

January News

Change is in the Air for Food Scrap

The metro area is about to have a few new tricks up its sleeve to help reach waste recovery targets. The region's goal is to recover 64% of all generated waste and food scraps make up 15% of everything we throw away (That's 180,000 tons every year!).

Food waste has special negative impacts to air and water quality. In the anaerobic environment typical of the modern landfill, the decomposition of organic material creates methane. Methane is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.



Photo courtesy of EPA composted food scrap.

Composting food scraps (which include dairy, meat, and bones) is different from composting regular yard debris as it requires a higher level of heat and special catchment systems for storm water.

Meanwhile, there are many new technologies that could make food scrap invaluable in displacing the need for virgin materials for fertilizers and energy. New "digesters" can break food waste into an energy source and then compost the remains.

Jerry Powell, Editor of Resource Recycling Magazine, says, "[Policy makers and waste management companies in the region] have known for some time that food scrap is the most obvious area for growth in the Portland waste industry."

There have been a few frustrating stalls. Four years ago, Metro and the City of Portland started a pilot project called Portland Composts! At the time, the Cedar Grove compost facility near Seattle was the nearest facility equipped to compost food waste. So Metro contracted with Cedar Grove to haul Portland's food scraps to Washington and process them for composting, with the understanding that the company would eventually site a facility in the Portland area.

The Portland Composts! Program has been a great success. The City of Portland recruits businesses and offers them technical assistance. Haulers transport the food scraps to Metro's transfer station. From there

they are taken to Cedar Grove's facility and made into compost that can be purchased in Portland-area stores. To date, 470 Portland businesses have volunteered to participate, composting more than 17,000 tons of food scraps per year.

But Cedar Grove still has not sited a compost facility in the Portland region. Locating a suitable site in the metro area proved to be a more expensive and complicated undertaking than perhaps Cedar Grove had anticipated.

Meanwhile, the Portland Composts! Program has been at capacity for some time. Storage space at Metro Central transfer station and transportation capacity is limited. This summer it became necessary to restrict transfer station access to commercial haulers only. Event organizers and other self haulers were no longer able to participate.

It appears that promising new developments are on the horizon. Two new companies have acquired sites and begun the permitting and infrastructure processes necessary to process food waste. [Recology](#), an experienced food waste composter from San Francisco, recently bought a yard waste facility in Aumsville and the Nature's Needs location in North Plains. They also bought several properties owned by Pacific Land Clearing and won the contract to manage the Metro Central transfer station. These moves help build the infrastructure necessary for haulers to drop off food scraps that can be transferred to Recology's composting facility near North Plains.

Meanwhile, Allied Waste recently gained a temporary permit from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to accept food scraps at their facility in Benton County. Food scraps can be dropped off at its Wilsonville operation to be hauled south.

Composting infrastructure in the region will give local jurisdictions and Metro the ability to create policies and programs that enable us to move closer to our recovery goals, conserve more natural resources, and curb climate change. In the future, our composting facilities may even capture energy from our food waste before composting it.

In anticipation of having the necessary composting infrastructure in the region in the near future, the City of Portland is in the process of designing a residential curbside food scrap composting pilot project that could begin as early as this spring. During the pilot, an estimated 1,500 households will be able to place food scraps in their green yard debris

carts so the City can test participation rates and help haulers and City staff prepare for an eventual citywide roll out.

Watch next month for a second story on the details of this pilot project and how Master Recyclers can help. Master Recyclers were incredibly helpful in preparing residents for their new recycling and yard debris roll carts in Portland and in Washington County. Master Recyclers will be important partners on this food scrap pilot project as well, helping with similar outreach efforts, including a door-to-door campaign.

Styrofoam Block Update

With Recology's purchase of the Portland Land Clearing locations there is now expanded opportunity for metro residents to recycle Styrofoam.

- Total Reclaim/EcoLights Northwest
(503) 281-1899
5805 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland
- Recology (formerly PLC), three locations:

SE Portland
(503) 285-8777
6400 SE 101st, Portland

North Portland
(503) 285-8777
4044 N Suttle Rd., Portland

Oregon City
(503) 285-8777
16020 S Park Place Court, Oregon City

(Unfortunately, the West Linn former PLC location is not taking Styrofoam.)

Certified Master Recyclers

Christine Charneski (Class 35) used much of her grassroots outreach skills to spread the word about recycling and waste prevention. Christine canvassed for the Portland Roll Cart Pilot project. She has also been a great representative for the Community Warehouse, even going door-to-door to tell businesses about this important resource in the community.



