

January News

2009 Brings New Challenges and Opportunities for Recycling

Happy New Year, Master Recyclers. What an amazing 2008 we had! The accomplishments are too many to list, but here are a few highlights:

- Ninety new Master Recyclers attended class in Portland, Clackamas and Washington Counties.
- 63 Master Recyclers met their volunteer commitment of 30 hours.
- Master Recyclers participated in almost 200 events, contributed 3800 hours of volunteer work, and contacted over three million people about recycling, consumption, greener cleaners, green building, and compost and worm bins.
- We recycled 53 tons of plastic and educated 8600 people about plastic recycling.
- All studies indicate that people were prepared and positive about their new roll carts thanks in part to Master Recycler participation in the Portland and Washington County outreach campaigns.
- How many years can we say that Master Recyclers danced with roll carts in front of 125,000 residents singing "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!"?

The New Year brings many challenges. At this time last year we charged forth encouraging more depot recycling, new Plastics Roundup locations and a new roll cart campaign because we felt prepared to process new materials. No one could have predicted the plunge in global recycling markets (along with all other markets). Recycling companies are struggling to make ends meet and niche market materials are the first to disappear. Hauling companies who depend on recycling markets to offset their garbage fees are reeling.

There are many good indicators to bolster our hope that this is a temporary set back. Local and national policy makers are talking seriously about green jobs and sustainable economies. Waste prevention and recycling are part of the solutions we need. Opportunities abound now to remind Metro area residents that buying locally, reducing waste, and recycling are ways individuals can pitch in to help turn our economy around. Green Teams will help government offices, businesses, and schools buy recycled content which is more important than ever.

I look forward to another year!



J Lauren Norris

Four Master Recyclers Certified in December

Jaylen Schmitt's (Class 38) diverse hours included tabling at Salmonfest, Good in the Hood and Mississippi Street Fair. She also had an Eco-party. Of course the highlight would have to have been dancing with Portland's new roll carts in the Starlight Parade. Jaylen has offered to co-lead a future Plastics Roundup (when our economy recovers), so we can look forward to more participation from her.



Heidi still smiling!

Jon-Michael Kowitz (Class 39) finished his hours in a flash, having just graduated in November. Jon-Michael organized a table for fellow classmates to join him in the cold, but now well-informed, Winter Hillsboro Winter Farmers' Market.

Heidi Lambek (Class 39) sped through her certification hours in a month as well. She joined the crew who braved the cold at Hillsboro's Farmers' Market. She is also on Intel's Earth Day Planning Committee. We will see much more activity from Heidi.



Lane' using mittens to hand out lit.

Lane' Richards (Class 39) also joined Heidi and Jon-Michael to be the first to graduate from Class 39. She tabled at various events in outer Washington County, helped schools become green schools and is working to become an official Eco-party facilitator. She has many plans for more projects so it won't be long before she's a century clubber.

Thanks to each one of you! You are clearly very committed to waste reduction.

Volunteer Opportunities

PCC English as a Second Language Class

PCC SE Center 2305 SE 82nd, Portland

Any Monday between January 12th and March 9th, 9 a.m. – noon

Offer a one hour presentation on recycling to some of Portland's newest residents. They use recycling as a topic to learn English. Check out the Portland Recycles! kit and contact the PCC teacher to arrange the best Monday morning for you.

Contact for kit: Alicia Polacok (503)823-7107, apolacok@ci.portland.or.us

Contact at PCC: Sue Moser (503)233-9192, susan.moser@pcc.edu

Clackamas Garden Club

Mt. Scott or Happy Valley area, Clackamas

Tuesday, January 13th or February 10th 10–11:30 a.m.

The Clackamas Garden Club invites a Master Recycler to offer a presentation on recycling. Check out literature and a kit from Clackamas County and contact the garden club to arrange the presentation. They would prefer a volunteer in January, but if that is not possible the February date is available.

Contact: Jennifer Buss (503)781-9418 or (503)698-8222

Cedar Hills Girl Scout Troop Presentation

11695 SW Park Way, unincorporated Washington County

Monday, January 19th 5:45 – 7:15 p.m.

Because President-elect Obama encouraged the community to practice service on Martin Luther King Jr's. Birthday, this Girl Scout troop plans to kick off a recycling drive. But they need a Master Recycler to come and talk to them about recycling; why it is important, what is recyclable, etc.

**Don't forget to log
your volunteer hours**
Visit www.masterrecycler.org
and click on the Members tab.

Contact: Karen Duggan (503)646-8284, kare.jim.duggan@verizon.net

Free Geek Computer Collection event at IKEA

IKEA Store 10280 NE Cascades Parkway, Portland
Saturday, January 24th 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Free Geek will be collecting computer systems, monitors and more at this collection event. A Master Recycler will explain Free Geek's operation to recyclers. Confirmed volunteers will receive a free IKEA lunch.

Contact: Kevin Berg, kevin11berg@gmail.com

Conservation News

Block Foam Recycling Event

Waluga Jr. High School, 4700 Jean Road, Lake Oswego
Sunday, January 11th 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (or until trucks are full)

Got Block Foam? This one time event accepts #4, #5, and #6 foam block. No peanuts or food related foam. \$5 per car, \$10 per truck.

For more information, contact Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner, (503)635-0291, smillhauser@ci.oswego.or.us.

This event is brought to you by the Palisades Neighborhood Association, the City of Lake Oswego Sustainability Advisory Board and Community Development Department, the Lake Oswego School District–Waluga Jr. High School and Total Reclaim.

Center for Earth Leadership Agent of Change in Your Circle of Influence workshops Winter/Spring 2009 Class Schedule

Group 1: Tuesdays, February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, and April 14
Time: 7 – 8:45 p.m.

Focus: Open to all circles of influence

Group 2: Wednesdays, February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, and April 15
Time: 7 – 8:45 p.m.

Focus: Open to those who wish to create change within schools

This six-session class covers the theory, practice, and tools of a change agent working within a chosen circle of influence. 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.

For more information: http://www.earthleaders.org/classes_workshops/agent

Urban Growth Bounty 2009

Sustainable food classes presented by the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development

Want to grow abundant fruit and vegetables, raise chickens, keep bees, make cheese and preserve food? Urban Growth Bounty classes, taught by Portland experts, will provide the tools to make 2009 a more sustainable, healthier year for you and your budget.

For more information visit <http://www.portlandonline.com/osd/ugb>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

can be found in Job Seekers at the
Master Recycler Forum.



www.MasterRecycler.org

