



The EarthWISE Bulletin

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County

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Important dates:

- June 28 Straub Environmental Lecture (at Capitol Subaru)
- June 30 Valley Roots green gathering (Boone's/ Barnwood Naturals tour)
- July 7 - 10 Marion County Fair
- July 15 - 17 Salem Art Fair
- Aug. 5 - 7 Fiesta Mexicana in Woodburn
- Aug. 26 - Sept. 5 Oregon State Fair
- Sept. 5 Labor Day
- Sept. 8/9 School begins
- Sept. 22 Autumnal Equinox

Sustainable, green, and clean

EarthWISE custodial services dish up environmental-friendly cleaning

Many Salem businesses and residents don't want the lingering smell of chemicals or the waste of paper towels and water when they hire cleaners.

They are turning to **EarthWISE**-certified custodial companies that focus on reduced chemical use, using reusable rags instead of paper towels, running energy-saving equipment and thinking about the environment during their operation.

There are three EarthWISE-certified custodial companies in Salem from which businesses and residents can choose.

Garten runs custodial operations in the Salem, Dallas, Corvallis and Eugene areas. In addition to using towels and rags instead of paper products for cleaning, Garten washes the loads in energy-efficient facilities on the lowest temperature possible to still get the laundry clean.

With about 130 customers, the laundry loads can add up.

"From the Salem area alone, we clean about 125 pounds per day of cleaning cloths and mops," said Stacie Braun, Garten's custodial services manager.

One of its guiding principles is minimizing environmental harm. By choosing the best tools for the job, Garten is able to eliminate the use of more or harsher chemicals.

"For toilet cleaning, we now buy long handle toilet scrubbers, which are more ergonomic," said Gaelen McAllister, Garten's Resource Development Manager. "Then our cleaners can spend more time scrubbing the toilet instead of using more chemicals."

Garten Custodial makes it a point to use a minimal amount of chemicals, most of which come in single-use recyclable packets and all of which are Green Seal-certified.

The single-use packets mean that custodial staff can mix the concentrated chemicals on-



Garten employee, Jordan Clark, prepares to mix a cleaning agent.

ABC Windows and Building Maintenance has an even longer history in Salem—it turned 80 years old this past April. When Todd Londin purchased the business in 2003, eco-friendly practices became the norm.



“I’ve always been a big recycler personally and business-wise. I make that known to all of my employees,” he said. “I am trying to save what little part of the world I can save.”

With hundreds of customers—both residential and commercial—ABC Windows and Building Maintenance has been able to make a significant impact.

Think about the volume of chemicals and paper this company alone has not wasted by using eco-friendly cleaners and towels and rags. The business goes through gallons a day of biodegradable or environmentally friendly cleaners.

“Most of the green chemicals today are as strong as the non-green chemicals and they don’t cost any more,” Londin said.

ABC Windows and Building Maintenance crews will recycle Styrofoam for their customers.

ABC Cleaning operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week to accommodate its clients. That means loads and loads of towels and rags instead of piles of paper towels each day.

“We wash about six loads of laundry every day,” Londin said. “All of our rags are used over and over again instead of using paper towels.”

The 25 employees use the nine available vehicles for their jobs. The employees know to use the smallest possible vehicle for the job—meaning that a large truck isn’t taken to a small job with little equipment.

Londin also has educated his staff members to recycle everything they can from homes and businesses. For major jobs, ABC Cleaning will separate materials into recycling, reuse and donate-to-charity piles.

“We just have the mindset of not putting it in the dumpster if it can be recycled, reused or donated,” Londin said. “Why would we throw this stuff out? Why wouldn’t we do something useful with it?”

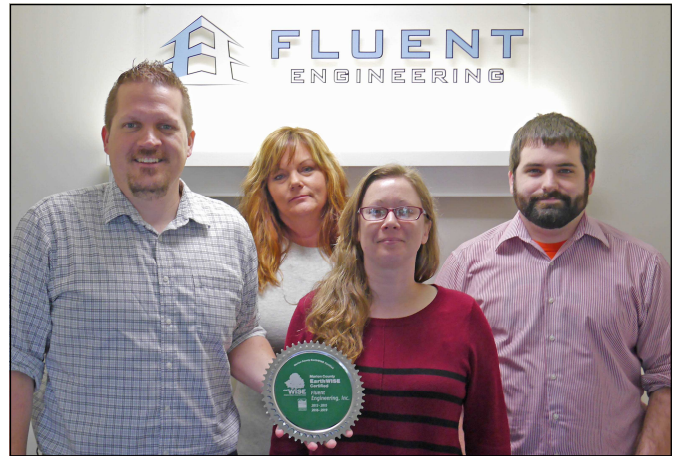
The business also has directly supported Northwest Human Services with its program for at-risk youth. ABC Cleaning picks up deposit cans and bottles from clients and donates those nickels. The company has raised more than \$9,000 for the program, called H.O.S.T.

