

March News

The Latest Scoop on Plastic Recycling

As promised, it is time to revisit the situation of “beyond the curb” plastic recycling in the metro area. The Chinese New Year, traditionally the slowest time of the year for plastic recycling markets, has come and gone and the face of plastic recycling has shifted.

Plastic Roundups Continues to be Postponed

Master Recycler Plastic Roundups will not be happening anytime soon. [Agri-plas Inc.](#), who recycled our plastics, downsized to bare bones this winter. Allen Jongsma, Vice President of Agri-plas, suggested I contact him in summer for an update. The plastic markets are weak enough that a 20 ton load of material would be debilitating to Agri-plas’ business.



Allen says he plans to continue to collect plastic at businesses in the Portland area when possible. He is finding some markets, though these are hit and miss. If you have set up alternative plastic recycling at your workplace with Agri-plas you may find that their pick ups are not consistent. Agri-plas recycles a small amount of material through their new Microwave Emitter, a machine that turns plastic into petroleum and natural gas, and sells this end product to oil refineries. However they only have a temporary permit for this process and will need to make major and costly upgrades to the facility in order to meet DEQ and the Fire Marshal’s standards.

Local Depot Options

The Portland metro area has seen a change in recycling depot ownership. [Far West Fibers](#) bought three locations previously owned by Portland Recycling Center: Lake Oswego, North Portland and Northwest Portland. With this change, Agri-plas will no longer pick up plastic at these locations.

Because of this, these locations will no longer recycle the various plastics collected at the Roundups, and Master Recyclers will need to include this message when talking to the public.

Far West Fibers continues to collect just about every rigid plastic except PVC vinyl. They also accept film that is easy to stretch and poke a hole through (think grocery or produce bag). The market for plastic bags is extremely sluggish, but the clear shrink wrap usually found in businesses is still selling well.

New Homes for Block Foam

Some great news is that there are now two local companies viably recycling block foam. [Pacific Land Clearing](#) and [Total Reclaim](#) have both invested in the special equipment necessary to recover the material. Most of the Styrofoam will be recycled into building material.



New Tool to Talk About Bioplastics

At long last the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS, formally OSD) has released a new [Compostable Plastic Fact Sheet](#) that you may find helpful when talking about bioplastics. The fact sheet focuses on consumer and disposable containers and encourages the public to select durable options rather than paper, plastic or even bioplastic. Hard copies are available upon request.

J Lauren Norris

Thank You to Newly Certified Master Recyclers!

Leslie Logan (Class 36) did a good deal of community organizing, starting green teams at the Boones Ferry Elementary School, her neighborhood association, and a Quaker Earthcare Committee. Way to leverage your knowledge to encourage others to join in!

Willow Elliott (Class 38) talked about Portland Recycles! at many diverse community events, including Good in the Hood, Sunday Parkways, Salmon Fest and the Fix-it Fair. She also helped at the North Portland Plastics Roundups and canvass for the Portland Recycles! roll cart campaign in the Cully neighborhood. Willow has been especially helpful using her Spanish skills to reach new audiences.

Charlotte Matthews (Class 38) spent many a pleasant Thursday afternoon talking about recycling, waste prevention, composting and similar topics at the Ecotrust Farmer's Market. She also hosted a successful Eco-Party.

Catherine Parker (Class 38) helped at just about every Clackamas County event she could, including the West Linn Old Time Fair, the Spring Fair, the Oregon City Farmer's Market and Lake Oswego Plastics Roundups. She also helped staff a table for our new partners at DEQ on the Oregon E-cycling Program.

Thank You To Russell Hollenbeck For 100 Hours of Service
The Century Club just added a new member. **Russell Hollenbeck (Class 35)** contributed his original sense of humor to Master Recycler outreach tables from day one.



Russell at Everything Green Expo.

