

## December News

### Responding to Slow Recycling Markets

With a sluggish commodities market, materials are not moving as quickly as they were even a year ago. At that time, the value of plastic, paper, metal and cardboard was high so recyclers were creative in finding new markets for odd materials. Unfortunately, recyclers are tightening their belts just like the rest of us. The Master Recycler Plastics Roundups have been postponed and local depots are finding they need to reduce some of the materials they can accept. Curbside materials have more consistent markets and were chosen because they can weather these types of ups and downs.

Now Master Recyclers are left asking "What should I tell people?" Here are a few key points:

- Reduce and reuse is more important than ever! The less stuff to glut the system, the better.
- Buy recycled content material. Keep those markets alive.
- Encourage people to be patient and not have the same expectations from depots. They may find materials that were accepted one week, may not be accepted the next. It's best if people can find space to hold on to those materials a little bit longer until the recycling markets pick back up again.
- Keep using the roll carts at home. It is more important than ever that people only put what they are supposed to in their roll carts. Improper preparation costs the overburdened system money and reduces the market value of good products.
- Keep the faith in recycling. It is still the right thing to do. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions, creates jobs, and saves money and energy. All things we need in an economy that can use a jump start.

Portlanders seem to understand the situation. When the Plastics Roundups postponement was announced, we received very positive feedback acknowledging the Master Recyclers and Agri-plas recycling efforts. We all wish the best for the future of the roundups and the families affected by the loss of recycling jobs.



J Lauren Norris



## Certified Master Recyclers

**Missy Martin** (Class 33) was most helpful in hosting the Master Recycler Class 36 that was located at her church, United Universalist Church of Waco. By participating in Recycle Sunday events with fellow Master Recyclers from her church, WCCUU received the Green Sanctuary Certification. She has also been a steady participant in the Hillsboro Roundups.

**Sarah Stegmuller** (Class 32) was the site coordinator for the brand new Milwaukie Plastics Roundup as well as helping at the Floyd Light location. She also volunteered for tabling at Clackamas fairs such as the West Linn Old Time Fair.



Sarah Stegmuller at a Floyd Light Plastics Roundup.

Thanks Missy and Sarah!

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Multifamily Outreach

Throughout Washington County

Work from a list of apartment managers who have requested educational materials be distributed to promote multifamily education project in Washington County. Areas include complexes from Hillsboro, Tualatin, Tigard, Sherwood, Aloha and even as far out as Forest Grove.

Volunteers are needed immediately to hang literature on doors in these communities. Master Recyclers will gather materials and addresses from the County office in Hillsboro.

**Don't forget to log  
your volunteer hours**  
Visit [www.masterrecycler.org](http://www.masterrecycler.org)  
and click on the Members tab.

Contact: Heather Robinson (503)846-3660, [Heather\\_Robinson@co.washington.or.us](mailto:Heather_Robinson@co.washington.or.us)

## **North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)**

Oregon Convention Center and Double Tree Hotel, Portland

Oct 7-10th, 2009

Join the planning committee for this event to take on some/one of the special efforts for waste reduction.

Contact: Elaine Jane Cole (503)357-5960, [ecole@wildblue.net](mailto:ecole@wildblue.net)

## **Job Opportunities**

### **Metro Sustainability Center Secondary Education Specialist**

Closes December 8th. Performs various activities focused on educating middle and high school students on environmental sustainability with an emphasis on waste prevention, recycling, composting and household toxics reduction.

To access the complete job announcement and required application materials, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/jobs](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/jobs) or pick up a complete packet at Metro Human Resources, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland

### **Portland Development Commission Lead Grant Program Coordinator**

Lead staff for the implementation and administration of the Portland Regional Lead Hazard Control Program (PRLHCP) and a core member of the NHP production team.

For more information or to apply, please visit [www.pdc.us/jobs](http://www.pdc.us/jobs).



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