



The EarthWISE Bulletin

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2015

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Important dates:

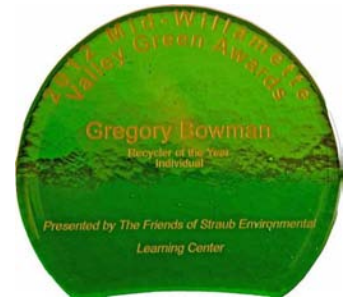
- Dec. 21 Winter Solstice
- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Jan. 5 Application deadline for MR class
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 20 Green Awards Nominations due ★
- Jan. 25 Master Recycler classes begin
- Feb. 16 Presidents' Day
- Mar. 7 Sixth Annual Mid-Valley Green Awards
- Mar. 23 - 27 Spring Break

Give the gift of...recognition?

Annual green awards provide chance to "give a shout out"

By Beth Casper

There is a recycler down the street whose efforts divert hundreds of pounds of garbage. There is a teacher in a nearby school whose lessons means hundreds of students know how to reduce their energy impact. And there is a small business owner whose switch to paperless communication and green cleaners has saved tons of paper and money while creating a safer work environment.



These are the folks honored each year at the annual Green Awards ceremony, designed to highlight the best green practices within several categories, including teaching and small businesses.



Green awards at Salem Convention Center



Chad Naugle accepts award on behalf of Oregon Dept. of Corrections

These folks are your friends, neighbors and shop owners—the ones who cut your hair or stay after school to collect recyclables. They salvage old barns, process fruit or make local cider. They are farmers, corrections workers and bakers.

Let's review:

Last year, winner of the business **Recycler of the Year Award** was the Oregon Department of Corrections, which recycles such unusual items as ballistic vests, 5-gallon plastic buckets, fabric/textiles, shoes, foam, lead, electronic waste, and chip bags.



Beth Myers-Shenai and Laurie Aquirre

Winner of the **Green Apple Award**, Laurie Aquirre is a teacher at Forest Ridge Elementary School. She gave thousands of students a naturalist education with hands-on experiences in the school's naturescape.

Winner of the large **Sustainable Business of the Year Award**, Salem-Keizer Transit made 3.8 million passenger trips in 2012. Their strategy includes purchasing buses with the greatest long-term economic benefits to the community, rather than the lowest cost.



Jerry Thompson and Alan Pollock accept for Salem Keizer Transit

A new category this year, sustainable wine production/brewery, takes advantage of the booming wine, cider and beer business. The other categories are: recycler of the year, individual and business categories; green apple award for a teacher; sustainable business of the year, small and large categories; product or service of the year; and EarthWISE business of the year.

To see video footage of all of the 2014 winners visit: www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES/wastereduction/earthwise/Past_GreenAwards.

The 2015 Mid-Valley Green Award recipients will be honored at a March 7th, 2015, awards dinner at the Salem Conference Center.

Green Awards - Nominations 2015 MID-VALLEY GREEN AWARDS



Nominations Sought
Do you know a person, business, or organization that acts, thinks and does green? Then you need to nominate them today!

Green Award categories include:

- Recycler of the Year
- Sustainable Business of the Year
- EarthWISE Certified Business of the Year
- Green Apple Education Award
- Green Product/Service of the Year
- Sustainable Wine Producer/Brewery of the Year

Nomination forms and category descriptions are available at www.midvalleygreenawards.org or call Straub Environmental Center at (503) 391-4145 to request a mailed copy.

NOTE: Nominations due by midnight January 20, 2015 to be eligible






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

Tune in every other Thursday at 1:00 pm as hosts Jessica Ramey and Alan Pennington chat 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 live online at www.kmuz.org



Coming up on Dec. 18: You may know that your garbage gets incinerated and turned into electricity, but do you know what happens to the leftover portion that remains as ash? Don Alexander, a Marion County Public Works civil engineer, will fill us in on where it goes, what's still in it, and what treasures we might find.



