll be happy you did at tax time!

Mt. Angel ReStore: 503-263.6691

Salem ReStore: 503-485-4845



Go directly to "GO"



Sustainable Business Oregon

reports that Portland based company GO Box has diverted over

25,000 disposable fast food waste containers since it started in 2002.

Food cart customers and owners pay into the system annually which provides a token to exchange for getting a meal in a durable, reusable container. When a dirty container is returned to a drop off site, a new token is issued and the containers are cleaned in a commercial kitchen and distributed back to businesses.

Owner Laura Weiss, who arranges pickups and deliveries by bicycle, estimates there are still 60,000 disposable containers used per month in Portland, so there is plenty of room to expand her business. www.goboxpdx.com

Save Yer Scraps!

Thanks to Master Recycler Sally

White for pointing us to these great ideas for reusing food scraps!

- Avocado shells make great biodegradable seedling pots.
- Dehydrate fruit peels and rinds then add essential oil for a natural potpourri.
- Keep slugs away from tender plant starts by surrounding them with crushed nut or egg shells.
- Put a little sugar on the inside of peach skins to use as a face cleanser.
- Boil potato skins, strain & cool, then rinse hair a few times with the water to darken gray hair.
- Use banana peels to shine the leaves on houseplants.

It's For Good!



Seattle Goodwill recently released a great video to encourage people to "let it go for good." It's a great reminder that the stuff squirreled away in our cupboards, garages and attics will probably be better served getting back out into the community for another go!

<http://youtu.be/ZqDnLA0LyIQ>

Master Recycler Call to Serve



Fri, October 25 - Sun, October 27

Shifts available from 10 a.m.- 8 pm

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.



Saturdays through October

**Salem Saturday Market
Downtown Salem**

Zero Waste Station volunteers needed! Volunteers educate shoppers about how to sort their items and keep containers free from contamination. Hours are 9 am to 3 pm. Volunteers will receive a market gift card usable at any Salem Farmers Market. Email info@salemsaturdaymarket.org to sign up.

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 to build houses for people in need, but it 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 503-588-5169 x5991.

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. If you are available to help lead this activity at schools, we would love your help! 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. If you can help, please contact Bailey at bpayne@co.marion.or.us or 503-588-5169 x5991.

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 (4080 Reed Rd. SE #150, Salem)

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 over a year ago through a grant from Marion County Waste Reduction, the Recycling Club spends an hour a week learning and helping others learn about recycling, reducing and reusing. The Recycling Club 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 a 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.

Events & Occasions

Tuesday, September 24 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Creative Reuse Craft Night - Back to School

Salem Public Library-Anderson Rooms A&B

Crafters are invited to bring a white T-shirt, scissors and pencils to earn an A+ in Home-Ec. RSVP is requested at info@diystudio.net. Free event for all-ages www.diystudio.net

Sunday, October 6 - 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Marion-Polk Food Share Chef's Nite Out

Salem Convention Center

This signature fundraiser features more than 45 restaurants, caterers, wineries and breweries under one roof. Admission: \$75. 503-581-3855

www.marionpolkfoodshare.org

Wednesday, October 9 - 7:00pm

Straub Environmental Lecture Series - FoodCorps

Salem Public Library-Loucks Auditorium

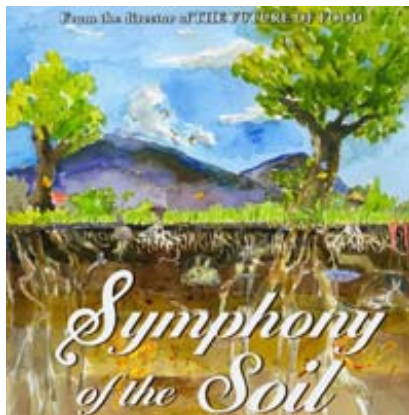
When Curt Ellis left Iowa after creating the Peabody-winning documentary King Corn, something didn't sit right—and it wasn't just the home-brewed high-fructose corn syrup he'd consumed. Join Curt for a lively multimedia presentation as he shares the journey that led him to leave filmmaking and launch FoodCorps: a nationwide "Peace Corps" for healthy and sustainable school food. Program is free and open to the public, with seating on a first-come, first-seated basis.

Thursday, October 10—7:00pm

Salem Progressive Film Series—*Symphony of the Soil*

Grand Theater, Salem

Drawing from ancient knowledge and cutting edge science, *Symphony of the Soil* is an exploration of the miraculous substance soil. By understanding the elaborate relationships and mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals, we come to appreciate the complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource. The film also examines our human relationship with soil, the use and misuse of soil in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest scientific research on soil's key role in ameliorating the most challenging envi-



ronmental issues of our time.

Saturday, October 12 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Costume Swap Salem Public Library

In celebration of National Costume Swap Day, children may bring an old costume to the Salem Public Library Children's Activity Room to swap for another costume. Free admission.

Third Tuesday of each month (12 month series)

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Straub Environmental Learning 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.fsclc.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



This great reuse idea for old vinyl billboards comes from Mystic Mountain Training Center in Pennsylvania via *repurposedMATERIALS, Inc.*, an online buyer and seller of industry waste products for reuse. To see other great uses for industrial castoffs, or to sign up for their informative and entertaining newsletter, visit www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com



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