

It's not too late to join BJ's crew for the Annual Whiteaker Community Dinner...Master Recyclers are needed Wednesday 11/25 4 to 8 pm, Thursday 11/26 8 am to 12 pm, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm and 3:30 - 7:30 pm. We need 1-2 people with trucks for the final shift and to pick up recycling bins from the county on Wednesday and return them after the event. To join the Recycling Crew contact BJ Hurwich at 342-5027 or bjhurwich@yahoo.com



Choose ReUSE by Lorraine Kerwood

Oregon E-Cycles is a 2009 state-wide program, financed by electronics manufacturers, that provides recycling of computers, laptops, monitors and TVs (collectively known as covered electronic devices or CEDs). Since 1/1/09, anyone bringing seven or fewer items at a time may recycle their electronics at no charge to NextStep. Oregon E-Cycles does NOT provide free recycling of other electronic devices.

The law also prohibits any person from disposing of CEDs as garbage after 1/1/10. It also prohibits solid waste disposal facility operators from knowingly accepting these devices as garbage. After that date, disposal site operators must implement a program to prevent acceptance of these devices for disposal.

I can't throw it out? What then? They must be reused or recycled. Anyone who knowingly disposes of these items can be fined. If you have curbside trash pickup, don't place computers, monitors and TVs in your trash, recycling bin or at the curb.

Electronics require special handling and cannot be collected by your local hauler. Solid waste disposal sites cannot accept computers, monitors and TVs for disposal. However, there are five Lane County transfer stations that accept them for recycling. NextStep then collects these items for reuse.

Reuse offers our community members who do not have access to technology a chance to participate in the wide world.

NextStep takes reuse even further and uses donated electronics as tools in our technology education program. Donating just one desktop CPU for reuse is equivalent to taking 1/5 of a car off the road for a year. Donating one computer with a CRT monitor for reuse is equivalent to taking 1/2 of a car off the road for a year, or saving 68% of one US household's allotment of electricity for a year. Donate your obsolete electronics today!

Recycling keeps toxics out of our landfills and incinerators and conserves natural resources. NextStep partners with a northwest processor so all of your obsolete electronic devices are not being shipped overseas for processing.

Public Works
Waste Management
Division

December 2009
Volume 7 Issue 4



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New Electronics Ban Goes Into Effect January 1st, 2010

Oregon E-Cycles, Oregon's free electronics recycling program, will become even more popular when the state's disposal ban on computers, monitors and televisions goes into effect on January 1, 2010. After that date, Oregonians must recycle these electronics – they will no longer be allowed to be disposed of in the garbage or at disposal sites such as landfills, transfer stations and incinerators.

"After the ban, throwing away these items will be illegal," says Kathy Kiwala, Oregon E-Cycles Project Lead. "Anyone knowingly violating the ban may face penalties up to \$500 per item. With Oregon's convenient recycling system for electronic waste, it should be easy to keep it out of the trash."

The purpose of the ban isn't to make it difficult to clean out your stash of electronics, but to require reuse or recycling instead. Reuse and recycling save energy, conserve resources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. In addition, requiring manufacturers

to take responsibility for end-of-life management of their products encourages them to design products with less waste and fewer toxics. Cathode ray tubes found in televisions and computer monitors typically contain about four pounds of lead, while printed circuit boards and batteries in computers contain toxic heavy metals such as cadmium and mercury.

"Ultimately, the goal is to reduce environmental impacts over the life of these electronics and ensure they are safely managed when discarded," Kiwala says.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!

If your garbage or recycling is picked up at the curb:

Don't place computers, monitors and TVs in your trash, recycling bin or at the curb. These items require special handling and cannot be collected via your regular curbside service.

If you haul your own trash: Disposal sites cannot accept computers, monitors and TVs for disposal. A recycling depot located at

a landfill, transfer station or other site may accept them for recycling. Check with the facility first.