Public Works Environmental Services
503.365.3188 Se habla español
mcrecycles.net



111208-17C

California passes first statewide ban on plastic bags

But challenges by plastic manufacturers might overturn ban

By FENIT NIRAPPIL Associated Press

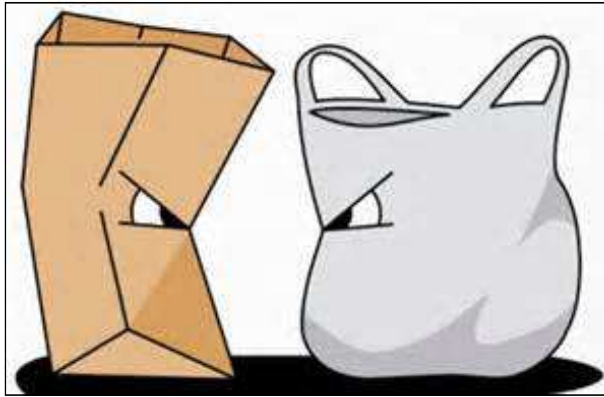
On Sept. 30th, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the first statewide ban on plastic bags, citing a "torrent" of plastic pollution in parks and waterways. It followed one of the fiercest legislative battles of the year, pitting bag makers against environmentalists.

Under the statewide ban, large grocery stores must stop carrying single-use bags by July 2015. Pharmacies, liquor stores and convenience stores must comply the next year.

If opponents of the law submit more than 500,000 signatures by January, the ban would not take effect until voters weigh in.

A national coalition of plastic bag manufacturers says voters will be on their side when they learn the law, SB270, authorizes a 10-cent fee for paper bags that are now often provided for free.

"If this law were allowed to go into effect it would jeopardize thousands of California manufacturing jobs, hurt the environment, and fleece consumers for billions so grocery store shareholders and their union partners can line their pockets," Lee Califf, executive director of the American Plastic Bag Alliance, said in a news release.



Manufacturers' fight against the legislation comes as plastic bag bans have been gaining momentum across the country, including in the cities of Chicago, Seattle and Austin. In California, more than 100 cities and counties, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, already ban plastic shopping bags at checkout counters.

An environmental group that supports the ban has vowed to fight the referendum.

"We are confident that Californians will repeat history by rejecting an effort by an out-of-state, special interest polluter funded misinformation campaign to overturn a popular law," Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against Waste, said in a news release.

Adapted from an initial story on ABC.go.com on October 10, 2014

Hmmm....Just for argument's sake, I've added a few of the pros and cons of plastic bag bans. There are certainly more exhaustive lists, but unbiased arguments are not that common; always check your source!

- Low weight, high strength
- Resistant to water and chemicals
- Fundamentally recyclable
- Very convenient to use and store



Arguments for plastic bags (against a ban)

- Low production costs, only a few chemicals are needed
- Production requires little energy and generates low emissions

Arguments against plastic bags (for a ban)

- Most plastic bags are only used once
- The raw material is crude oil, i.e. a finite resource
- Plastic bags biodegrade at a glacial speed
- Pulverized plastic waste in water gets into the food chain
- Paper can be recycled curbside

Time to recertify already?

These EarthWISE businesses did



One Fair World
2012 - 2014



Willamette Ear, Nose, & Throat
2007 - 2014



City of Salem Fire Department
2009 - 2014



AJ's Auto Repair
2007 - 2014



Wildwood/Mahonia
2012 - 2014



Cascade Employers Association
2009 - 2014

More recertifications



Oregon State Penitentiary
2012 - 2014



Sanfords Automotive
2012 - 2014



Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community
2009 - 2014



Pence Northwest Construction
2012 - 2014



Covanta Marion Energy-from-Waste Facility
2012 - 2014



DeSantis Landscapes Inc.
2007 - 2014

Ask Mister Sustainability

Question: What happens to all those plastic bottles and cans that get redeemed for a nickel? They can't possibly get recycled together.

Nope, they don't....But what a fortuitous question! The following story, written by Bryan Hedrick (and lightly edited by me), just appeared in the **Recycling Advocates E-Newsletter** (Nov. 2014) and addresses at least half of your question.