“The three green custodial companies in Marion County are making a big difference in this area,” said Alan Pennington of Marion County’s EarthWISE program. “These companies have reduced chemical usage, eliminated paper waste and conserved energy in significant ways. Plus, their dedication has educated thousands of people about greener ways to clean.”

To learn more about these EarthWISE certified green cleaners, visit: www.garten.org, www.abcwindowsor.com, or www.aaacleaninginc.com. For more information about the EarthWISE program, go to www.mcEarthWISE.net or call 503-365-3188.

Time to recertify already?
These EarthWISE businesses did

**Fluent Engineering
2013 - 2016**



**Oregon Dept. of Public Safety
Standards & Training
2013 - 2016**

**Capitol Auto Group
2013 - 2016**



More EarthWISE recerts



Marion Recycling Center
2008 - 2016



Brooks Automotive
2013 - 2016



Tune into the latest stories about the 3R's
Waste Matters: On the Air



An EarthWISE business is featured every fourth Thursday at 1:00 pm to chat about their interesting and innovative waste reduction programs! Can we talk to/about you? Give us a call at 503 365-3188.

100.7 FM

88.5 FM

www.kmuz.org

Ask Mister Sustainability

I don't get it, if Styrofoam is recyclable why can't we put it in with all the other things that we toss into our mixed recycling? Why can't they make it easier to get rid of.... I hate this stuff!

Ah.... The material that everyone loves to hate. A great question and one I get all the time. Styrofoam is a trademark of the Dow company, but the material itself is really #6 polystyrene. Like so many other plastics, it's all around us—very commonly used in packing material as peanuts or expanded foam, in food trays and a wide variety of other products...even explosives such as napalm and hydrogen bombs!

Polystyrene foam was an early wunderkind packing material—light, cheap, easily molded—and was/is produced in abundance. The downside is that it takes an incredibly long time to degrade, is prone to static cling (when crumbled), easily escapes into our forests and oceans, and animals may ingest it which may lead to...well...problems. Just imagine how fast it would crumble in a recycling bin.

On the recycling front, only clean, large blocks of polystyrene foam have any financial value. That's because:

1. Foam is full of air and small pieces tend to travel, thus making them unwieldy to handle.
2. It's bulky to ship and store; plus, it takes a bunch of it. A semi truckload weighs less than two tons.
3. It has to be very clean; food contamination is a no-no.
4. The value of the recycled polystyrene is not great. If it were, there would be processors prowling the streets looking for foam.

The EarthWISE answer is to avoid this material, reuse it when you can, and insist that your suppliers use a more manageable/recyclable material. If you are still stuck with some polystyrene blocks all is not lost. Just take it over to the Fresh Start Market at 3020 Center St. NE. Businesses need to call first (503 585 4956) for details.

Factoid Department

How well do we recycle in Marion County? The latest data—2014—tells us that our recovery rate was **59.7%**, second best in the state.

Who was #1? Metro, by a nose...**59.8%**.

Does that mean we're throwing away less? Just kinda. A comparison of the last dozen years, 2003-2014 versus 1992-2002, reveals that we've reduced our trash toss only about **.3 pounds** per day, per person.

It's good, I guess, but not a cock-a-doodle-do number.

So what are we recycling a lot of? **Electronics**. In 2015, Marion County recycled **858 tons** of it.

TV sets made up nearly **60%** of that MC e-waste.

Another biggie? Batteries. We shipped off just under **62 tons** of them for processing.

Wanna know what could make a **38.9 mile** line? That would be the fluorescent tubes that were recycled in 2015 in Marion County.

Speaking of light...In 2007 there were zero utility-scale solar power plants in the US. Today there are over **two thousand** of them, ranging in size **1 MW** to just under **600 MW's**.

But is solar power really going to shine?

Yep. **9.5 GW** of utility solar is scheduled for installation in 2016 — more than from any other single energy source, including natural gas.

