

## Used Clothes - Another Harmful Export?

Each year, when I visit the Methodist orphanage in Guatemalan highlands, the first thing kids ask me is to translate English words on their t-shirts. For years, it was only orphans who wore western clothes, but for the past several years, I have seen an increase in this type of apparel.

More than 90 percent of Guatemalans are Mayan; most wear brilliant hand-made textiles. Textile workers pass on ancient designs within each community. While Mayan families struggle with whether or not to allow their children to migrate from tradition, western clothes are sold in giant mounds at extremely cheap prices in open markets.



*Guatemalan children wearing traditional and Western clothing.*

After hearing a story on NPR and reading an article in the magazine *Quaker Action* about the negative impacts in developing countries from the export of large volumes of clothes, I became more concerned about what I observed in Guatemala. According to NPR, the average American discards more than 10 pounds of clothes each year. Less than 10 percent of this material ends up in US landfills because most people donate clothes to charities like the Goodwill. Charities receive so many donations that they can only keep clothes in retail outlets for about three weeks.

The US exports 1,000 tons of used clothes every day. The clothes are sold in bulk for 6 to 12 cents per pound to companies that export the clothes to developing countries. One half of the billion pieces of clothes donated to Goodwill each year are sold to exporters. There are no estimates of how much clothing ends up in landfills of receiving nations.



*Traditional backstrap weaving*

While this type of export doesn't have the toxic effects of exporting electronic waste, the loss of jobs, dignity and indigenous cultural tradition are additional costs of unchecked consumption to our neighbors. The UN estimates that tens of thousands of textile workers in Africa have lost their jobs due to the used clothes industry. In 2002, the United Nations encouraged developing nations to ban the sale of used clothes, which 30 countries have adopted today. Despite these bans, clothing smugglers ignore these bans daily.

The solution is not to stop donating clothes to charities. These charities provide a valuable service by offering a reuse option for apparel and affordable clothing to the poor. Instead, we should, first, prevent the volume of used clothes from accumulating. Master Recyclers know, waste prevention is more ecologically beneficial than reuse – clothing is no exception. Second we must buy reused clothing from these charities instead of buying new. Just like buying recycled content paper closes the recycling loop; buying used clothes offers a local market for that waste stream.

Here are some waste prevention ideas for clothing:

- Only buy used clothes.
- Organize a garage sale.
- Have a party to trade clothes with friends. (often called a “naked lady” party)
- Buy sturdy clothes that will last a long time, are easy to clean, and won't go out of fashion in one season.

- Take care of clothes and mend them instead of discarding them.
- Donate only as much as you consume.
- Avoid event t-shirts if you don't plan to wear them.

Thank you,



J Lauren Norris, Master Recycler Program Coordinator

## MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM NEWS

### Fall Course (Class 33) Ready to Go

The Fall Master Recycler Course is full and will run from September 5 through October 24 in Washington County at Catlin Gabel Middle School. Help welcome this new batch of advocates for waste reduction!

### Congratulations to Four Newly-Certified Master Recyclers

Thank you to Cindy Trumpower (Class 24), Sharon Miller (Class 30), Jennifer Augello (Class 31) and Sara Brockmeier (Class 31) for your dedication to waste reduction. These Master Recyclers started a recycling program at a Clackamas church, presented many topics at farmer's markets and community events, helped the zoo start a recycling program and audited the hazardous cleaning supplies in a business.

### Master Recycler Plastics Roundup

When: Saturday, September 16, 8:00 am -1:00 pm

Where: SE PCC Center (2305 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR)  
PCC Sylvania (12000 SW 49th Ave., Portland, OR)  
PCC Rock Creek (17705 NW Springville Rd., Portland, OR)

Don't forget to log your  
volunteer hours.

Visit [masterrecycler.org](http://masterrecycler.org) and  
click on the Members tab.

Username: MasterRecycler  
Password: master



Sharon Leary, new co-site  
coordinator for SE location

Bring your plastics (no milk jugs, PVC or Styrofoam blocks or peanuts) to be recycled.

