



New Program for Used Cooking Oil!

# Master Recycler Newsletter

# Styrofoam Recycling Comes to Marion County!

## Permanent Styrofoam Recycling Drop-off Location Established!

### Background:

Styrofoam, a trademarked name commonly used to refer to expanded polystyrene, was invented in 1941 by Dow Chemical Company. Manufacturers of expanded polystyrene tout the environmental benefits of using their product, such as the reduced transportation emissions resulting from shipping lighter packages or the energy savings (compared to paper products) in the manufacturing process.

Recycling advocates on the other hand decry the wastefulness of shipping some-

thing that is so difficult to recycle and creating confusion by labeling it with the #6 recycling arrows without any disclaimer



stating that it is not commonly recyclable. Landfill operators dislike it because it takes up so much room in landfills and will not compact. Environmentalists are opposed to it because of possible health problems caused by styrene, and the litter problem that it has created, especially in the ocean. The general public doesn't like it either because it is such a symbol of "the throw away society" and its association with the use of potent chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) greenhouse gasses which were banned in the 1980's.

Styrofoam has always been a difficult material for recyclers to handle. The same properties that make it a great product for shipping make it difficult to recycle. Because it is so light it is usually prohibitively expensive to transport it to a recycler and there are not very many recyclers that have the equipment needed to process it.

### The Recycling Process:

Styrofoam blocks are put into a large machine called a densifier. The machine looks kind of like a huge clothes dryer and it heats and spins the blocks around, removing the styrene gas. When the gas is removed, the plastic forms hard little clumps that look like cottage cheese.

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### Quote of the Month

"If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever."  
~ Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary-General

# 🔥 🔥 🔥 New Recycling Program for Cooking Oil! 🔥 🔥 🔥



Used cooking oil can now be recycled at both the Salem-Keizer and North Marion Recycling &

Transfer Stations. The oil is collected in large tanks and taken to SeSequential-Pacific Biofuels where it is turned into bio-diesel.

The program officially started in late September and very little outreach has been done until now, but the program has already collected well over 250 gallons! Most restaurants and other large generators of cooking oil already have collection programs in place, but this is the first drop-off location for the general public that we know of

in Oregon and one of only a few in the country!

SeSequential-Pacific also partners with Willamette Biomass Processors in Rickreall. Willamette Biomass Processors is an oilseed crusher with annual seed crushing capacity of 100,000,000 pounds. Crushing oilseeds creates vegetable oil, which SeSequential-Pacific turns into bio-diesel. Leftover meal goes to livestock as feed.

The first gallons of SeSequential-Pacific bio-diesel were produced in August of 2005. Governor Ted Kulongoski and Salem City Mayor

Janet Taylor were on hand at the grand opening of the production facility and helped initiate the first production process by pressing the start button.



With the bio-diesel market growing by leaps and bounds every month, SeSequential-Pacific Biodiesel is already looking to expand the Salem production facility to help meet the ever growing demand for this

cleaner, renewable fuel. SeSequential-Pacific is dedicated to regionally produced, regionally consumed bio-diesel.

## Sustainable Holiday Market

The Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center is planning a Sustainable Holiday Market on Saturday, November 22nd.



Shop for your gifts this holiday season from a selection of biodegradable, energy-saving, locally and regionally produced items.

Locally made gifts not only support the local economy, but cut down on waste and carbon emissions from using fuels to ship finished goods.

The Market will also feature an "Earth Friendly Elf" workshop, where kids can come make their own gifts and local school children will sell their crafts and artwork as local artisans.

The November 22nd Sustainable Holiday Market will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Bush Elementary School, 410 14th Street, SE, Salem, OR 97301. The Market is free and

open to the public. For more information, contact Lisa Olivares at (503) 391-4145 or email Lisa at [lisa@fselc.org](mailto:lisa@fselc.org).



Illustration by Antonia Manda ©Metro

## Styrofoam Recycling (continued)



(Continued from page 1)  
These “curds” are very dense. Depending on what is being

manufactured, these curds are mixed with other plastic resin types and poured into the hopper of another machine called an extruder. The extruder mixes the plastics and melts them before forcing them through holes that form long strands of plastic, sort of like making spaghetti. The long, plastic “noodles” then pass through a trough of water to cool and solidify the plastic before being sliced into pellets the size of rabbit droppings by a little guillotine at the far end of the extruder. These plastic pellets become the raw material for making new plastic products.