Oregon E-Cycles Provides Free Recycling Options in Oregon

The good news is that even now before the ban takes effect, Oregonians have free recycling options near them. The same law that created the ban also created Oregon E-Cycles, a network of collection sites and services that offer free recycling throughout Oregon. Anyone can take up to seven computers, monitors and TVs at a time to participating collection sites and events. Electronics manufacturers finance Oregon E-Cycles and jointly implement the program with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

What's more, Oregon E-Cycles ensures proper handling and management of the materials collected. All participating recyclers are required by DEQ to follow certain environmentally-sound management practices, including tracking and documenting recycling locations and how the mate-

rials were handled until they are reused or processed into commodities such as glass, steel and plastics. This level of due-diligence provides assurance to Oregonians that their discarded electronics are safely reused or recycled and that toxic materials do not harm people or the environment here or abroad.

To find an Oregon E-Cycles location near you, visit www.oregonecycles.org or call 1-800-5-ECYCLE (1-800-532-9253).

If you are a business or nonprofit with more than 10 employees, you may still take your computers, monitors and TVs to an Oregon E-Cycles collection site for recycling, but you may be charged for items over the seven item limit. There are also many other recyclers outside of the Oregon E-Cycles program that can provide recycling services. To find other electronics recyclers near you, go to www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/consumers/otherrecyclers.htm



Tuesday
December 1st, 6-9pm *and ...*
Glenwood Central
Receiving Station

Wednesday
December 2nd, 4-7pm
Siuslaw Public Library
in the Bromley Room

BRING A dish or non-alcoholic beverage to share and your own place setting
PAYBACK ACTIVITY Make gifts from scrap for BRING & MECCA to sell at the
Less Is Best Holiday Fair **OUTREACH** Bring a crafty friend along!

Master Recyclers and a guest are cordially invited to come learn to make gifts from Scrap! Help us make re-crafted products for BRING and MECCA to sell at the Less is Best Holiday Fair—old easy standards like bottle cap earrings and envelopes from calendars, plus new ones like cork bulletin boards and serving trays made using cabinet doors. Got your own project? Bring it along! For those who don't completely dig the crafty thing, come join us anyway! We also need folks to collate materials for MECCA's craft kits into bags. A greeting card re-design corner will also be available.



LESS IS BEST Holiday Fair
10am-6pm December 5th & 6th
inside Holiday Market at the Lane Events Center

NEW LOCATION!

You are invited to attend the annual BRING/MECCA **LESS IS BEST** Holiday Fair, with vendors, crafts and many creative ideas to help you enjoy the season's festivities without unnecessary waste.

Admire the creations of others, make something yourself, or complete your holiday shopping and relax knowing you are spending less, using less – and enjoying the experience so much more! Admission is free! Kids, bring your adults along—there's something for everyone!

reduce * reuse * recycle * rethink * repurpose * renew

~ 5 volunteers are needed during each hour of the **LESS IS BEST** Holiday Fair! ~

Contact Carolyn to volunteer with BRING at 746-3023 or carolyns@bringrecycling.org

Contact Mija to volunteer with MECCA at 302-1810 or info@materials-exhchange.org

December

January

Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show
January 22nd, 23rd and 24th

Home, Garden, Food, Living & Wellness, Transportation, Art, Repair Village

Friday 5pm-9pm Saturday 10am-9pm Sunday 10am-5pm

Contact Kelly to staff the
MASTER RECYCLER
PROGRAM
& Lane County
Waste Management booth:
kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us
or (541) 682-2059

Contact Brett to staff
BRINGS's booth:
Helping people understand that
the stuff we use shapes the
planet we share.
brettj@bringrecycling.org
or (541) 746-3026

Contact Janet to staff
NextStep's booth:
janet.ellis@
nextsteprecycling.org
or 686-2366 x 122
NEXTSTEP
transforming technology for the next generation

Paint Stewardship

by Paulette Rossi, former MetroPaint staffer & current MetroPaint volunteer, catink.pdx@gmail.com

Those who believe talk is cheap have not experienced a dialog facilitated by the national environmental nonprofit the Product Stewardship Institute. A dialog they initiated formed the basis for the nation's first paint producer responsibility legislation, signed into law on in Oregon on July 23, 2009 by Governor Ted Kulongoski. The law directs paint manufacturers to take responsibility for managing leftover latex and oil-based paint from do-it-yourselfers and painting contractors.