Please sort ahead of time in the following categories:

1. Film, such as grocery bags
2. Nursery pots and trays
3. Miscellaneous plastic with numbers (sorted 1-7)
4. Miscellaneous plastic without numbers
5. Reusable plastic items

It's not too late to sign up to volunteer!

### Welcome New Plastics Roundups Site Co-coordinators

Roundup coordinators decided in January to rotate experienced and new coordinators so that each site has a mentor and mentee coordinator. Welcome to the new co-coordinators, Sara Brockmeier (class 31), Sharon Leary (class 31), and Carol Grindlay (class 32). Thank you for stepping up to continue this great project to recycle plastic.

### Reuse Before Recycle!

The Southeast and Sylvania Master Recycler Plastics Roundups sites are looking for reuse coordinators. The NW site coordinator is willing to mentor the other two sites. Contact J Lauren Norris at 503-823-7530 or [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us), as soon as possible to volunteer.

## ¡Master Recyclers En Español!

Metro and Master Recyclers teamed up to increase outreach to the Hispanic community. Thanks to Karen Guillen at Metro, we identified several locations where Master Recyclers who speak both English and Spanish can talk about curbside recycling and greener cleaners. Bilingual kits are available



Alexa Pengelly at a greener cleaners table

(including Spanish brochures, quiz questions, magnets, stickers for greener cleaners, and pencils!). Alexa Pengelly, Bobbee Murr and Jed Lazar started with two events at Oaks Park that were geared to the Hispanic population. There is a new email list of Spanish speakers who will be notified when opportunities arise. If you haven't been contacted yet, and would like to practice your Spanish and spread the word about waste reduction, ¡Pues, habla conmigo! J Lauren Norris, 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

## MASTER RECYCLER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Art in the Pearl

Pearl District, Portland

Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm

Help staff a SCRAP table by the stage! This is a great outside art show. Cool project and display. Shifts: 10:00 am -1:00pm, 12:30-3:30 pm, 3:00-5:30 pm.

Contact: Carol Mollet, 503-294-0769, [carol@scrapaction.org](mailto:carol@scrapaction.org)

### SCRAP Education Outreach Program Training

3901A N Williams, Portland

Thursday, September 7, 6-8pm

SCRAP will discuss the ins and outs of their Reuse Education Programs. It is a great opportunity to work on public speaking as well as to learn more details of our waste system and what we can do about it through reuse.

Contact: Carol Mollet, 503-294-0769, [carol@scrapaction.org](mailto:carol@scrapaction.org)

### Muddy Boot Organic Festival

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Inner Southeast Portland

Friday, September 8 – Sunday, September 10

Celebrating sustainable and organic living in our local community, this event will kick off with a keynote presentation given by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. – author, environmental activist and son of Robert Kennedy – titled “Our Environmental Destiny.” Staff a table about recycling, compost or worm bins at this festival, which will feature live music, organic foods and beverages, information booths, educational workshops, and walking tours of sustainable projects (for more information, go to [www.muddyboot.org](http://www.muddyboot.org)). Kits are available.

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

### Salmon Nation Block Party

721 NW 9th Ave., Portland

Saturday, September 9, 2006, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

An eclectic street fair/farmer's market extravaganza presented by, and in honor of, Salmon Nation citizens. It brings us together to inspire and educate, bridge urban-rural divides, and celebrate the people, lands and waters of the Northwest temperate rainforest. The Salmon Nation Block Party includes music, street performers, dance troupes, storytelling and more. Activities will appeal to all

Find volunteer opportunities any time on the new Master Recycler website calendar

Visit [masterrecycler.org](http://masterrecycler.org) and click on the Members tab.

Username: MasterRecycler  
Password: master

Many opportunities are announced here between newsletters

ages and interests. Staff a table on recycling and waste prevention at the OSD booth. Morning shifts are full, 2pm-6pm shifts still available.

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

## **PROPER**

Kenton Park, North Portland

Saturday, September 9, 11:30 am to 4:30 pm

PROPOER is an event that unites local businesses, churches and people together in an effort to improve the North Portland community. PROPER is a collage of musicians, poets, community leaders, ministers and others on the stage. Festivities include free food, face painting and games with kids.