Russell participated in 23 community events. His first was Earth Day 2007 (when it was pouring down rain). Last summer, Russell focused on volunteering for the Rebuilding Center. Laura Schmidt at the Rebuilding Center says "We extend our most heartfelt

appreciation for the many long and grueling hours Russell happily contributes to Our United Villages. Thank you so much for sharing your wisdom, experience, laughter and of course those lovely Holiday Greetings. Congratulations, Russell!"

As if all those volunteer hours weren't enough, Russell makes it a point to share great web findings on the electronic forum and makes it to every Master Recycler open house and tour. Thank you, Russell, for your continued dedication to sustainable education in our region.

Class 40 Graduates!

Welcome and congratulations to the Master Recyclers who just completed Winter Class 40 hosted by Clackamas County. This talented bunch has some fantastic personal projects planned. They're also ready to jump into many of the upcoming Master Recycler events. It will be great to see the class inspire their communities! Thank you to Clackamas County for hosting the class, offering great presentations and sharing your beautiful new facilities.



Class 41 in Multnomah County and hosted by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is coming up soon in April and May. For the first time we will meet in outer NE to improve access to Outer East County.

Fix-It Fairs a Great Success!

Thank you to the 21 Master Recyclers who helped staff information booths at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's three Fix-it Fairs. These winter events offer workshops and exhibits on healthy homes and energy saving to low-income communities. Master Recyclers helped promote Portland Recycles!, composting and worm bins, greener cleaners, and green remodeling.



Desiree distributes resources at the Fix-It Fairs



Wing strikes a pose at the Lent Fix-It Fair.

A special congratulations and thank you to Desiree Williams-Rajee (Class 36) and Wing Grabowski (Class 38) who work on the BPS Event team to organize these events. Nice work!

Thank you to: Kyenne Williams (Class 29), Barbara McLean (Class 32), Carey Collins (Class 34), Kelly Bryan and Ron Reese (Class 35), Colleen Johnston (Class 36), Rob Kappa (Class 37), Willow Elliott and Heather Randol (Class 38), Laura Baldschun, Livia Blaszak, Brenda Christoffer, Audrey Desler, Jacqui Dowsett, Perry Francis, Scott Haas, Jimmy Jones, Bethany Larson, Rhonda Leo, Lindsey Maser and Heather Wade (Class 39).

Everyone helped make this season's Fairs some of the best yet! Look for pictures from the Fairs scattered through the Volunteer Opportunities section below.

Volunteer Opportunities



Kyenne Williams at Metro's Healthy Homes booth.

Moreland Farmers Market Event Recycling

The Moreland Farmers Markets wants to clean up its act this year. The Wednesday afternoon market is in the Sellwood/ Westmoreland neighborhood of SE Portland. Hours are 3:30-7:30PM. Help reduce waste and have better sorting. For more information on the market, visit www.morelandfarmersmarket.org.

Contact: Laura (503)-341-9350,
laura@morelandfarmersmarket.org

Mom's Club of Wilsonville

Frog Pond Church, 6750 Boeckman Rd.,
Wilsonville
Monday, March 9th 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

The Mom's Club of Wilsonville invites a Master Recycler to present on recycling. You can also check out a kit and literature from Washington County.

Contact: Chiqui Flowers (503)682-8056, chiquiflowers@comcost.net

Tualatin Library Spanish Table

Tualatin Library, 18878 SW Martinazzi, Tualatin
Saturday, March 14th
10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Spanish Speaking Master Recyclers: Set up a booth at this fun family friendly event. Time includes set up and break down time.

Pick up materials prior to the event at Washington County offices. Topics may include residential recycling, greener cleaners booklets and

hazardous waste. Washington County needs to hear from you right away if you are interested in this opportunity.

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

Community Warehouse Table at Better Living Show

Portland Expo Center 2060 N Marine Drive, Portland

Friday, March 27th noon – 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 28th 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday March 29th 11 a.m. – to 2 p.m.

Talk to participants of the Second Annual Better Living Show about this important resource for both waste prevention and low-income families in the community.