In the United States an estimated 750 million gallons of architectural paint is sold each year, about 2.5 gallons per person. An estimated 10 percent of this paint remains unused, thus about 800,000 gallons of leftover paint are generated in Oregon annually. Proper management of this much paint would cost an estimated \$6 million.

The mission of the Product Stewardship Institute is to "pursue initiatives to ensure that all those involved in the lifecycle of a product share responsibility for reducing its health and environmental impacts, with producers bearing responsibility for financing collection and recycling, or safe disposal."

Scott Cassel the founder and Executive Director of the Boston based Product Stewardship Institute was "optimistic" in December 2003 when over a dozen reps from paint manufacturers, retailers, contractors, recyclers and government leaders met to explore a range of issues, options and approaches to handling leftover

paint. The dialog became known as the Paint Product Stewardship Initiative (PPSI).

Cassel said, "I always think it is possible to get together, to talk through concerns to reach collaborative solutions." What was remarkable about the dialog was that the paint industry came to the table willingly to work with the other stakeholders to reach a national solution for the management of unused paint.



And, while it took six years to get to Oregon's consensus-based legislation the process was always respectful. Jim Quinn, Metro hazardous waste program manager, was a stakeholder from the beginning and notes that even within the represented organizations "there were changes in positions, personal transformations, and relationship building as the years went by, but we were always moving forward toward a system that could be replicated in every state."

The six year process was not long when viewed in context, that this was the first national dialog on paint stewardship and that 1.5 years was lost when Minnesota's governor vetoed Minnesota's extended producer responsibility legislation for political (not environmental) reasons. The group

also took the time needed to be meticulous in the quantity and quality of research they undertook, listening to all views at the table.

The Background Report written in March 2004 by PSI remains one of the most comprehensive technical papers written on paint management and includes sections on latex and oil based paint composition, environmental hazards of paint, paint production, the management of unused paint, markets for recycled paint, regulatory barriers and examples of product stewardship. Over the years the stakeholders worked on projects that covered reducing the amount of unused paint, the reuse, and recycling of leftover paint, paint certification and markets, lifecycle assessment/cost benefit analysis and regulatory issues.

The PPSI is using the implementation of Oregon's paint producer responsibility pilot legislation as a demonstration. An evaluation committee will take lessons learned from Oregon to model harmonized legislation to roll out across the country. This avoids the threat of piecemeal legislation and saves the industry money and subsequently saves the consumer money.

Alison Keane, Counsel for the National Paint and Coatings Association (NPCA), explains, "The Product Stewardship Institute's unique process of engaging both government and industry stakeholders and incorporating all interests into the solution helped us develop a state model that can be replicated across the country in-

stead of having a patchwork of laws."

Oregon's pilot is based on a cost-recovery financing system and is intended to be consumer supported – the cost of managing leftover paint (collection, transport, processing and education) is borne by industry, and ultimately passed on to consumers purchasing paint in Oregon. Both product stewardship and extended producer responsibility legislation internalize the end-of-life management costs of a product and are accompanied by a responsibility to prevent waste, to reuse and to recycle.

Oregon's law calls on paint manufacturers or a product stewardship organization representing them to promote the reuse of post-consumer architectural paint, such as MetroPaint, and calls for do-it-yourselfers and painting contractors to be given information on calculating the right amount of paint for their project, reducing the amount of paint that becomes waste and where to take the paint that is leftover from their efforts. The educational materials will also inform consumers that funding for paint management has been added to the purchase price of all architectural paint sold in Oregon.

