

January News

Statewide Waste Generation Overshadows Slight Recycling Increase

The 2006 Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Material Recovery and Waste Generation Report has been released. The good news is that the study shows that Oregonians are recycling and composting slightly more tonnage than they were the year before. The study also stated that there is great energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction because of this recovery. DEQ estimates that Oregonian waste recovery led to energy savings of roughly 27 trillion British Thermal Units (BTU's) that is equivalent to 214 million gallons of gasoline. DEQ estimates that waste recovery also netted 3.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide reduction. DEQ compares that to removing 740,000 cars from Oregon roads for the year.

Unfortunately, there was some disappointing news as well. While these efforts in waste recovery have had significant impacts, the amount of waste generated (materials recovered plus materials thrown away) in our state overshadowed its recovery numbers. Waste generation was so much higher that the overall recovery rate actually went down. Oregon recovery rates were at 49% in 2005 and 47.5% in 2006. The reason that the rate went down is that Oregonians, on average, are buying, using and throwing away more goods. Last year the average Oregonian generated 8.5 pounds of waste per day and 3,118 in the year – a 4% increase from the year before. The metro area recovery was also disappointing, dropping from 59% to 55.5%. DEQ states, "This represents the use of more natural resources and greater environmental impacts."

This study helps confirm what Master Recyclers already know: your efforts are really important in getting out the word that recycling makes a big difference. But it also confirms that Master Recyclers can have the biggest impact in helping spread "reduce" and "reuse" messages. Your efforts in encouraging folks to stop junk mail, use green building practices, make wise shopping choices, and practice waste reduction in their work places are exactly the efforts that the state needs. Thank you for all your great efforts. Looks like we have more work to do! To find the report go to: <http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/wastegeneration.shtml>.

Master Recycler Washington County Forum

January 31st 6pm - 7:30pm

Washington Co. Public Service Building (PSB) in the Auditorium
155 N. 1st Avenue, Hillsboro

Master Recyclers are invited to a winter recycling forum with guest speaker Jeff Murray, President of Far West Fibers. Mr. Murray will share what plastics they accept at the material recovery facility, how they sort them and where they go. There will be a question and answer period.

You'll also get a chance to learn more about how Master Recyclers can help with the Washington County conversion to roll carts. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP Michelle Pimentel

(503) 846-3651

michelle_pimentel@co.washington.or.us

Master Recyclers Recognized

Congratulations to **Tracey Gamley** (Class 36) for becoming the first Certified Master Recycler in her class! Tracey accumulated 41.5 hours after completing the class just a month ago. You may be surprised to see Tracey and fellow class 36er, **Segeni Mungai**, on your television. They joined **Eileen Newman** (Class 22) in creating a series of recycling and waste prevention tips for cable access.



Tracey Gamley on television.

Most of the plugs will be in Washington County, but some may show up throughout the region. Tracey also helped at the last plastics roundup, is working to raise awareness at work and is helping Washington County with public outreach on Hillsboro's conversion to roll carts. Thanks Tracey! You've been a great new member of the team.

Congratulations also to **Mary Leverette** (Class 30), who joined the very elite Master Recycler Century Club. Mary contributed over one hundred hours to join this club, and she made every minute count.

Thanks Mary and Tracey!

Program Coordinator's trip to Guatemala Shows New Environmental Projects

I'm back from Guatemala rejuvenated and excited to work another year with Master Recyclers. My project was an intercultural exchange between 10 youth from the City and Country, but there were interesting new environmental developments I thought you all would find interesting. A suburb of Guatemala City now has a MRF (material recovery facility) that will be sorting recycling out of garbage. A newly constructed mass transit system in Guatemala City and a building in the country lined with old plastic bottles stuffed with plastic bags for a little insulation from the cold outside.



Guatemala City has a new transit system.



Guatemala City MRF.

Guatemala may have its environmental problems, but our metro area has its challenges as well. Most of the region will be converted to roll carts and attempt to accept more uniform materials for curbside recycling. We must tackle the fact that waste generation is at an all time high, and as construction increases in our region, green building and remodeling will be more important than ever in reducing the waste and carbon footprint of our region.