Come talk to residents about a topic of your choice. Need one or two volunteers to cover the one shift 11:30-4:30 which includes half hour of set up and take down.

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

## **Total Reclaim E-waste Business Collection Project**

Lloyd Center Business District, Portland

Wednesday, September 13, 10am-3pm

Help e-waste recyclers, Total Reclaim, talk to Lloyd Center area businesses about recycling e-waste and collecting their home and office e-waste for recycling. Total Reclaim identifies places to recycle e-waste within the US.

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

## **Master Recycler Plastics Roundup**

Saturday, September 16, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm

Help recycle those hard to recycle plastics! Master Recyclers will collect it, and Agri-Plas, a recycler located in Brooks, Oregon, will recycle the plastic into new products. A training will be offered the week before. Past Master Recyclers plastic roundup events successfully diverted eleven tons of plastic from the landfill. Sign up for shifts at one of the following locations:

- PCC Rock Creek (17705 NW Springville Rd.), Contact: *emerkjohnson@comcast.net*
- PCC SE Center (2305 SE 82nd), Contact: *respiratuer@hotmail.com*
- PCC Sylvania Campus (12000 SW 49th), Contact: *dpeerenboom@gellersilvis.com*

## **Park Place Pride Picnic**

Park Place, Clackamas

Saturday, September 16, 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Participate in the Park Place Pride Picnic. Four volunteers are needed for papermaking, worm composting and making hats from newspapers

Contact: *Eileen Stapp, eileenstapp@co.clackamas.or.us*

## **Total Reclaim E-waste Business Collection Project**

US Bank Tower, Portland

Wednesday, September 20, 10am-2pm

Help e-waste recyclers, Total Reclaim, talk to US Bank Tower businesses about recycling e-waste and collecting their home and office e-waste for recycling. Total Reclaim identifies places to recycle e-waste within the US.

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

## **Community Garden Compost Presentation**

Fulton Park, SW 3rd & Barbur Blvd., Portland

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

Teach adults about compost at Portland Community Gardens. Literature for your presentation is available at Metro Recycling Information Center. Presentations will be followed by work parties or further presentations.

*Contact: Jen Dickson, 503-823-1612, commgardens@ci.portland.or.us*

## **ReBuilding Center Table at the Home Improvement & Remodeling Show**

Oregon Convention Center, Portland

Thursday, September 28 to Sunday, October 1

Volunteers will inform participants about the rebuilding center, Our United Villages, and its services including ReFind Furniture and DeConstruction Services. A volunteer orientation the week before will be determined. All volunteers will get free access to the trade show.

*Contact: Bob Potter, bpotter@ourunitedvillages.org*

## **SCRAP Back to School**

3901A N Williams, Portland

Saturday, September 30, 10:00 am to 6:30 pm.

Lead a workshop, help kids find school supplies they need, assist with the reuse fashion show. Shifts 10am-1pm, 12:30-3:30, 3-6:30.

*Contact: 503-294-0769, volunteer@scrapaction.org*

## **E-waste Solutions Recycling Fair**

Oregon Institute of Technology on SW Harmon Drive in SE Portland, Clackamas

Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21

Michael Bouchard and Meredith Gilbert, owners of E-Waste Solutions and graduates of Class 32, are organizing an e-waste recycling, plastics and hazardous material waste event in partnership with local and regional recycling companies, waste haulers, governmental agencies, and possible elected officials. Two volunteers need to do outreach to community partners in September. During event in October, volunteers needed to staff a table and help sort incoming materials.

*Contact: Michael Bouchard or Meredith Gilbert, 503-722-0010, recycle@ewastesolutions.biz*

## **JOBS**

### **Principal Solid Waste Planner, Metro**

\$60,651.48 - \$81,183.84 annually

Closing date: September 22, 2006

Leads solid waste planning on priority projects, from development of methodologies to policy recommendations for Metro Council. Performs highly skilled solid waste planning and conducts technical analysis that provides information for key decision makers. Interacts with the public, other agencies and private interests. Recommends department policy and financial strategies, and makes commitments with a minimum of direction and guidance from immediate supervisors. Provides lead direction to other planners and support staff. Supervision is from the Policy and Program Manager.

