

## November News

### A Master Recycler's Work is Never Done!

Recent news might tempt some to become dismayed about recycling in the area. Rather than being discouraged, I hope that Master Recyclers will take these two stories as a special appeal to continue the important work you do.



J Lauren Norris

### Oregon Recycling Rate Dips for Second Year

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Portland) announced last month that the metro area's municipal recycling rate has decreased for the second continuous year, falling 0.3 percent from 2006 to a 2007 State diversion rate of 55.3% percent. The City of Portland calculated their own recovery rate using reports from haulers, recycling depots, bottle bill, and metro central. This evaluation helps evaluate impacts of City Policy. Portland's 2007 recovery rate stayed flat at 63% compared to the 2006 figure.

The regional goal is to recover at least 64% of municipal waste by the end of the 2009 calendar year. We are clearly going in the wrong direction. In order to meet these goals as a region, residents, businesses and local governments need to work together to improve policies and systems and increase education. The important work done by Master Recyclers is incredibly valuable in inspiring your neighbors and coworkers to reduce their waste.

Read the [2007 Oregon Material Recovery and Waste Generation Rates Report](#).

### Commingled System Poses Challenges

Most Master Recyclers have heard Metro's Steve Apotheker speak about the challenges Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) have experienced in separating commingled recycling to get the materials to their appropriate markets.

Despite these difficulties, 95% of the metro area's curbside recycling does in fact make it to the appropriate recycler. Part of this success is that the largest volume of a single material, paper, is the same material that ends up at a newsprint mill, right where it should.

Examining the case more closely, Apotheker points out that studies done in 2004 show a very different story for cans, plastic bottles and tubs, and cardboard. About

80% of these materials find their proper home. A recent *Oregonian* Article focused on the 20% loss of these specific materials that were sent to the wrong market, which disposed of them.

Many things have changed since these studies however, and Apotheker has worked closely with the MRF's to troubleshoot problems. Most of the region has converted to roll carts, and two MRF's made major renovations to their facilities. Some of these changes may or may not have had a positive impact on the region's effectiveness in recovering these materials. Metro, DEQ, local jurisdictions, haulers and MRF's are all discussing potential collection and processing standards for the region and the state.

Apotheker emphasizes that one major factor in loss of materials at the MRFs is improper preparation. Master Recyclers will play a special role in continuing the message of "no plastic bags" in the curbside program and "keep glass on the side."

Master Recyclers work to inspire the community is one of the key elements to help reach recovery goals and make sure that recycling gets to the intended markets and becomes new materials. Thank you all for your efforts.

## Master Recycler Fall Open House

### **Eco-psychology: The Sustainable Self**

Metro Council Chambers 600 NE Grand Blvd., Portland

Monday, November 3rd 7 – 9 p.m.



You are cordially invited to a provocative evening with speaker Dr. Thomas Joseph Doherty, Coordinator of Eco-psychology Studies at the Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling and an adjunct faculty at Pacific University's School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Doherty will talk about psychological reasons that people may resist lifestyle change. Some eco-psychologists

sustainable  self

embrace anti-consumerism. Doherty's system, which he calls "Sustainable Self," aims for a slow and mindful change. He will talk about how we can sift through all the information to make it personally relevant, and find sustainability on an everyday level for ourselves and to the communities Master Recyclers reach.

Please RSVP. Contact: J Lauren Norris, (503)823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

# Certified Master Recyclers

A whole batch of Master Recyclers certified this month. While they completed their 30 hours of outreach at the Roundups, the work they've done represents a huge variety of great community outreach.

We stole **Dave Allen (Class 31)** from Lane County. He's been a great leader and educator at the Roundups.

**Ellen Galvin (Class 31)** is a steady recycler at just about every location of the Plastics Roundups.

**Leslie Underwood (Class 32)** has been a steady participant at the Roundups and many a Clackamas County information table.