Christine talking about worms at the Hollywood Farmers Market.

Michelle Weiner (Class 37) did outreach in Clackamas County including tabling at the County Fair, Earth Day and many a plastic roundup. Michelle also ensured that the North American Association of Environmental Educators Conference in Portland was a green one. She identified sustainable operations for food services and hotel operations and coordinated with the four hotels to identify ways to implement them. She even worked with Friends of Family Farmers to make sure the food served was local.

Reciclaje Navideño

As part of Metro's campaign to reach more Spanish speakers in the metro area, Master Recycler Christel Eichner (Class 20) interviewed on Univision's local television station KUNP on waste prevention and recycling for the holidays. Christel has strong Spanish skills from working in the Peace Corps in Central America and attended the Recycling in Spanish Workshop this summer.

She did an outstanding job staying positive and focusing on waste prevention first. Nice work Christel. [Check Christel out.](#)



Thank You to the Over 350 Certified Master Recyclers

Your commitment has inspired hundreds of thousands of people in the community to think differently about how we consume and conserve our natural resources.

Completed over 200 hours

Jac Arnal • Paul Barton • Sarah Moore

Completed over 100 hours

Michael Britton • Kelly Bryan • Cindi Carrell • Ted Fuller • Tracey Gamley
• Russell Hollenbeck • Colleen Johnston • Rob Kappa • Renee Kimball
• Christy Kuziinsky • Heidi Lambek • Mary Leverette • Sharon Miller

• Segeni Mungai • Eileen Newman • Alicia Polacok • Lane' Richards • Paulette Rossi • Jaylen Schmitt • Billie Shults • Gail Simmons • Joe Sixta • Bill Steimer • Amy Steve • Rachel Zarfaz

Completed over 50 hours

Ken Adams • Anna Anderson • Beverly Ardueser • Belen Audirsch • Jeanne Becker • Anne Bedney • Janet Berkebile • Judy Bloodworth • Sharon Bobbe • June Boone • Ivan Camacho • Sandi Carner • Molly Chidsey • Colin Cigarran • Craig Clark • Candace Clark • Brenda Demaree • Lynne Detrick • Jacqui Dowsett • Robin Dunitz • Erin Fitzgerald • Brian Flores • April Fong • Barbara Ford • Ramona Fouts • Pauline Freeman • Dana Gantz • Yvonne Garcia • Julie Gefroh • Michael Geller • Elaine Giraud • Dion Glisan • Carol Grindlay • Kathleen High • Mark Insalaco • Elizabeth Johnson • Jon-Michael Kowertz • Sharon Leary • Sharon Leingang • Jane Linn • Donna Lomnicki • Catha Loomis • Maggie Machado • Jim Maddry • Doug Martin • Norma McAfee • Dick McCollom • Louann Metzger • TJ Millbrooke • J. Lauren Norris • Harris Orem • Mary Otto • Cynthia Parker • Mary Ann Pastene • Cheryl Petersen • Lonnie Port • Robin Raffety • Miriam Reeber • Ron Reese • Anya Relleve • Aymie Reynolds • Kathy Robertson • Serena Ross • Michael Salmond • Rachel Sanchez • Vicki Staley • Debbie Stoller • Erica Thygesen • Lily Todd • Susan Vossler • Joyce Walls • Robert Welch • Morgan Whalen • Kristin Wildensee • Lily Witham

Completed over 30 hours

Dave Allen • Amanda Amidon • Mike Andrews • Molly Artman • Otto Audirsch • Jennifer Augello • Joanna Bakken • Phyllis Barks • Allison Barra • Susan Barrett • Susan Bartlett • Bruce Barton • Kelly Bates • Kimberly Beaudet • Jeff Becker • Mary Bellafronto • Jamey Berg • Lois Bergstrom • Denise Berkshire • Livia Blaszak • Dana Blizzard • Christine Bloom • Tom Bordenkirck • Barbara Borst • Michael Bouchard • Robert Bowles • Steve Braman • Liz Braman • Susana Brennan • Paula Brewer • Kacia Brockman • Sara Brockmeier • Gabriela Buamscha • Theresia Buchholz • Jonathan Budner • Dawn Burgardt • Dana Bushhouse • Ron Calkins • Doug Campbell • Cyd Cannizzaro • Kelley Carmichael • Aimee Cartier • Julie Case • Sue Ceswick • Molly Charnes • Andrea Chek • Leanne Chilstrom • Brenda Christoffer • Lisa Clifton • Roberta Cobain • Wanda Cochran • Elaine Cole • Carey Collins • Lynne Cook • Rick Craycraft • Marcele Daeges • Katy Daily • Mary Daly • Caryn Dennis • Audrey Desler • Karen Detrick • Jennifer DeVoe • Barbara Dobroth • Sherri Dow • Heidi Dragoo • Christel Eichner • Willow Elliott • Armando Espinoza • David Fassler II • Wendy Faubert • Patricia Fenton • Kathleen Finn • Brendan Fitzpatrick • Shira Fogel • Tina Frasnely • Sandra Funk

