

March News

How Master Recyclers Can Bridge the Gap Upstream Social Costs of Consumption

I know that gloom and doom do not motivate behavior change. The most effective public outreach strategies include positive messages combined with attainable actions that residents and businesses can take to reduce consumption. But it is equally important to recognize the true costs of seemingly inexpensive products we purchase.

Sometimes those costs make themselves apparent whether you like it or not. I learned last week that friends who live in one of the communal villages in the highlands of Guatemala that I visit regularly are leaving their community. Their water supply has been poisoned by the foreign-owned mining company located upstream. This is an indigenous community where families have lived for generations.



Highlands, Guatemala.

While my friends and mentor community organizers Juan and Juana, pack up their belongings and nine children, I reflect on what I have witnessed over the last ten years of visiting the region. What strikes me the most is that all resources around them (their water, their land, roads and labor) are entirely dedicated to the extraction and mobilization of materials and products for consumption far away. Coffee fincas

(farms) have replaced all food crops. Coffee workers have to bus in and out of the coffee plantations to find food and a place to sleep at night, because the finca owners won't have to use up space to house laborers or give them a plot of land for growing food.

A massive highway is being built across the country that will connect two new ports from East to West. This "dry canal" is part of an industrial project called [Plan Puebla Panama](#) that will build an infrastructure designed to improve the mobilization of goods and raw materials from Central America to the north. Thousands of indigenous communities

have been displaced to build this highway. The project makes moving across the country extremely difficult for those returning from the fincas or travelling for other means to eke out a living. I have sat on buses for nine hours on trips that used to take two hours because the government was busy building this highway in support of foreign investors.



Coffee.

And then there are the mines. Antimony (for fire retardants), nickel and gold are some of the major minerals extracted and exported from Guatemala and used to make electronics and other common consumer products. [The mining companies evict residents](#) and poison their waterways without providing compensation.

I wonder what Don Juan's oldest son Oscar will do when the family leaves their home. Will he join the millions who have been forced go to the north to earn money for their displaced families? Will he forget his native language and learn English? Perhaps. I hope that if he does he can tell his story so that we can all learn from him.



J Lauren Norris

The City of Portland Solid Waste & Recycling Moves March 5th Our new location is 1900 SW 4th Ave 7th floor Suite 7100

This means a few changes when Master Recyclers pick up outreach materials and display kits. You will no longer come to the Ecotrust Building in the Pearl. Instead, materials and kits will be collected at the new address near PSU listed above. When you check out kits, Alicia Polacok will help with where to go and the best ways to find parking. Plan a little extra time and bring change as parking is more limited than at Ecotrust and all spaces around the new location are metered. Thank you for your patience.



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

Master Recycler Tour: PDX Waste Reduction

Portland Airport 7000 NE Airport Way
Thursday, April 7th 1 – 3 p.m.

The Portland Airport has become internationally known for innovative approaches to recycling, compost and waste prevention. Tour front and behind the scenes to see why. Master Recycler Chatten Hayes (Class 44) is organizing the tour for Master Recyclers only. There is space for 10 people.

Please RSVP: Chatten Hayes, 503-241-1503, chatten@easystreet.net

Certified Master Recyclers

These individuals really showed great creativity in their projects! Thank you for your fabulous efforts.

Leah Britton (Class 42) doesn't tackle small projects. She practically certified by doing a whole lot of tabling at the Hillsboro and Forest Grove Farmer's Market. But she also spent double that many hours working to find funding and a location for a Washington County Lending Tool Library! Work is still underway to bring this dream to fruition, but when it does it will be a fabulous way for community members to share tools they would otherwise purchase.

Jeff Epstein (Class 43) found a way to combine payback and spending time with his daughter by joining the green team in her West Linn school. He also organized a Master Recycler tour of the Oregon Convention Center, worked to improve recycling in his condo community and rounded out his payback by consulting with businesses on how to recycle/compost those hard to recover materials.



Linda Rally, left, at Fix-It Fair.

Linda Ralley (Class 44) fully embraced the thoughtful consumption movement! She joined neighboring Master Recyclers to organize the Eastmoreland Community Garage Sale, helped the literacy organization where she volunteers to invest in durable dishes, and became a core volunteer of the Be Resourceful Campaign.

Melissa Ribner (Class 44) has been creative at tapping into City of Portland resources to reach goals. She volunteers for Loaves and Fishes and

started a green team there. She connected the group to a Recycle at Work specialist who is helping them identify strategies such as switching to more sustainable meal containers, finding donations of GPS equipment for drivers to use instead of daily printed routes, and utilizing interns to oversee sustainable practices. Melissa and her husband Fred also helped the City improve the recycling at multi-family communities by offering presentations. Finally, this duo connected People's Coop to Recycle at Work to create a recovery plan there.



Melissa Ribner, left, posing for the Be Resourceful Campaign.

Nicole Callen (Class 45 The second from her class!) spent her payback hours focusing on healthy products. She staffed the Metro Healthy Homes booth at the Fix-it Fairs to talk about greener cleaners. She taught friends a natural, cold process soap without petroleum products and how to add natural colorants and scents.

