

MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

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Recycling in Brussels

by Terri Brown - Master Recycler

I recently had the opportunity to visit family in Brussels Belgium and see how that city of 1.1 million deals with their waste stream and energy usage. The first newspaper I picked up reviewed the new hydrogen cell powered bus on the first page. Coming in from the airport I saw hundreds of tiny cars and a sprinkling of SUV's. Billboards proclaimed the carbon emissions of the SMART car. I was going to find out how a European country managed its waste.

The Business section of the same paper had an article on recycling. In 2006 according to adbi, 91.2% of the 723,000 tonnes of packaging waste collected in Belgium was recycled a number that increased to 94.6% when taking into consideration the amount incinerated for energy recovery. The company in charge touted the value of recycling education at the elementary level and collections at music festivals. The next targets are pet waste, cigarette butts, and discarded bottles.

So how do they do it? According to the family I lived with the solution was simple: the local government devised a program and the citizens were educated in its use. They use colored plastic bags for all recycled items that are source sorted at home. Every apartment building has a recycling center in the basement. Bins for each item are color coordinated to match the collection bags. In addition each bin has a colored label attached showing what items are allowed. On major streets there are banks of collection stations for recycled items including one for clothing. Garbage collection is expensive so people are willing to recycle.

I noticed a few things that made me wonder about the high percentage of recycling. The bins in the shopping districts and at the train and tram stations were full of the usual unsorted collection of plastic water bottles and newspapers and fast food waste. Retail stores have fancy bags and Belgium's famous chocolate companies have multi-layered very elegant packaging.



The white container is for white glass, Green for green glass & the blue bin is for clothing

People tend to use their own bags at the grocery store although the plastic bag is available. People drink bottled water as well as other bottled beverages and there is no deposit so the only way to reclaim them is through voluntary recycling.

The apartment we stayed in was heated by hot water heat piped through radiators. The family was conservative in their use of electricity but the light bulbs were incandescent and there were plenty of kitchen gadgets in use.

Though the sidewalks in downtown are lined with banks of bicycles that can be rented and dropped off elsewhere, Brussels is not a bike friendly city. People tend to use public transportation to go to work but have at least one car for trips to the store and afternoons in the country.

Their more visual recycling system seemed to work but there is still the tendency to create more packaging waste and for people to aspire to bigger houses and larger 'family' cars.



colored bags for recycling



Recycling center with colored bins



bikes for public use

Lane County Event Recycling takes off with new bins!

Thanks to a grant from the DEQ , Lane County purchased 75 Clear Stream recycling bins and 10 compost bins. The County wanted to provide an option that matched the City of Eugene's system and could be used at events outside of the Eugene, where the City of Eugene's bin system is widely used.

Sarah Grimm, Waste Reduction Specialist for Lane County Public Works secured the grant, purchased the bins and then set out for the hard work of recruiting events. The response was tremendous - showing that we sorely needed an option county-wide.

In just 5 months, since May of this year, the County's bin system has been used at 14 events - twice as many as we anticipated. About half of the events hadn't previously offered recycling. Lane County's Clear Stream bins were used at Bohemia Mining Days, Northwest Herb Festival, Blackberry Jam, two weekend events with Mountain Bike Oregon, the Living History Festival, Scandinavian Festival, Lane County Fair, Lane County Foster Recognition Picnic, Democratic Party of Lane County Picnic, McKenzie Arts Festival, Wine and Blues festival, the Colonial Harvest Festival in Pleasant hill and the Coburg Antique Fair.

Bohemian Mining Days in Cottage Grove used 20 recycling bins to match the trash cans in the community, stage and food areas. Community volunteers did an end sort of the materials.

Master Recycler, Laura Poyeumirou, volunteered to be the recycling coordinator for the Blackberry Jam Festival in Lowell. Laura and one friend single handedly sorted and recycled a mix of materials collected commingled and delivered it to the nearest waste and recycling transfer station.

Mt. Bike Oregon in Oakridge was already sophisticated in their efforts to achieve zero waste through composting and recycling. Past events had used durable cutlery and composted food waste at a local community garden. They were thrilled to get access to bins that offer a consistent look and used the system at two separate weekend events.



Willamalane Parks and Recreation program in Springfield also recently adopted the goal of zero waste. They were enthusiastic about having access to bins that match the City of Eugene's for their Living History Festival in Springfield.



Despite the Scandinavian Festival steering committee's concerns about providing recycling, due to unsuccessful efforts in the past, and the commitment to maintaining the event's visual replica of Scandinavian culture, we were able to encourage their participation. Sarah Grimm made decorative Scandinavian flags and hung them on the Clear Stream bins to fit in with the event's look and ease the transition. Master Recyclers top sorted the bins for the 13 hours the event was open each day. We found that by top sorting several times a day, the public's quality of participation improved over time. Recyclers reported filling 20, 90 gallon roll carts plus and 8 full bags with commingled bottles and cans.

All of the Lane County bins were used at the Lane County Fair. Though the event is in the Eugene city limits, there was a need for more bins than the City of Eugene could supply.

Thanks to all of you that helped bring recycling to new events!



Thank you for all of your service this last quarter! (500 hours) I didn't know how we'd get through the busy summer & football games and you came through for us!

MECCA has a new Executive Director, Yvonne Manipon. Yvonne graduated from the University of Oregon School of Allied Arts & Architecture in 1989, and went on to earn a Master of Arts in Art Administration from The Art Institute of Chicago. She has an extensive background in art history, art education, museum education, studio arts, and over 18 years of arts administration experience in community-based programs. Most recently, she spent several years in Hawaii, where she developed and coordinated "Art to Go," a highly successful program serving at-risk youth. She and her family returned to Eugene this year when her husband was named assistant dean at the University of Oregon Lundquist College of Business.

FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

Master Recycler Potluck - Thursday, October 25th, 6-9pm - Goodson Room

This will be Nina Whitney's farewell potluck, bring a plate, utensils and dish to share. We'll have reuse crafts for the creative!



October Electronics Roundups

Saturday, Oct 27, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Wal-Mart Community RoundUp, 1040 Green Acres Road, Eugene

Saturday, Nov 3 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, In Partnership with Lane County Household Hazardous Waste Roundup - Veneta

Thursday, November 15 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM - America Recycles Day - at NextStep

Saturday, January 12, 2008 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM - After the Holidays Recycling Event - at NextStep

To volunteer to help with electronic round-ups contact Enid Leston 686-2366 ext. 118 enid@nextsteprecycling.org,

Contact April Seay to volunteer to dismantle computers at 686-2366 ext. 115 or april@nextsteprecycling.org.

Landscaping Work Party (TBA in October)



Spread dirt and mulch and plant flowers and bushes that can thrive without irrigation in the rocky soil present at the site. By helping with the front landscaping at BRING's new facility you'll be creating an attractive entryway that will serve as an example for responsible land stewardship.

Green Roof Plant Installation Work Party (TBA in October or November)

Learn how to install a green roof and be part of a team of volunteers interested in protecting our environment, creating a roof of beauty, and promoting recycling of natural products as opposed to production and use of new materials.

Contact Michele Piastro, BRING's Volunteer Coordinator at 606-9093, michelep@bringrecycling.org to volunteer at a work party or learn about exciting new volunteer positions at BRING.

City of Eugene Waste Audits - October 26th and October 31st

Fri, October 26th, 6PM Atrium Building, 99 W 10th

Wed, October 31st, 6PM Eugene City Hall, 777 Pearl Street.

Contact Teri Jones at 682-5279 or teri.a.jones@ci.eugene.or.us

Whitaker Community Thanksgiving Dinner - November 21st-22nd

The Whiteaker Thanksgiving Community Dinner is a lively and heartwarming event. Last year's event fed, clothed and entertained over 2000 people. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we composted or recycled 80% of our waste!! We hope to do even better this year.

Master recyclers are needed to work with and coordinate teams of community volunteers on Wed night Nov 21 from 5-8 (set up and prep), Thursday Nov 22 (8-11, 10:30- 1:30, 1-4, 3:30-6:30). We need one person with a pickup truck on the last shift to transport buckets of compost.

Contact BJ Hurwich at 342-5027 or bjhurwich@yahoo.com to volunteer

Recycling at Autzen Stadium - Oct. 27th, Nov. 3rd & December 1st

We are still looking for a few more people to help with the last three home games of the season. October 27th, November 3rd and Dec. 1st. This is a 2 and a half hour shift, helping people get recycling into the correct container at the entrance gates.

Contact Sarah Grimm to volunteer - 682-4339, sarah.grimm@co.lane.or.us

Less is Best Holiday Fair - November 30-December 2nd - Planet Improvement Center

This is a fun free community event, organized and offered by the combined efforts of BRING Recycling, MECCA (Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts) and the Master Recycler program. Friday, 3-6pm; Saturday, 11-5pm; & Sunday, 11-5pm.

Master Recyclers are needed to promote holiday waste prevention, teach fun reuse crafts and show off local recycled art work! Come and join us! Shifts are Friday 3-6, Saturday 11-2, and 2-5, and Sunday 11-2 or 2-5.

Contact Sarah Grimm to volunteer - 682-4339, sarah.grimm@co.lane.or.us

Lane County Public Works
Waste Management

Master Recycler Program
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Eugene OR 97403



Phone: 541-682-2059
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Email: nina.whitney@co.lane.or.us

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

Report your volunteer hours for July - September of 2007, **NOW!**

Include: date, #of hours, activity, a contact person, and the # of people served!

printed on Recycled Paper -

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

Thank you all and farewell!

- Nina Whitney

It was a very difficult decision to leave the Master Recycler position, but I will be pursuing a new career in teaching, starting in early November. I'm moving to Maui where I will be teaching Special Education at the high school level. I'm sad to leave Lane County's Waste Management division, where I've had the privilege to work with such a supportive team of professionals.

It's been such a great honor to meet and work with everyone in my department, all of our partners in the recycling industry and of course every Master Recycler. I have been so inspired and impressed by the commitment and passion of Lane County's Master Recyclers and equally touched by the warmth and acceptance I have received from everyone in the recycling community. This environment allowed me to grow professionally.

Master Recyclers, thank you all for welcoming me so warmly and supporting me along the way. You are such an amazing group of people who give so much for something you believe in. I trust you will continue to volunteer and share your knowledge and enthusiasm with others. Please welcome the new Master Recycler Coordinator when he or she comes on board.

The hiring process for my replacement will go through an internal process with Lane County as it is a union represented position. Due to this process the Master Recycler position may be vacant for several weeks. Please contact Sarah Grimm with questions or needs during that time; 682-4339 or sarah.grimm@co.lane.or.us.

To all of the class presenters and recycling experts I have come to

know, adore and rely upon, thank you for teaching me about the industry and answering my questions. This community is so welcoming and I thank you all for making me a part of it.

Of course the biggest thanks of all is to Sarah Grimm who is such a gift to our community! I cannot imagine a better person to work for. You all know that Sarah is a dynamic speaker, spirited community organizer and focused professional; she is also a patient mentor and a gracious and supportive supervisor.

You all take care of one another, and if you're ever in Maui look me up!