• Ellen Galvin • Kelly Garner • Dave Garten • Peter Gibbs • Kim Gibson
• Caran Goodall • Elizabeth Goodman • Ginny Haines • Edward Han •
Rhonda Hancock • Lori Hanson • Kate Hawley • Vanessa Herald • Alex
Ho • Erma Hoffman • Deborah Hofmann • Gary Holman • Kip Holstrom
• Martha Hovis • Laura Huckaba • Bud Imeson • John Jahns • Dana
Jeffries • Leslie Johnson • Valerie Johnstone • Stan Jones • Jimmy Jones
• Genevieve Joplin • Michelle Judson • Barbara Kelsey • Ross Kenney •
Maureen Kenny • Gretchen Kilby • Meg Kilmer • Steve Klausman • Cathy
Klettke • Susan Kloster • Cory Kniefel • Nick Kozak • Teresa Kubo • Brad
Kuntz • Diane Lancon • Peggy LaPoint • Leslee Larsen • Diane Larson
• Kelly Larson • Chris Lavcevic • Jerry Ledesma • Helena Lee • Rhonda
Leo • Nate Lesiuk • Johnny Leuthold • Renee Limon • Jim Lipscomb •
Leslie Logan • Betsy Loncar • Phil Lopez • Brian Ludlow • Ammi Ludwick
• John Maher • Dawn Mahn • Liza Maness • Shannon Martin • Missy
Martin • Angela Marzano • Lindsey Maser • Charlotte Matthews • Kara
Mattoon • Barbara Mattox • Gail McCurter • Barbara McLean • Susan
Mead • Michelle Miller • Carla Moore • Gilford Moss • Patricia Murphy •
Bobbee Murr • Lauri Neumann-Grable • Kati Neville • Diane Newell • Will
Newman II • Nancy Oberschmidt • Tamara Olcott • Nick O'Neil • Kelly
Panciera • Catherine Parker • Julianne Parrett • Shirley Paulson • Debra
Peerenboom • Cathy Perkins • Corey Plank • Ildiko Plesko • Lynette
Podkranic • Sasha Pollack • Jill Punches • Mary Lou Quinn • Heather
Randol • Janis Rankin • Michael Ray • Patricia Reynolds • Tom Richards
• Virginia Rickard • Inge Robertson • Scott Rosenthal • Mary Rowan •
Michelle Ruber • Renate Ryan-Jeppeson • Paul Sanford • Elaine Saunders
• Laura Schaefer • Kathy Schaub • Molly Schmitz • Elke Schoen •
James Schulz-Browning • Sue Shade • Tanya Shaefer • Betty Shelley •
Jon Shelly • Rebecca Sherman • Demaris Sherwood • Bruce Shields •
Rolf Skar • Dresden Skees Gregory • Suzanne Smith • Theresa Smith
• Karen Sorensen • Heather Stanley • Jeana Sted • Jennifer Steger •
Sarah Stegmuller • Daniel Steigerwald • MariAnne Steiner • Deborah
Stewart • Teri Stoeber • Amy Stork • Lisa Sundby • Tonsy Sylvester •
Joni Taylor • Cheryl Terrusa • Susan Terry • Amanda Thompson • Dorie
Toman • Melinda Trask • Cynthia Trumpower • Dena Turner • Leslie
Underwood • Charles Vannice • Tracie Vogel • Michelle Walch • Sara
Walker • Cameron Waner • Denise Wetherbee • Carrie White • Tristan
Whitehead • Linda Whitmore • David Wilkins • Cathy Williams • Christine
Wilson • Brent Wilson • Colleen Wright



Volunteer Opportunities

The Maya Angelou Community Center Presentation

Maya Angelou Apartments, 4012 N Borthwick, Portland
Pick a day, Monday - Thursday, 6 – 7 p.m.

Present to youth residents ages 5 – 13 on recycling.