Soon, do-it-yourselfers and contractors will be able to drop off leftover oil and latex paint for no charge at convenient locations throughout Oregon. For more information and a fact sheet on the Oregon paint bill, go to:

www.productstewardship.us/PaintNationalDialogue

Questions about the legislation? Email: jim.quinn@oregonmetro.gov or scott.klag@oregonmetro.gov

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**Lifetime benefit for Lane County Master Recyclers:** Do you need a refresher? Did you miss a class or field trip? Master Recyclers are invited to attend any future class session or field trip on a space available basis. The full 2010 training schedule can be found on the Lane County Master Recycler Yahoo Group website in the "files" section. Haven't joined yet? Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LCMR/> and click "Join This Group."  
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The Scoop on Degradable Plastics

A RECYCLING COORDINATOR'S GUIDE TO MANAGING NEW PLASTICS

from the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers <http://www.plasticsrecycling.org/>

Chances are your program is seeing an influx in bio-based plastics and plastics with degradable additives. Like most recycling coordinators, you probably have questions.

Are all degradable plastics the same? There are two sets of materials involved in the degradable question. One set of degradable plastics are materials such as PLA (Polylactic Acid) that are unique plastics. The second set is materials of the standard #1 PET and #2 HDPE with special degradable additives included.

Are degradable plastics recyclable with standard PET or HDPE? No. They're contaminants in the recycling stream. Degradable plastics should be collected so as to not interfere with current PET and HDPE container recycling.

Will degradable bottles break down in a landfill? Probably not. Some need a high-heat commercial composting operation to break down into polymer level material. Some degradable additives are specifically stated to not work in landfills. Others are claimed to work only after years in the landfill.

But some companies producing degradable additive plastics claim that they are recyclable in today's collection methods. According to Steve Alexander, Executive Director of the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers, "These claims of recyclability

are unfounded, untested and possibly misleading as outlined by the Federal Trade Commission's Green Guide. No third party testing data has confirmed these statements of recyclability. We urge companies claiming recyclability to share such supporting data with the recycling community."

Why can't bottles with degradable additives be recycled with standard plastic? The additives change the expectations for a plastic. Bottles with degradable additives can be ground and melted like another bottle but with reduced quality and service life expectations.

"The facts are very clear," reports David Cornell, the Technical Director from the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR). "The degradable additive concept effectively renders the product using the additive non-recyclable. Many recycled plastics are used to make durable goods. Failure of these next-use products, such as carpets or piping, could range from distressing to tragic."

APR has seen no data which demonstrate no harm done during or after the recycling process. With the variety of durable end uses recycled plastics are used for, the idea of degrading material runs counter to value creation and good stewardship.

What do you mean by reduced quality? Consider this scenario: A bottle with de-

gradable additives makes it through the recycling collection stream and ends up in a bale of crushed PET bottles. The bale sits outside for a few weeks and then goes through the normal grinding, washing and pelletizing process of recycling. That batch of PET plastic is then made into strapping that then holds a pallet of bricks on the back of a truck heading down the highway. That's a lot of time, weather and heat that could potentially trigger the degradable qualities of the plastic and cause that strapping to fail.

Are bio-based plastics, PLA, and degradable plastics all the same thing? No. PLA and other bio-based plastics are made from plant materials, often corn. Not all bio-based plastics are degradable. Some petroleum-based plastics can biodegrade. Degradable additives are claimed to work in many resins. A degraded material is an opportunity lost to reuse a valuable resource.

But isn't it a good idea to look for a non-petroleum plastic product? On September 11, 2009 Resource Recycling Magazine reported: *New research from Germany is adding fuel to the conventional versus biodegradable plastic resin battle. The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IFEU) has released the results of a new study, comparing the environmental impact of traditional polyethylene bags and their biodegradable counterparts available in France and Ger-*

many.

After taking into account the raw material production process, transportation factors and recyclability, the study concluded that PE bags are less damaging to the environment than biodegradable bags. Furthermore, IFEU researchers concluded that bags made from recycled material have the smallest environmental impact.

This is all confusing. What is APR doing to help make the issue easier for recycling coordinators? APR has devoted considerable time and energy to produce guidelines to determine if a material meets or exceeds standards for recyclability. APR is working with producers of plastics to ensure recyclability because we are dedicated to keeping the stream of recyclables clean and valuable. This applies to all materials.