I look forward to working with Master Recyclers to help the local region tackle these new challenges! Lauren.



Bottles and bags as insulation in Guatemala.

Volunteer Opportunities

Washington County Urban Unincorporated Recycling Roll Cart Outreach

The urban unincorporated Washington County roll cart recycling program begins January 1, 2008! While some city residents already have roll carts, 53,000 Washington County homes outside of the city's limits, but inside the Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), will receive this service in 2008.

Washington County will partner with volunteers from the Master Recycler program to perform technical outreach to residents new to roll cart recycling. Volunteers will be dispatched to a route with hauler brochures specific to the area they are canvassing, approved scripts, and glass bin stickers. Volunteer feedback will include a small list of data to help with future outreach activities.

Volunteers may perform outreach between January and April 2008. You will be given materials and asked to cover an area on your own schedule.

Contact: Michelle Pimentel
(503) 846-3651
michelle_pimentel@co.washington.or.us

Fix-it Fairs

January 12
Lent School
5105 SE 97th Avenue, Portland

February 2
Roosevelt High
6941 N Central Avenue, Portland

All table shifts are 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. These include set up and take down assistance.

Don't forget to log your
volunteer hours.

Visit masterrecycler.org and
click on the Members tab.

Username: MasterRecycler
Password: master

Master Recyclers had a blast at the November Fix-it Fair where they had almost 600 conversations about waste reduction. There are still some slots for the upcoming January and February fairs. There's a topic for every one. These fun community events offer money-saving solutions and educational opportunities to low-income households while emphasizing healthy, environmentally friendly homes and gardens. This is one of the most effective tabling opportunities for Master Recyclers. It reaches a diverse audience who come specifically to learn what you have to teach. Fix-it Fairs are sponsored by the Office of Sustainable Development. If you speak Spanish you are especially encouraged to participate as these two upcoming Fix-it fairs will focus on providing more resources to Hispanic families in the community.

Topics:

- Portland Recycles!
- Greener Cleaner
- Remodel it Green
- Metro's Compost/wormbin (with Metro staff)
- The Rebuilding Center

There's even free Burgerville meals for everyone!

Contact: J Lauren Norris

(503)823-7530

masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us

(let me know what topic and shift you prefer)

Build, Remodel and Landscape Show

Rebuilding Center Table

1401 N Wheeler

Portland Memorial Coliseum

Friday, Jan. 25: Two hour shifts available anytime from 12 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 27: Two hour shifts available anytime from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Do you know and love the Rebuilding Center? Come share your enthusiasm with participants of the Build, Remodel, and Landscape Show. You'll get some basic training, have a great time, and receive free admission to this great event!

Contact: Sam Schongalla
503.467.4985
volunteer@ourunitedvillages.org

Winter Master Recycler Plastics Roundups

Winter is often our record high roundup so **Now is the time to sign up!**

Shifts: 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 12 – 4 p.m. (the second shift will include helping load trucks)

Saturday January 26 at two locations:

Southeast Portland: Floyd Light Middle School, 10800 SE Washington

North Portland: Hosted by Kaiser Permanente West Interstate, 3325 N Interstate (off Fremont and Overlook Park)

Saturday, February 9 at two locations:

Lake Oswego: Hosted by Shorenstein Realty Services LP and Autodesk, Inc., 5400 Meadows Road

Rock Creek: Westview High School, 4200 NW 185th Avenue

Contact: J Lauren Norris

(503)823-7530

masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us

(mention which location and shift you would like to help).

St. Juan Diego Sunday School Presentation

PCC Rock Creek Campus, Rock Creek

Sunday, flexible on date: Jan. 20, 27 or any Sunday in February.

St. Juan Diego Catholic Parish seeks a Master Recycler to share with their Sunday-school classes about recycling, specifically what children can do to become good stewards of the earth. They would especially appreciate someone who brings a faith perspective to the program, but that wouldn't be a requirement.

Contact: J Lauren Norris

(503)823-7530

masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us

Lewis & Clark Global Warming Day

615 SW Palatine Hill Road, Portland
Thursday, January 31st 10 am – 3 pm (but flexible)

Lewis & Clark is conducting a global warming conference for students on campus. The students invited one or two Master Recyclers to staff a table on recycling for all or part of 10am-3pm.

