

May/June
2011

2011 Mid-Valley Green Awards Gala



Green Party Tips p. 4

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Master Recycler Newsletter

After sifting through almost 40 nominations, seven local businesses, organizations, and individuals were chosen for this year's Mid-Valley Green Awards. Each winner received the coveted recycled glass Green Award plaque.

In addition to the standard award categories, a special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **John Mathews** for his 40-plus years of work in promoting recycling in Oregon. Harking back to his student days at Oregon State, John was both promoter and organizer of early recycling efforts that have culminated in his present-day efforts with Garten Services as their sustainability coordinator.

Here is a rundown of the other winners who are at the forefront of making the Mid-Valley at the forefront of sustainability (see the latest edition of the EarthWISE Bulletin at mcrecycles.net for more detail on each winner):



John Mathews



Green Apple (Environmental. Ed)
Maureen Foelkl
Chapman Hill Elementary



Recycler of the Year -Individual
Deputy Bob Ferris
Marion County Jail

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It's easy to
make a buck.
It's a lot
tougher to
make a
difference.
-- Tom Brokaw

Green Awards (Cont.)



Recycler of the Year –Business/Organization
Friends of Salem Saturday Market



Green Building of the Year
Salmon Run Industrial Park



Sustainable Small Business of the Year
Ilahee Vinyards



Sustainable Large Business of the Year
**The “Block”: Salem Conference Center,
Bently’s Grill, & The Grand Hotel in Salem**



EarthWISE Business of the Year
A.J.’s Auto Repair

Winners & Losers in the 2011 Oregon Legislature

Winner: Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber signed an expansion of the state's bottle recycling law on June 9 that will include juices, teas, coffee and sports drinks not previously covered by the original law.

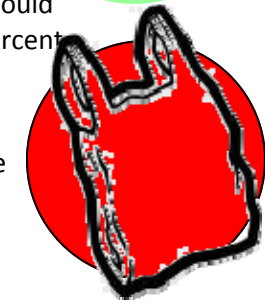
The law would also increase the deposit from 5 cents to 10 cents if the redemption rate is below 80% for two consecutive years. The current recycling rate for these types of containers is 75%. The redemption rate in Michigan, where the deposit is 10 cents, is close to 97%.

Winner: More electronics will be covered under the Oregon E-cycles program starting in 2015. Printers and computer peripherals such as keyboards and mice will be accepted at all participating E-cycles location in the state by that date (although these items are already accepted at Marion County facilities). No disposal ban on these items is planned, however.

Loser: The legislative effort to ban single-use plastic carryout bags or to set a high standard for recycling of plastic bags in Oregon has failed this go around.

Benchmark recycling targets for plastic bags were a recent addition to the bill. Those targets would have required manufacturers to recycle 20 percent of the bags sold in the state by 2012, 40 percent by 2013, 60 percent by 2014 and 80 percent by 2015 and every year thereafter.

The proposed Oregon ban on plastic bags would have been the first statewide ban in the United States (22 cities have as of mid-May). The failed bill would have also placed a 5-cent fee on single-use paper bags at checkouts.



Master Recycler Class Coming in September!

Spread the word to all your friends who are wondering when they can join your excitement in becoming a Master Recycler. The next 8-week session (and only offering in 2011) starts **Sept 8th**.

Many current Master Recyclers learned about the class from previous attendees, so make sure you spread the word today!

Those interested can visit mcrecycles.net, follow the links for "Master Recycler" and sign up to receive information about the upcoming class.

They will learn more about:

- * What happens to your garbage
- * Waste prevention, recycling and reuse options
- * How and why to compost
- * How to build "green" and save energy and resources
- * Products made from recycled content

Includes field trips!



Congratulations to Master Recycler Kim Johnston who completed her 30 payback hours while working the booth at ShowBiz in May. Way to go Kim, and thanks for your hard work!

Summer Green Gathering Tips

1. Avoid paper invitations.

While you may think an online invitation isn't quite as glam as traditional paper, it really is the newest trend in party planning.

With online invitation and social planning website *evite* you can create a design that's perfect for your event. The website even offers eco-themed invitations.



2. Plan a local, compostable menu.

Buying from local, natural vendors at places such as farmers' markets cuts back on carbon emissions because fewer miles traveled from farm to table means fewer emissions produced from the vehicle transporting the food. Compost what you can after the festivities!

3. Use energy-efficient lighting.

The best way to reduce your party's footprint is to calculate its energy usage. The No. 1 way to avoid added costs to your electric bill is to utilize the outdoors – perfect lighting, temperature and truly inherent green setting.