### **The New Recycling Program:**

This new program is a collaboration between PLC Recycling, the Marion County Fresh Start Market, and Marion County Public Works - Environmental Services. PLC Recycling is the company that owns Compost Oregon, the Aumsville business that composts all of the yard debris collected in Marion County. PLC Recycling also owns a material recovery facility in northeast Portland where they sort through loads of dry waste to pull out materials that could be recycled or composted. They decided to invest in a densifier to recover the tremendous amount of Styrofoam that passes through their facility. PLC Recycling

also operates other composting facilities and they regularly send loads of barkdust down to the Salem area. The trucks are empty on their return trip to Portland. Glenn Zimmerman, the operator of Compost Oregon and longtime member of the Marion County Solid Waste Management Advisory Council, saw an opportunity. He offered to haul the Styrofoam up to the Portland facility as a free service to residents.

With the most challenging barrier to recycling Styrofoam - transportation - solved, it merely became a matter of setting up a location to collect it. That's where the Marion County Fresh Start Market comes in. The Fresh Start Market is run by the Marion County Juvenile Department and they have agreed to accept Styrofoam from the public. Adolescents in their program learn valuable job skills while working at the market. Virtually everything that they sell is handmade by the juveniles and made from materials that would otherwise be thrown away or recycled. They also sell native plants, garden art, compost, and they have great coffee, sandwiches, and other food. The building is made from old barn wood and other deconstructed materials and the paint is all recycled! Show your support for this free community service by making a donation when you come in or by making a purchase.

Businesses will also be able to bring Styrofoam in for recycling, but they will be charged a fee to help offset the fuel costs of hauling the Styrofoam up to Portland. The businesses will also be charged a nominal fee which is probably going to be about \$2 per large bag. If you have a business that generates Styrofoam or know of one that does, please call (503) 588-5324 to make arrangements following the program launch on Monday, November 17th.



### **STYROFOAM RECYCLING BEGINNING NOVEMBER 17TH!**

#### **Fresh Start Market**

3020 Center St. NE, Salem  
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Accepted:** Only clean, dry block packaging foam, meat trays, egg cartons or takeout containers

**Not Accepted:** Packing peanuts (most shipping stores will accept), flexible foam that bends without breaking, foam with tape, or construction foam

**Cost:** The program is free to residents, but donations are accepted. Businesses must make arrangements by calling (503) 588-5324 and they will be charged a nominal fee.



**Marion County**  
OREGON

**MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS-  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

5155 Silverton Road NE  
Salem, OR 97305

Phone: 503-588-5169  
Fax: 503-588-3565

*You can make a difference!*



**We're on the web!**

**[www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es](http://www.co.marion.or.us/pw/es)**

**Friends of Straub Environmental Learning**

Amateur Naturalist Series:  
**"Rain Gardens"**

**Wednesday, Nov. 12th**

7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Register for this class by calling (503) 391-4145.

Amateur Naturalist Series:

**"Bird & Bat Box Construction"**

**Wednesday, Nov. 19th**

7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Presented by Tom Brewster at the Friends of Straub Environmental Learning Center (1320 A St. NE, Salem). Register for this class by calling (503) 391-4145.

Environmental Lecture Series:

**"Comparing the Costs & Benefits of Alternative Fuel Cars"**

**Thursday, November 20th**

7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Jan Kreider at Salem Library's Loucks Auditorium

**Sustainable Holiday Market**

**Saturday, Nov. 22nd**

10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Bush Elementary School  
410 14th Street SE, Salem



*Friends of Straub*  
**ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

**Salem Progressive Film Series**

Grand Theater  
191 High St. NE, Salem  
7:00 p.m.

\$3.00 adults, \$2.00 students

**Thursday, November 13th**  
**Story of Stuff**

America's consumption patterns  
**Consuming Kids**  
Commercialization of American children

**Thursday, December 11th**  
**Food Matters**

**Thursday, January 8th**  
**The World According to Monsanto**

For more information about these films, visit:

**<http://salemprogressivefilms.net>**