Volunteer Opportunities



Sal Del Cid (Class 46), right, with a Parkrose High School student volunteer at Fix-It Fair.

Fix-It Fair

Jefferson High School,
5210 N Kerby Ave, Portland
Saturday, February 26th
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Help staff a Portland Recycles! table.
Time includes help with breakdown.

Contact: Alicia Polacok, 503-823-7107,
alicia.polacok@portlandoregon.gov

Spring Home and Garden Show

Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Drive, Portland
Wednesday, February 23rd 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday, February 24th 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday, February 25th 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 26th 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 27th 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Shifts available.

Help staff the Metro Healthy Homes booth and answer questions about green cleaners, compost and waste reduction.

Contact: Caran Goodall, 503-797-1693, caran.goodall@oregonmetro.gov

World Forestry Center Girl Scout Day

4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland

Saturday, February 26th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

It is your choice how you would participate in this event. You can check out a Portland Recycles! kit from the City of Portland and set up a booth to talk with Scouts and their families. Or you can offer up to four, one-hour presentations on recycling to about 30 girls. There are several opportunities for presentations so you can decide how many you are willing or able to offer.

To check out Portland Recycles! kit contact: Alicia Polacok, 503-823-7107, alicia.polacok@portlandoregon.gov

To talk about how you would like to volunteer at this event contact: Alexandra Mitchell, office: 503-488-2131 or cell: 360-624-4479, edintern@worldforestry.org

Oregon Buddhist Temple Recycling Presentation

3720 SE 37th Ave, Portland

Choose a date in March

The OBT is beginning an Eco-Sanga and invites a Master Recycler to offer a presentation on residential recycling. Check out a kit and offer a presentation during one of the group's meetings or events. Contact the organization to identify the best time.

Contact to check out kit: Alicia Polacok, 503-823-7107, alicia.polacok@portlandoregon.gov

Contact to volunteer: Dr. Tom Takiuchi, 503-255-5011, doctom@quixnet.net

Piedmont Neighborhood Seed Exchange

Peninsula Park community Center 700 N Rosa Parks Blvd, Portland

Thursday March 3rd 6 – 9 p.m.

Go to the Metro Recycling Information Center at 600 NE Grand to check out worm and compost literature and offer an information booth at this community event. The City of Portland is moving this week and will not be open to check out the compost kit. Please bring your own worm bin (BYOW).

Contact: Justin Thompson, 503-740-0502, thompsonju@gmail.com

Renovation and Remodel Show

Memorial Coliseum, 300 N Winning Way, Portland

Friday, March 11th 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 12th 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 13th 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

There are two tabling opportunities for this event.

The ReBuilding Center

Talk to residents about this important reuse organization and their many programs.

All new Rebuilding Center volunteers must attend a one hour training which will be organized once volunteers are set.

Contact: Rosie McGown, 503-467-4985, volunteer@ourunitedvillages.org

Metro Healthy Homes

Help staff the booth and answer questions about green cleaners, compost and waste reduction.

Contact: Caran Goodall, 503-797-1693, caran.goodall@oregonmetro.gov

Homeschool Co-op Creative Art Class

Brookwood & 25th, Hillsboro

Choose a time on the 1st or 3rd Friday of the month, 11 a.m. – 11:45 or 2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Visit with this class of about 25 kids (K-1) who are focusing on materials reuse from recycling bins and items around the house. Talk about recycling and the impact the kids can have on their world.

Contact: Nicole Probst, 503-707-4601, nprobst505@yahoo.com

Contact for literature: Michelle Pimentel, 503-846-3651,

Michelle_pimentel@co.washington.or.us

Better Living Show

Expo Center, 2060 North Marine Drive, Portland

Friday, March 25th 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., 3 – 6 p.m., 6 – 9 p.m.

Saturday, March 26th 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., 2 – 6 p.m., 6 – 9 p.m.

Sunday, March 27th 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2 – 6 p.m.

With a focus on reuse at the Better Living Show, join Be Resourceful and [ReUse PDX](#) to promote organizations such as Community Warehouse and The ReBuilding Center. An optional training will be offered and additional details will be available soon.

Contact: Alicia Polacok (503)823-7107, alicia.polacok@portlandoregon.gov

Mount Hood Green Scene/Portland Recycling Team Seeking Board Members Annual Meeting May 15, Welches

The non-profit Mountt Hood Green Scene has merged with Portland Recycling Team. Their mission is to provide sustainability and waste reduction education to rural areas similar to the Villages at Mt Hood. Join the annual meeting to learn more and consider running for the board. Recruiting people from other rural areas in Clackamas County to join, board members would be available for a commitment of 4-5 hours per month planning and implementing activities.

Board meetings, activity planning and implementation would all count as payback for Master Recycler hours.

Contact: Doug Saldivar, 503-622-5673, plazatrail@gmail.com

Don't forget
log your volunteer hours
Visit the Members area of
www.masterrecycler.org

Portland Neighborhood Cleanups

Neighborhood Cleanup season is here again. Get involved with cleanups in your neighborhood and find creative ways to increase reuse by organizing on-site recovery. Inform and educate neighbors about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and Oregon E-Cycles.