#1 plastics...Located in Warren, Oregon near the town of Saint Helens lives a new-ish company called ORPET. The ORPET facility processes between 1.5 and 2 million pounds of PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) bottles and containers monthly. The majority of this material is soda and water bottles collected through the recycling process thanks to the Oregon Bottle Bill. Nearly every plastic bottle that is redeemed for a nickel in Oregon eventually finds its way to ORPET. Whether it is through a super market, BottleDrop location, or Mom and Pop store, it comes to ORPET through its partnership with the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative. ORPET also processes the bulk of PET bottles that are recycled through the curbside programs in Oregon.



Bales of bottles awaiting processing

The bottles come into the facility in bales ranging in size from about 500-1,500 pounds. The plastic is then run through a process to separate out contaminants. After the separation process, the bottles are ground into flake, hot washed, dried, and bagged for



Clear plastic flake

sale in Super Sacks weighing around 1,500 to 2,000 pounds. Typically, customers blend the recycled plastic with virgin flake to produce new products for consumers. However, some customers are able to use 100% recycled plastic in their production process. Most of ORPET's customers are in the Pacific Northwest or California.

And those aluminum cans you cashed in for a nickel? The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative sells the containers to various metal plants who then re-melt the aluminum and turn it into new products. Recycling aluminum uses only 5% of the energy it takes to make virgin material from bauxite ore, so capturing those cans is environmentally important. Plus, the cool thing is, once it's re-melted it has the same natural properties as the day it was first separated from the rocky earth.



Factoid Department

Nearly two-thirds of the aluminum ever made is still around for use.

About 34 cans make a pound. At 5¢ a can, that pound has a redeemable value of \$1.70. If you're a wheeler-dealer, it still pays to turn those cans into the bottle shops. Of late, aluminum scrap is still below a dollar a pound.

We **Marion County-ers** recycled about 2,318 tons of aluminum last year (2013).

To put that in perspective, we composted nearly 3 times that much food waste (6,217 tons).

Is there only money in cans? The **Oregon Dept. of Corrections** has been collecting snack bags for recycling via a program funded by **Frito-Lay**. 62,621 bags later, they've earned \$1,037.70 to be donated to charity.

Forty percent of Americans say they believe recycling is critical to reduce energy consumption, but older adults ages 65 plus are more likely than those aged 18-34 to say this (46% versus 36%).

So, is there money in all this? The **Bureau of Labor Statistics** tells us that 382,700 workers in the U.S. are employed in the waste and recycling biz.

There's also money to be made avoiding costs, like going solar to make your own electricity. Any guesses as to which biz is #1? That would be **Walmart**, with 105 MW of collectors installed at 254 locations.

EarthWISE Member Directory

* Denotes new EarthWISE business

Automotive

AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.
Brooks Automotive
Capitol Auto Group
Hillyer's Mid-City Ford
Sanford Automotive

Construction

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

Education

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

Financial

FPS, Inc.
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
Spring Valley Dairy
Truitt Brothers, Inc.
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 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 Exposition Center
OR Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training
OR Lottery
OR DAS - Salem Motor Pool
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.
Rural Metro Ambulance
Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

Not For Profit

Assistance League of Salem - Daue House
Assistance League of Salem - Encore Furniture
Family Building Blocks
Garten Services, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley
Marion-Polk Food Share

Not For Profit (Continued)

SAIF Corporation
Temple Beth Shalom
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
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

Grand Hotel in Salem
Salem Convention Center
Travel Salem

Transportation

South Salem Cycleworks
Salem Keizer Transit

Last call for Master Recycler training



If your business needs a "go to" staffer who's up on his/her 3Rs, now's the time to get that person enrolled in our upcoming Master Recycler class. What will they learn?

- What can and cannot be recycled (duh!)
- Ways to reduce waste
- Alternatives to hazardous waste
- Composting and vermiculture
- Who's who in local waste reduction
- And much more

How does all this happen? Presentations with local experts, hands-on experiences, field trips, and scalp massages. OK, that last one.....not so much.

The upcoming class begins January 22nd and the deadline to enroll is Jan. 5. Because the class may fill, admission is on a first come basis. For more info and an application, go to mcRecycles.net.



News to know!

Back by popular demand (and favorable markets to sell to), clean film plastics are now accepted at the Salem-Keizer and North

Marion Transfer Stations. If your organization had a Master Recycler on staff, you'd already know this!

Contact:

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