Contact: Roz Babener, roz755@aol.com

Whole Foods Table

Whole Foods, 19440 NW Cornell Rd., Hillsboro

Saturday, March 28th 1 – 4 p.m.

and

Saturday, April 22nd 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Join Master Recycler Jon-Michael Kowertz (Class 39) in staffing a table on recycling and greener cleaners at Whole Foods in Hillsboro, either day or both.

Contact: Jon-Michael Kowertz,
medotcom2009@gmail.com

Latin Cultural Festival

Hillsboro Civic Center, 150 E. Main St., Hillsboro

Sunday, March 29th 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Two Master Recyclers who speak fluent Spanish are invited to staff a recycling information table for this well attended and fun family-friendly event. Materials will be brought to the event for you to set up.

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



Carey Collins and Barbara McLean staff Portland Recycles! table

Conversation Cafe with Hands on Portland

Vivace Café 1400 NW 23rd Ave, Portland
Monday, March 30th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Give a 10 minute presentation on waste reduction & pre-cycling in a casual panel and discussion environment. If interested, please contact as soon as possible.

Contact: Lane' Richards (503)707-5787, giving2others@gmail.com

Celebrating Water – Earth Day: Connecting Water, Land and People

Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Ave, Oregon City
Wednesday, April 8th 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Clackamas County's Office of Sustainability will staff a table with a reuse activity for kids and general waste reduction information. For more information, visit www.clackamasriver.org.

Contact: Sherri Dow (503)742-4463, sherridow@co.clackamas.or.us



Scott Haas and Rob Kappa

Oregon Zoo Residential Recycling Table

Oregon Zoo,
4001 SW Canyon Rd., Portland
Saturday, April 11th
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Rob Kappa (Class 37) has arranged to have a table at the Zoo for several Saturdays through the end of the summer. He invites a Master Recycler to check out a kit from the City of Portland and join him at the Zoo for one or a few of the dates.

Contact: Rob Kappa (503)653-3595, falkor01@comcast.net

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

Cedaroak Park Earth Day

4515 South Cedaroak Dr., West Linn
Saturday, April 11th 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

CedarOak Park Primary School is planning its first annual Earth Month which will have a kick off day of work projects, information, crafts, and a celebration. Check out a kit from Clackamas County on recycling and staff a booth at this great community event.

Contact: Anne Marie Brocco (503) 675-1773, fullcircleround@yahoo.com
Contact for kit: Sherri Dow (503)742-4463, sherridow@co.clackamas.or.us



Ron Reese at the Remodel it Green Booth

Sellwood Sustainability Festival

Sellwood Middle School,
8300 SE 15th Ave., Portland
Saturday, April 25th
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Staff a booth on residential recycling at this new community event. Live music, puppet shows and lots of educational fun to engage kids, teens and adults.

Contact for Event: Brittney Harold (503)916-5656, bharold@pps.k12.or.us
Contact for kit: Alicia Polacok (503)823-7107, apolacok@ci.portland.or.us

Dia del Nino

Centro Cultural
Cornelius, 1174 N. Adair St., Cornelius
Saturday, April 25th 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Check out a kit of literature prior to the event from Washington County.

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

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

Job Opportunities

Muddy Boot Organic Festival – Two Temporary Positions

Marketing and Outreach Manager - Develop advertising campaign including design and sponsorship.

Sponsor and Vendor Manager - Secure and manage sponsorships with local sustainable organizations.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please submit a resume, along with 3 references to Julie Gefroh, director@muddyboot.org by March 6th. For more information on Muddy Boot Organic Festival, visit www.muddyboot.org.

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership Environmental Educators

The Estuary Partnership seeks two part-time Environmental Educators for April-October, 2009. The position is focused on the Estuary Partnership's Big Canoe On-River Program. To learn more about this position or to apply, visit www.lcrep.org. Closes Friday, March 6

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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



www.MasterRecycler.org



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