Wishful recycling v. **To place an object of unknown recyclability into a recycle bin in the hopes that it might be recycled.**



When in doubt, toss it out!

Here are a few examples of items that need to go into your trash bin, not the blue bin.

Disposable coffee cups & lids



Disposable coffee cartridges



Frozen food boxes



Plastic clamshells

EarthWISE Member Directory

* Denotes new EarthWISE business

Automotive

AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.
Brooks Automotive
Capitol Auto Group
Sanford Automotive

Construction

Advantage Precast, Inc.
Arbuckle Costic Architects, Inc.
Barnwood Naturals, LLC
Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.
CB | Two Architects
dalke Construction
Fluent Engineering, Inc.
Jet Industries
LCG Pence Construction, LLC
Modern Building Systems, Inc.
Nathan Good Architects
Pence Northwest Construction, LLC
Studio 3 Architecture, Inc.
White Oak Construction

Education

Chemeketa Community College
Chemeketa Center for Business & Industry
Straub Environmental Center

Financial

Country Financial
Northwest Farm Credit Services
SELCO Community Credit Union

Food

Bentley's Grill
BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants
Cascade Baking
Kerr Concentrates, Inc.
LifeSource Natural Foods
NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, & Salem Plants
Rafns'
Spring Valley Dairy
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area
Marion County Dog Shelter
Marion County Public Works—Silverton Road Campus
OR Department of Administrative Services- 20 Buildings
OR DAS - Salem Motor Pool
OR DAS - Property Distribution Center
OR Dept. of Corrections (DOC) CDC/Warehouse
OR DOC Gath Road Range
OR DOC Mill Creek Correctional Facility
OR Santiam Correctional Facility
OR State Corrections Institution
OR DOC State Penitentiary
OR Department of Energy
OR DMV Headquarters OR Exposition Center
OR Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training
OR Lottery
OR State Capitol
Salem Center 50+
Salem Civic Center
Salem Fire Department
Salem Housing Authority
Salem - Information Technology
Salem - Public Works Willow Lake WPCF
Salem Shops
Salem - Urban Development's Airport Division
Salem - Urban Development's Director's Office
Salem Public Library

Landscaping

DeSantis Landscapes, Inc.
The Garden Angels
Green Acres Landscape, Inc.

Medical

Holly Chamberlain D.D.S., L.L.C.
Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.
Spinnaker Pediatric Dentistry *
Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

Not For Profit

Assistance League of Salem - Daue House
Assistance League of Salem - Encore Furniture
Center for Hope & Safety
Family Building Blocks
Garten Services, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley

Not For Profit (Continued)

Marion-Polk Food Share
SAIF Corporation
Saint Mark Lutheran Church
Temple Beth Sholom
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Home

Personal Services

Designer Cut
Phiz Spa

Professional/Services

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.
ABC Window Cleaners & Building Maintenance
Allied Video Productions
Cascade Employer's Association
Collier Law
Compex Two Computers
Lancaster Mall Operations
Law Office of Eden Rose Brown
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

Real Estate & Commercial Properties

The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Center
Pringle Creek Community
Wildwood | Mahonia

Recycling/Solid Waste

Agri-Plas, Inc.
Covanta Energy, Marion Facility
D & O Garbage Service Inc.
Loren's Sanitation & Recycling Services
Marion Recycling Center
North Marion Recycling & Disposal
Pacific Sanitation

Retail/Wholesale

Cooke Stationery Co.
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
One Fair World

Tourism/Entertainment

Grand Hotel in Salem
Salem Convention Center
Salem Riverfront Carousel
Travel Salem

Transportation

South Salem Cycleworks
Salem Keizer Transit

Is your EarthWISE organization ready to go beyond basic recycling? Marion County has just the course for you.

The Marion County Master Recycler Program provides expert instruction to people who live and work in Marion County. The class covers all aspects of solid waste management and ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible.

For more information about the upcoming September class visit www.MCRecycles.net, call 503-365-3191, or email environmental-services@co.marion.or.us. The course is limited to 30 students and space is limited.

Join the Movement

Register today!
masterrecycler.net

Over 670 people have taken the Marion County Master Recycler class to learn about waste reduction, recycling, composting, and consumption. Become part of the team, and join the movement today!



Marion County Public Works | Environmental Services, masterrecycler.net, 503.588.5169