But if weather just doesn't permit, use energy-efficient LED or CFL lighting to illuminate your party.

4. Find decorations in your yard.

Beautiful decor can be found right outside your door. Cut tall grasses and place in a vase. Fill a glass jar with rocks and top it off with a candle. If you're a gardener then it's time to harvest those blooms! Use your old mugs or glass stemware for display.

5. Ask your guests to bring their own place setting.

As an avid party host, it may seem off-putting to ask your guests to bring their own supplies. But the hodgepodge of different dishes can serve as talking points at your party. Give everyone who brings their own place setting a ticket for a door prize that you rummage from the far reaches of your attic or garage!



6. If disposable is a must, go for smarter choices.

Look for recycled content plastic plates, cups and tableware, or made from renewable materials like bamboo or leaves.

7. Use propane for grilling.

A recent study by Environment Impact Assessment Review weighed in this one...

The two grilling methods were defined by their overall footprint, with charcoal using 998 kg of CO₂, almost three times more than propane, which weighed in at 349 kg. Be sure to get a refillable propane tank.

8. Don't bail on recycling.

It's a no-brainer. One of the easiest ways to go green is to recycle your waste. So be sure to put a clearly marked bin out at your party.



9. Send home the leftovers.

Instead of throwing away the leftovers, send guests home with them (or better yet, have them bring a few reusable to-go containers in anticipation of take-home treats!), donate remainder to a local homeless shelter and compost what you can.

10. Don't dread the cleanup.

Opt for a certified eco-friendly cleaning product when wiping down your post-party tables and countertops.

You can also purchase paper towels made of recycled content, or return to the pre-disposable days and use clean towels and sponges. Remember the broom and the mop? They provide effective cleaning with

no electricity!.

-adapted from Earth911.com



TASTY TIDBITS



Local Compost

Did you know that Marion County has its own composting facility? Located at Brown's Island landfill off River Road, it produces about 4,000 cubic yards of great compost a year from green waste collected from area parks and leaf collection events.

The **Fresh Start Market** on Center St. in Salem sells this great soil amendment in bulk for \$20/yd, with free delivery for orders of 3 yards or more within the Salem/Keizer city limits.



It is also available for \$1.25/bag.

What are you waiting for?? Get some of the good stuff!

Barter Market Revival



Think of it like a rummage sale where no money changes hands. A renaissance of this age-old tradition is happening on a large scale in Spain where numerous neighborhood "swap meets" (in the truest sense) are popping up. People fill tables with unwanted items from home and trade them for others' items - but not money.

They are also becoming centers of community activity where people meet neighbors face-to-face.

Read more about it at grist.com (search for "barter market").

Waste Tracking

Green Halo Systems, a California Company, has developed an on-line waste tracking and management system to help companies track and recycle materials while reducing the carbon footprint of their construction projects.

Green Halo helps maintain communication between cities and contractors, track real time recycling statistics, and complete tracking of waste management plans from start to finish.

A business' ability to document every aspect of their diversion plan gives cities and counties a view of recycling trends in their area, and helps companies back up green claims with reports and statistics.

Visit greenhalosystems.com.



Plastic Suit

Three of the largest plastic bag manufactures are suing ChicoBag, a reusable bag company for "irreparably harming" their business. They point to ChicoBag's Learn The Facts Page, which provides sourced information regarding the impacts of single-use bags. Ironically, the lawsuit does not mention the Bag Monster, a viral character created by ChicoBag founder Andy Keller, representing the annual consumption of the average American, and probably what actually put ChicoBag on the plastic industry's radar.



Congrats!

Recent Lucky Winners of new Earth Machine Composters include:



Vickie Axenty,
Salem
(Earth Day Fair)



Sue and John
Bohlander,
Keizer
(ShowBiz)

Good Readin'

Don't worry...we won't be jealous if you read other newsletters.

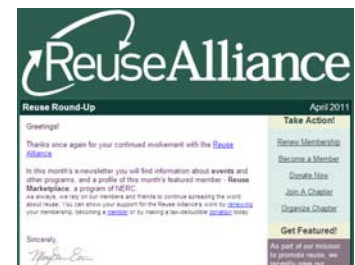
Here are a couple of good ones and the websites you need to sign up!



Our Choices Promote Our Values
 Our choices...we won't be jealous if you read other newsletters. Here are a couple of good ones and the websites you need to sign up!