What should I do? Ask producers of bio-based and oxy-degradable plastics to prove that their material does what is claimed and is safe to recycle. Ask for proof that carpets from recycled PET and highway culvert pipes from recycled HDPE will have their full expected service life if the degradable additives are included with the plastic. If you are part of a university or industry setting where you can control purchases, work with recyclers to be sure that a material is recyclable before it's introduced for sale in your facility.

See: <http://bit.ly/Portlandbioplasticsfactsheet> from **Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability**

Once a Master Recycler, always a Master Recycler, right?

Right-O. But what if some things have changed since you completed your training in 2005, 2002, 2000? Are you concerned you may not be able to always give up-to-date information, if asked? Not to worry. Master Recyclers always have access to the latest local information through each other, the potlucks, newsletter, Sarah's monthly RG column, emails from Kelly and the Yahoo Group. If you think you need a refresher but are not sure, take this quiz and return it to the Master Recycler Program office. Sarah or Kelly will be happy to discuss the results with you. And remember, Master Recyclers are welcome and encouraged to attend any future class session or field trip on a space available basis without incurring a new "payback" debt. A few folks have even repeated the entire course! Speaking of changes, an update of chapter 1 of the training manual is available on the Yahoo Group

Test your knowledge

1) What do the 3 R's stand for?

- Repeat, Rethink, Redo Reduce, Repair, Remanufacture
 Rebound, React, Recite Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

2) Choose the statement that is incorrect.

- Recycling reduces the need for land filling or incinerating
 Recycling saves energy and natural resources
 Recycling is only available in metropolitan areas
 The recycling industry directly and indirectly employs more people in the United States than the automobile industry.

3) Which of the following best defines the term "waste reduction"?

- To recycle as much of your waste as possible
 To prevent waste before it's created
 To reuse beverage containers
 To purchase recycled content items

4) "Close the loop on recycling," is becoming a popular catch phrase. What does it refer to?

- Tying up your recycling securely
 Buying recycled products
 Dropping off recycling at a certified recycling center
 Living an environment minded lifestyle besides just recycling

5) The United States is home to 8% of the world's population.

How

much of the world's garbage do we produce?

- 8% 25% 50% 75%

6) How many types of material (i.e. paper, metal, plastic, food, etc.) are schools required by law to collect for recycling?

- Three Eight Four
 No laws require Lane County businesses or institutions to recycle.

7) Who picks up your household garbage & recycling at the curb?

- The city The county A private company
What city or town do you live in? _____

8) What is the best way to determine if a plastic item is recyclable?

- Check the bottom for a chasing arrows symbol
 Ask your hauler or recycler
 Search the internet for information

9) Which best describes the plastics that are recyclable in curbside recycling bins.

- All plastic packaging Plastics 1-5 and 7
 Plastic bottles tubs and jugs/jars, Plastic bottles only

10) What are the preferred disposal methods for florescent bulbs?

- Bring to the household hazardous waste collection facility or to a rural collection event
 In the garbage
 Place inside a plastic bag and dispose of with trash
 Return to a lighting store

Master Recycler News

11) Everything eventually decomposes in the landfill.

- True False

12) Which bag creates the least pollution from production, transportation and disposal?

- Paper Plastic

13) Which bag choice is best?

- Reuse a paper bag Reuse a plastic bag
 Cloth or other durable bag
 All of the above are better than single use

14) Complete this statement. "The new corn plastics _____." Check all that apply.

- are made from a renewable resource
 can be composted in a backyard compost pile
 can be recycled in curbside collections
 can be composted at commercial compost operations only
 are recyclable when taken separately to a local recycler in Lane County

15) The Oregon Bottle Bill was recently upgraded. What changes went in to effect January 1st 2009? Check all that apply.

- Deposit/Redemption increased from 5 cents to 25 cents
 All beverage containers were included
 Redemption Centers were mandated
 Water bottles were included

16) Who controls, limits or otherwise impacts the packaging choices made by manufacturers? Number each factor in order of most (1) to least (4) influential.