Contact student Kiel Johnson, kielj@lclark.edu, (206)850-8084 to sign up.

To check out a Portland Recycles! kit contact: Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us

Job Opportunities

Metro's Waste Reduction and Outreach Division Manager

Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland
Compensation: \$74,881 – \$106,353 annually
Application deadline: January 4, 2008

This position is responsible for managing Metro's Waste Reduction and Outreach Division. This division is responsible for: (1) meeting or exceeding state recycling goals through developing, implementing and coordinating regional waste reduction policies and programs; (2) planning, developing, implementing and evaluating Metro's waste reduction and education and outreach programs; (3) supporting the public affairs functions of the Department; (4) supporting the implementation of the Department's Strategic Plan and the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; and (5) providing policy advice and analysis for elected officials. Develops and administers a \$5.6 million annual budget for a staff of 20.

The ideal candidate will have experience in a management capacity involving policy development, planning and budgeting, project management and supervision of professional staff.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in public administration, environmental science, planning or related field, and six years of progressively responsible experience in the field, including experience with solid waste disposal and recycling programs; or any combination

of experience and education that provides the applicant with the desired knowledge, skills and ability required to perform the job.

To apply: This job requires answers to supplemental questions. Please visit our web site at: www.metro-region.org/jobs for the complete job announcement and a description of the application process.

Metro Hazardous Waste Technicians

Metro Central Station – 6161 NW 61st Ave, Portland, OR

Compensation: \$12.72/hour

Extended deadline: January 18, 2008

Under the direction of the Hazardous Waste Facility Supervisor, Solid Waste and Recycling Department, this position participates in the handling of incoming hazardous waste loads at Metro's Hazardous Waste Facilities and collection sites.

Off-site at hazardous waste collection events.

Web announcement: <http://www.metro-region.org/index.cfm/go/by.web/id/25888>

Multiple part-time, temporary positions This is a temporary position with duration not to exceed 1044 hours in a 12-month period from initial date of hire. The facility operates Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Work may be performed offsite at hazardous waste collection events. Hours and schedule will vary.

Position summary: Under the direction of the Hazardous Waste Facility Supervisor, this position participates in the handling of incoming hazardous waste loads at Metro's Hazardous Waste Facilities and collection sites, including receiving, identifying, sorting and preparation for disposal of hazardous wastes from households and small businesses.

Essential job duties: An employee in this position must be able to perform all of the essential job duties listed below with or without reasonable accommodation; however, this list is not intended to include all of the specific tasks which an employee in this position may be expected to perform.

Assists in receiving, identifying, sorting, and preparation for disposal of incoming household and small business hazardous waste. Assists in setting up and operating off-site hazardous waste collection events.

Assists in the cleanup of hazardous waste materials spills. Prepares inventory counts, report forms and transport manifests. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Minimum requirements: High school diploma or GED and any combination of education and experience which would provide the candidate with the desired knowledge, skill and ability required to perform the job. Specialized training or experience in a field related to hazardous waste management is preferred, but not required. Requires the ability to work weekends. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a valid driver's license issued in the incumbent's state of residency.

Conservation News

How to Be an Agent of Change in Your Circle of Influence

Wednesdays, February 20 to March 12 and April 9
7 – 8:45 pm

Thursdays, April 3 to April 24 and May 22
7 – 8:45 pm

This class covers the theory, practice, and tools of an agent of change working within a chosen circle of influence (a neighborhood, workplace, interest club, extended family, etc). Each participant will select one circle of influence, develop a strategy and plan for change, and take steps of early implementation, in consultation with other members in the class.

Presenters Jeanne and Dick Roy are nationally recognized for their tireless work as change agents. As full-time volunteers for the past 13 years, they are co-founders of the Center for Earth Leadership, the Northwest Earth Institute, and the Oregon Natural Step Network.

This class is intended for motivated individuals who seek to create a sustainable future.

To reserve your space, contact Meghan at 503-227-2315 or meghan@earthleaders.org

Visit www.earthleaders.org/classes_workshops for further information.