Laughter: The Best Medicine

LifeSource Natural Foods
 June 2011
 Serving You Since 1994
 Locally Owned



www.reusealliance.org

Call to Serve



Saturdays through October

Zero Waste Zone Project

Salem Saturday Market - Your Help is greatly needed!

Volunteers needed for the "Zero Waste Stations" at the Salem Saturday Market. Volunteers educate shoppers about how to sort their items, keep containers free from contamination, and help with set-up and tear-down as needed. Ongoing volunteers also needed to help plan and organize Zero Waste Zone's projects. Email zerowaste@friendsofsalemsaturdaymarket.org to sign up.

Thursday, July 7 - Sunday, July 10

Marion County Fair

State Fairgrounds

Be a part of the coolest little fair in America while helping to spread a little greenness around. Master Recyclers are needed to answer questions and give advice to an inquisitive public. Two 4 hour shifts each day: 10 am - 2 pm & 2 pm - 6 pm. Contact: Alan Pennington 503-365-3188 or apennington@co.marion.or.us.

A special call to rural master recyclers:

The launch of rural residential mixed recycling is just around the corner, and your neighbors might need some help in figuring out the new program! Let them know you are available to help them with the dos & don'ts of mixed recycling and then make sure you report your hours to Bailey! bpayne@co.marion.or.us.

MIXED RECYCLING IS COMING TO RURAL MARION COUNTY!

All residents of rural and sparse areas of the County will be able to recycle curbside starting **July 1, 2011**.

Visit mcrecycles.net or call your hauler to find out how you may be able to offset the rate increase* for this service by using the blue recycling roll cart that will be provided, and to find out which items go in the cart.

*Service increase was requested & approved by Marion County to provide convenience to rural customers and divert more recyclable material from the waste stream.



Public Works Environmental Services

503.588.5169 *Se habla español*
mcrecycles.net

10201-4c

Events & Occasions



First Tuesday of every month, (next one July 5), 9:30am

Consumption and the Environment

FREE Webinar Series from EPA (see website below)

From the comfort of your own computer

This series covers topics relating to consumption and its interaction with the environment. It's designed to provide information and resources needed to reduce GHG emissions and create more sustainable patterns of consumption. Nationally renowned speakers cover impacts, solutions, and tools. Visit yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/climate+change/consumption to register, or do a search for "EPA Consumption and the Environment Webinar Series". **Highly recommended by your MC Waste Reduction Staff!**

Saturday & Sunday, June 25 & 26

Recycled Arts festival

Esther Short Park, Vancouver, WA

The Recycled Arts Festival started 6 years ago as a way to educate and get the community excited about waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. It has grown into a huge family event, with more artists participating every year. Come on out and peruse the artists' wares, help your kids make their own handiwork, relax and listen to music, and get all sorts of info on what you can do to improve the environment!

Saturday, July 2, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m

Intro to Smart Cycling

Capitol Mall, Salem (between the fountains)

Enjoy a free bike safety clinic where participants will learn about laws regarding bicycling, hear tips for riding safely on city streets, practice bike handling skills and ride through several of Salem's close-in neighborhoods. Minimum age is 12. Minors must be accompanied by a parent. Helmets required. Phone: (503) 798-6534

Sat, July 9, 9:30am – Sun, July 10, 11:00am

FSELc Family Nature Retreat

Drift Creek Camp (in the Coast Range near Lincoln City)

Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center invites you to a relaxing weekend in the Coast Range and some quality outdoor time with your family at Drift Creek Camp! Join us for hikes and activities and learn from professional naturalists as we explore trails and enjoy the forest! \$65/adult and \$45/child age 4-11. Children 3 & under are free! Includes three meals and lodging. REGISTER: Call 503-391-4145 or email fselc@fselc.org. Registration deadline is Friday, June 24th, 2011.

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m

Salem's National Night Out

The event is an opportunity for neighbors to take one evening out of the year to build relationships by learning from one another about what is happening in the neighborhood. Across the country and in Salem, neighbors host a variety of special events, such as block parties, BBQ's, mimi-parades, flashlight walks, kids activities and even graffiti paint over parties

Saturday, Sept. 10 1:00 p.m.

Garden University: "Cooking Green"

Oregon Garden

Vitality at Wellspring's Chef Eric Nelson discusses ways to reduce your carbon footprint in the kitchen, with an emphasis on homegrown produce. Cost is \$15 which includes entrance to The Oregon Garden; free for members. Call 503-874-8100 or visit oregongarden.org for more information.

The Back Page



The way-cool lobby and conference room of Terracycle, a company that upcycles and recycles product packaging. See more photos at earth911.com or terracycle.net.



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