- _____ Marketability/consumer demand
_____ Price
_____ Local government
_____ State or federal government

17) How many types of plastic are there?

- Seven Fifteen Fifty Unknown

18) Lids and caps are recyclable, right? Check all that apply.

- Yes! Just toss them in the recycle bin.
 Lids often have fillers and other ingredients that make them incompatible to recycle with the bottle or tub they came with.
 Caps are too small and lids are too flat to recycle successfully at a comingle MRF
 Caps and lids can be recycled when a specific collector or recycling company agrees to accept them.

19) You can determine if a plastic item is recyclable by looking at the number.

- True False

20) As a Master Recycler you should _____. Check all that apply.

- Answer all questions using the information you remember as you are now the expert.
 NEVER answer a question asserting that it is the final word.
 Always suggest resources the public can use to confirm information you are providing.
 Keep in contact with the Master Recycler Program to stay current on recycling information

21) While staffing a booth at the Eugene Celebration, a Master Recycler is not sure how to answer a particular question from the public. Indicate the appropriate action. Check all that apply.

- Answer to the best of their ability and assure the public they are receiving expert advice from a Certified Master Recycler.
 Suggest locations residents can go to get the answers they seek.
 Record name, phone number and nature of question in order to follow up with correct information at the earliest opportunity.



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Eugene, OR 97403

Phone: 541-682-2059
Fax: 541-682-2353

E-mail: kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us

Master Recyclers bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating others to reduce solid waste in homes and workplaces.

Remember to report your Master Recycler Volunteer Hours!

Please include the following: activity date, number of hours, activity description, contact information for the Volunteer Coordinator and the number of people served!

Volunteer Coordinators

Please fax your volunteer sign-in sheets to 682-2353 to insure that Master Recyclers receive credit towards "payback."

printed on Recycled Paper made with 100% Post Consumer Waste

If you prefer to receive this newsletter without the paper, send an email to kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us

Recover-Renew-Reimagine 28th Annual PIELC February 28-28



Land Air Water is pleased to announce that the 28th annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) will be held at the **University of Oregon School of Law** from February 25-28, 2010. Once again we will be welcoming attorneys, activists, government officials, students, and community members to the law school for the world's largest and most important conference of its kind.

There will also be a special pre-PIELC lecture presented by the Oregon Humanities Center the evening of February 24 featuring environmental attorney Denis Hayes, the National Coordinator for the first Earth Day, the former director of the federal government's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the current President of the Bullitt Foundation.

We are currently accepting panel suggestions for the 2010 PIELC. Please submit ideas to us at http://pielc.org/pages/panel_suggest.html. The priority deadline for panel submissions is December 18, 2009, however we will continue to accept panel suggestions until January 22, 2010. Stay tuned to www.pielc.org for more updates as we get closer to the conference.

Holiday Santa-ty

Reducing waste is especially important during the holiday season. Americans throw away 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than during any other time of the year.

Excess packaging isn't the only culprit. Leftover food, unwanted toys, gadgets and clothes often get discarded as trash rather than put to any useful purpose. Here are just a few reminders that can help:

Cook only what you need and have a good plan for any leftovers, such as donating, swapping or composting. **Purchase** gently used or locally made gifts that come with little or no packaging. **Recycle** or **donate ALL** unwanted electronics. TVs, computers, monitors and laptops can be recycled for no charge at several convenient locations. Let acquaintances know if you **prefer** not to accept gifts but would like, instead, to **exchange favorite recipes** and warm wishes for a peaceful New Year!

Winter Term Master Recycler Training in Junction City!

This class meets **January 12 – March 9** at the Community Services Center located at 175 W 7th Ave in Junction City for 9 consecutive Tuesday nights from 6 to 9pm. Round trip transportation is provided for 2 Saturday morning field trips. A total of 4 field trips are schedule during the term. **For more information contact:** Kelly Bell, Master Recycler Coordinator at kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us or (541) 682-2059