Contact: Cassie Russell, 503-281-1778, cassie@pcrihome.org

Our Planet, Our Stuff, Our Choice: An EPA Video Competition to Reduce Our Environmental Footprint

This is a zero waste competition and all of the outreach and entry submissions will be conducted online.

Submit your 30 or 60 second video between December 16th and February 16th 2010.

EPA is sponsoring a video competition to raise awareness of the connection between the environment and the “stuff” people use, consume, recycle, and throw away. Inspire community involvement, spread information and lead to action, with a chance to win up to \$2,500 and count toward your Master Recycler hours!

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/5Vh1Gw>.

Gresham Knock and Talks

Saturday, January 16th 1 – 3:30 p.m.

and

Saturday, February 20th 1 – 3:30 p.m.

City of Gresham Recycling & Solid Waste is looking for volunteers to work as a team going door-to-door at apartment complexes to provide tenants information about recycling. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in your community. Training, materials and transportation provided.

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

Contact: Aubrey Lindstrom at 503-618-2206,
Aubrey.Lindstrom@GreshamOregon.gov

Fix-It Fair

David Douglas High School, 1001 SE 135th Ave, Portland
Saturday, January 9th 11:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Help staff Metro's Healthy Homes booth at this Fix-It Fair.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

At the online **Master Recycler Forum**
in the Members section of
www.masterrecycler.org

Conservation News

Block Foam Recycling Event

West End Building, 4101 Kruse Way, Lake Oswego
Sunday, January 10th 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (or until trucks are full)

Just in time for the holidays! Bring your block foam to this one-day collection and recycling event.

\$5 per car load or \$10 per pick-up truck/van/SUV. Accepted types of block foam packaging material include: Expanded Polystyrene, EPS Styrofoam® (EPS #6 recycling symbol). Colored materials are okay. Please, NO foam peanuts or packing pellets.

Contact Justin Bates, 503-635-0286, jbbates@ci.oswego.or.us.

How to Be an Agent of Change, a course by the Center for Earth Leadership

Six evenings starting the week of February 15
Five evenings starting the end of February (school projects only)
Six evenings starting the week of April 5

Put your Master Recycler skills to work and make an impact on the waste stream everyday! Look around you. Do you see how your workplace, neighborhood, child's school, church, or other organization could be more sustainable? You choose your circle of influence and vision for change; the class gives you the tools and strategies to be successful.

Already have a project in the works? Great! The Agent of Change class is ideal for you as well as those who haven't begun. Come learn how to be more effective in recruiting others to your cause and reaching your goals.

This course is free, but advance registration is required. Classes fill quickly. Contact Emily Klavins, 503-227-2315, emily@earthleaders.org

Portland Eco-School Network Introductory Meeting

Thursday, January 28th 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The Network is appropriate for anyone currently implementing or want to implement sustainable practices at school. Parents at different schools come together to share ideas, experiences, and project summaries for motivation and inspiration.

Contact: Emily Klavins, 503-227-2315, emily@earthleaders.org

Earth Care Summit

Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center (Ecotrust Building) Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center 721 NW Ninth Ave, Portland
Monday, February 1st 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Come network and be inspired. Includes: a tour of the green features of the building, information tables and silent auction featuring green products, locally grown dinner, a keynote speaker and presentations from congregations about their greening efforts, small groups on different topics including wildlife habitat, sustainable purchasing, starting a green team, watershed stewardship, zero waste gatherings, energy efficiency, food and faith and green liturgies.



For more information visit: http://www.emoregon.org/earth_concerns.php

Save Money: Reduce Your Household Waste!

Portland Community College, Oddfellows Educational Center,
4830 N Lombard St, Portland
February 2nd through 16th

Save money and resources by reducing your household waste with this interactive PCC class. Get the inside scoop on how landfills work, pre-cycling, composting, tips on using less, sharing, and more. Designed by Betty Shelly, (Master Recycler Class 2)!

For more information or to register, visit:

<http://www.pcc.edu/schedule/default.cfm?fa=dspCourse2&thisTerm=201001&crsCode=9REDWASTE&topicCode=ENV&subtopicCode=>

Job Opportunities

Our United Villages Community Outreach Office Coordinator

For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.ourunitedvillages.org/employment.html>.

Environment Oregon Director

For More information or to apply, visit: <http://www.environmentamerica.org/jobs/available-positions/environmental-advocacy-positions/environment-oregon-director>.

**More Job Opportunities in
the Master Recycler Forum**



Visit www.masterrecycler.org
and click on the Members tab.