**Amanda Thompson (Class 36)** started a very energetic Green Team at Alberta Rider Elementary School, tabled at a number of Tualatin events and helped at many Roundups.

**Teri Stoeber (Class 36)** created and conducted a great presentation for the Zero Waste Alliance.

The team of **Jeanne and Jeff Becker (Class 37)** did double the outreach with tabling and presenting at numerous Clackamas fairs. Much of their outreach focused on composting and worms.

Eco parties, potlucks and tabling have been some of the ways that **Lori Hanson (Class 37)** has been engaged. She also took a leadership role in the new Milwaukie Roundup location.

**Leslee Larsen (Class 38)** helped with Portland Recycles! tables in outer SE Portland. She also is starting a green team at work and has helped at Roundups.

**Tamara Olcott (Class 38)** conducted a Portland Recycles! presentations in NE Portland. She also did several innovative presentations on the "Three Rs" and consumption.

Thank you everyone!

## Billie Joins the Century Club!

**Billie Shults (Class 28)** is one fantastic Master Recycler, surpassing 100 hours of service this month. She joined with about 15 other Master Recyclers to develop the Mentorship program. Billie has given special presentations for Portland Recycle at Work and Multifamily programs, tabled at numerous community events, and is always a positive presence at the Plastics Roundups.



*Billie's positive spirit shows in everything she does (note the snow on the car and her smile on her face!).*

Steve Cohen, the former Master Recycler Program Coordinator, says “Billie’s passion for the environment is matched by her endless energy and enthusiasm. She’s always up for a challenge and engaging and warm – even in snow, sleet, and driving rain. Billie’s dedication to the program has truly made a difference.”

## Plastics Roundup Reaches New Recyclers!

Thank you to the hundred Master Recyclers and 15 community volunteers who offered education to 1,800 participants and recycled 17 tons of plastics in October.



*Lake O Crew, including first High School Student, Meredith Barrett.*

There were many firsts in this Roundup:

- For the first time non-Master Recyclers volunteered. Intel and Kaiser Staff helped out in Hillsboro and North Portland and a Lake Shore High School student volunteered in Lake Oswego. This is a great way for Master Recyclers to offer deeper community education.
- Milwaukie had its first Master Recycler Plastics Roundup. While smaller, the participants were thankful for the opportunity. With a little more pre-event outreach by Master Recyclers, we should be able to get this location up to the same participation as others.
- Hillsboro and North Portland had their largest numbers of participants to date. Hillsboro had 431 and NoPo had 621, including 35 bikes (a record for any one location).



*Master Recyclers welcome Intel volunteers at orientation.*

A big thank you to the site coordinators for you constant attention to detail, inspiration and innovation that makes the Master Recycler Plastics Roundups better every time. Site coordinators for this round were: **Dave Allen, Segeni Mungai, Sarah Stegmuller, Joni Taylor, Donna Lomnicki, Tracey Gamely, Lori Hansen and Anna Anderson.**

## Portland Recycling Team Grant Helps Master Recyclers Spread the Word On Waste Prevention

Thank you to the Portland Recycling Team who granted the Master Recycler Program \$1,000 for the development of a display to promote waste prevention. Master Recyclers will be able to utilize the display throughout the region. The Office of Sustainable Development has agreed to match the grant amount as well as provide communications services. Watch future newsletters for the unveiling of the new display.

If you have ideas about waste prevention messages, images, graphs or concepts that could be included in this display, please e-mail Alicia Polacok at [apolacok@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:apolacok@ci.portland.or.us).

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Fix-It Fair

There's a topic for every Master Recycler at the upcoming Fix-it Fairs. 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.

This is a big effort so everyone is invited to join in!

Three dates, four information tables and several shifts:

#### **Lent School**

5105 SE 97th Ave. Portland  
Saturday, November 22, 2008

#### **Parkrose High School**

12003 NE Shaver St. Portland  
Saturday, January 10, 2009

#### **George Middle School**

10000 N Burr Ave. Portland  
Saturday, February 7, 2009



Sarah Dyreson (Class 33) teaching a fix-it Fair participant to read labels.