Contact for materials: Alicia Polacok, 503-823-7107,
alicia.polacok@portlandoregon.gov

North Tabor/Mount Tabor Neighborhood Cleanup

Central NE Portland

Saturday, May 14th 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A Master Recycler is needed to assist in training the cleanup volunteers who will be helping that day so onsite reuse and recovery takes place.

Contact: Zach Michaud, 971-344-3337, chair@northtabor.org

3rd Annual Trash to Treasure

Red Sea Community Church, 7535 N Chicago Ave, Portland
Saturday, April 23rd, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Trash to Treasure is in conjunction with the St Johns Neighborhood Cleanup. Assist at the Portland Recycles! table and promote swapping reusable goods and collecting recyclables.

Contact: Alicia Polacok, 503-823-7107,
alicia.polacok@portlandoregon.gov



2nd Grader Benny Cox Wins 2010 contest to name Welches Earth Day event.



Earth Day Opportunities

It may seem early but event coordinators around the region are looking forward to celebrating Earth Day in April. To help them plan successful events, please contact coordinators as soon as you can.

Siltronic's Earth Day Celebration

7200 NW Front Ave., Portland

Tuesday, April 19th and Thursday, April 21st

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Help educate employees on basic recycling, green cleaners, compost, and waste prevention at home. Help set-up, answer questions, and give out daffodils.

Contact: Koreen Lail, 503-219-7994, koreen.lail@siltronic.com

OHSU and Veterans Hospital Earth Day Celebration

3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Blvd, Portland

Wednesday, April 20th 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Check out a greener cleaner or worm bin/compost kit and staff a booth in the skylight bridge between these two organizations. They are planning a lunch time celebration with hundreds of participants.

Kit contact: Alicia Polacok, (503)823-7107, alicia.polacok@portlandoregon.gov

Event contact: Wendy Trapp, 503-220-8262 x.55417, wendy.trapp@va.gov

Rosedale Elementary School 2nd Annual Green Festival

3963 SW 229th Avenue, Hillsboro

Saturday, April 23rd 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Rosedale Elementary School invites Master Recyclers to their Gold LEED Certified Elementary School that wants to share what it means to be "GREEN." Check out a Washington County kit and staff a booth to teach families at this interactive, hands-on event.

Event contact: Ashley Siebert, 503-844-1200 x.7230, sieberta@hsd.k12.or.us

Kit Contact: Michelle Pimentel, 503-846-3651,

Michelle_Pimentel@co.washington.or.us

City Repair Earth Day Celebration

Washington High School Field (SE 12th & Stark), Portland
Saturday, April 23rd
Shifts: 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
and 2:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Join the 11th Annual Earth Day Celebration sponsored by City Repair and the Buckman Neighborhood Association. Table with Be Resourceful and encourage others to get more of the good stuff in their lives.

Contact: Alicia Polacok, 503-823-7107, Alicia.Polacok@portlandoregon.gov

Mt Hood Green Scene

Welches Middle School, 24903 E Salmon River Rd, Welches
Saturday April 23rd 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Clackamas County staff invite Master Recyclers to join them in staffing a table on residential recycling at this family friendly event.

Contact: Shannon Martin (Class 29), 503-742-4458,
smartin@co.clackamas.or.us

Conservation News

2011 BEST Awards Tickets On Sale this Friday, February 25th

Since 1993, the BEST Awards have been presented annually to Portland area companies demonstrating excellence in business practices that promote social equity, economic growth and environmental benefits.

Visit the [BEST Awards online](#) to get your tickets.

Ecobrunch with Lynn Feinstein

Relish Design, 1715 NW Lovejoy, Portland, OR, 97209
Sunday, March 13th, noon – 2 p.m.

Lynn Feinstein, class 44 graduate and owner of resourceful interior decorating service Möbius Home, will be giving a talk about simple

ways to Be Resourceful at home and explore ways to implement earth friendly habits. For more info about the talk: Call [Relish](tel:503.227.3779) at 503.227.3779 or webmaster@shoprelish.com. For more info about Möbius Home, call 503.285.2331 or info@mobiushome.com.

How to Be an Agent of Change

A course by the Center for Earth Leadership

Three Spring Classes:

Six Mondays, March. 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, (break) and May 23,
7:00pm to 8:45pm

Six Tuesdays, March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, (break) and May 24,
7:00pm to 8:45pm

Hillsboro, Six Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, (break) and May 23,
6:00pm to 7:45pm

Put your Master Recycler skills to work to make an impact where you live, work, and play! There is no charge for the class, but advance registration is required. Visit the Center for Earth Leadership, www.earthleaders.org.

For more information or to reserve your space, contact Emily Klavins, (503) 227-2315, emily@earthleaders.org.

Job Opportunities

Green Building Services Training Coordinator

Responsibilities include coordination of events, project deliverables, financial tracking and marketing support. More info in the [Job Seekers section of the Master Recycler online forum](#).

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Volunteer Services Administrator

Complete job description and application information available [online](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

www.MasterRecycler.org