All table shifts are 8am-12pm and 11:30am-2:30pm (these include set up and take down assistance)

Topics:

- Portland Recycles!
- Metro's Healthy Homes
- Remodel It Green
- The Rebuilding Center

Free food and childcare available for everyone!

Contact: J Lauren Norris, (503)823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

## **Recycling Presentation**

Cathedral Park Cooperative Preschool  
7119 N Portsmouth, Portland  
Thursday, November 13th 6:30 – 8 p.m.

This cooperative preschool parent meeting would like a 30 to 45 minute presentation on recycling and waste prevention. Check out a kit from Alicia Polacok at OSD, [apolacok@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:apolacok@ci.portland.or.us), or make your own.

Contact: Tiffany Zimmerman (503)330-8040, [twbatrice@earthlink.net](mailto:twbatrice@earthlink.net)

**Don't forget to log  
your volunteer hours**  
Visit [www.masterrecycler.org](http://www.masterrecycler.org)  
and click on the Members tab.

## **Oak Lodge Garden Club**

17551 SE Walta Vista Dr., Milwaukie  
Wednesday, November 19th 11 a.m. –  
noon

Speak to this garden club about recycling.

Contact: Kathy Wanvig: (503)319-7576,  
[kwanvig@yahoo.com](mailto:kwanvig@yahoo.com)

## **Cornelius Town Hall – Roll Cart and Garbage Discussion**

1355 N. Adair Street, Cornelius  
Wednesday, November 19th 6:15 – 8:15 p.m.

The City of Cornelius is hosting a town hall for residents to weigh in on recycling and garbage collection services. This tabling opportunity will focus on basic recycling information and (for those of you who are bilingual) an opportunity to use Spanish skills.

Contact: Michelle Pimentel, (503) 846-3651 [michelle\\_pimentel@co.washington.or.us](mailto:michelle_pimentel@co.washington.or.us)

## **Residential Recycling Presentation**

Hazardous Materials Metro Central  
6161 NW 61st, Portland  
Time is fairly negotiable.

While Metro collects toxics for special disposal, people often also ask them questions about recycling. Hazmat staff has been kind enough to take Master Recyclers on tours of the Metro toxic waste facilities in the past and they are now requesting a Master Recycler come to one of their team meetings. Spend 90 minutes presenting and answering questions about curbside recycling and depot options.

Contact: J Lauren Norris, (503)823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

## Multifamily Outreach

Throughout Washington County

Work from a list of apartment managers who have requested educational materials be distributed to promote multifamily education project in Washington County. Areas include complexes from Hillsboro, Tualatin, Tigard, Sherwood, Aloha and even as far out as Forest Grove. Volunteers are needed immediately to hang literature on doors in these communities. Master Recyclers will gather materials and addresses from the County office in Hillsboro.

Contact: Heather Robinson, (503)846-3660, Heather\_Robinson@co.washington.or.us

## Job Opportunities

### Clackamas Co. Soil & Water Conservation District Weed Program Manager

For a complete position description and application please visit [www.cc-swcd.org](http://www.cc-swcd.org).  
Closes November 3rd.

### Metro Science and Stewardship Division Manager

Please visit [www.oregonmetro.gov](http://www.oregonmetro.gov) for the complete job announcement and a description of the application process.

### OR Department of Transportation Senior Environmental Project Manager

For more details and application, visit [www.odotjobs.com](http://www.odotjobs.com) or call 1(866)ODOT-JOBS for announcement #OCDT8295A. Closes November 7th.

### SOLV Grants and Contracts Manager

Visit <http://www.solv.org/about/jobs.asp> for more information or to apply.

### MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

can be found in Job Seekers at the  
Master Recycler Forum.  
[www.MasterRecycler.org](http://www.MasterRecycler.org)