For more information and for application procedures, go to [www.metro-region.org/pssp.cfm?ProgServID=21](http://www.metro-region.org/pssp.cfm?ProgServID=21)

### **Executive Director, AASHE**

Responsible for the leadership and management of a rapidly growing, North American Sustainability of Higher Education Association, including day-to-day operations, fundraising, communications, and programs. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors and manages one full-time employee and a part-time bookkeeper. Funds are available to hire another part-time staff person. AASHE is headquartered in Portland, OR, but the office can move to another city. A home office or shared space with another organization is desired.

A detailed job description can be found online at: [www.aashe.org/highlights/ed\\_description.php](http://www.aashe.org/highlights/ed_description.php)

### **Outreach Program Director, Oregon Environmental Council**

Starting Salary: \$33,000-\$40,000 annually

Closes: Monday, September 4, 2006

The Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is seeking the right candidate for a newly-created position to lead our healthy kids outreach program. This program includes two relatively new, award-winning projects: Eco-Healthy Childcare and Tiny Footprints. The successful candidate will also work to develop and implement additional projects that help parents and caregivers secure and act on the information they need to protect children from exposures to toxic pollution.

We are looking for someone who is entrepreneurial, outgoing, and enjoys working with diverse people and organizations to get things done. This is a responsible position in a fast-paced, mission-driven environment. OEC offers a collaborative, team-oriented, family-friendly workplace that treats employees as the responsible professionals they are. Hours are flexible, benefits are generous, and laughter is frequent.

For a complete job description, go to [www.oeconline.org/about/jobs](http://www.oeconline.org/about/jobs)

Find job announcements on the new Master Recycler Jobseekers Forum

Visit [masterrecycler.org](http://masterrecycler.org) and click on the Members tab.

Username: MasterRecycler  
Password: master

Many jobs are announced here between newsletters

### **Neighborhood Programs Coordinator, City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement**

Approximate Monthly Salary Range: \$4,111 - \$5,481

Deadline: September 4, 2006

The Neighborhood Programs Coordinator is responsible for working with neighborhood associations, district coalitions and other community-based organizations to provide a variety of services, which include contract management, technical assistance on non-profit guidelines, leadership and organizational development training. Duties include organizing and planning events, meeting coordination and facilitation, developing the content for an outreach database of neighborhood business associations, developing outreach and marketing materials and providing limited technical support and guidance to other bureaus' public involvement efforts. Additional duties include the development of customized programs, strategies, and/or workshops that are focused on building the capacity and increasing interaction between under-represented groups and neighborhood associations. The position will be required to attend community meetings in the evening and on weekends. The Neighborhood Programs Coordinator serves as a representative of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and the City and is expected to carry out their individual responsibilities with initiative, independence and creativity while exercising sound professional judgment and problem-solving skills in a heavily political environment.

For more information and how to apply: go to [www.ci.portland.or.us/jobs/06-190/06-190.htm](http://www.ci.portland.or.us/jobs/06-190/06-190.htm)

## **Energy Educator, Clackamas County Weatherization Program**

Closes: Thursday, August 31, 2006

Salary: \$2,484 - \$3,138 per Month

Our Weatherization Program requires an Energy Educator to instruct our clients and landlords on effective energy conservation. This individual will make public presentations at community meetings to educate citizens on energy conservation and our program, and will generally support the program through client tracking, multimedia development, and program monitoring. Requires acceptable driving record and background check.

For more information and to apply online, visit [www.co.clackamas.or.us](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us), click on “jobs”

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS**

### **Oregon Community Warehouse Sale**

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

2267 N. Interstate, Portland

Included in this sale are a wide variety of antique, vintage and retro housewares, vintage vanities, a beautiful modern vanity with beveled mirrors, corner cabinets and bench, a wide selection of dining tables and chairs, several upholstered chairs, numerous end, side and coffee tables, retro furniture, several china cabinets, West Elm chairs and tables, silver, glassware, framed prints, rugs and decorative items. Collectibles represented include Spode, Wedgwood, Fire King, Franciscan and a good selection of vintage plastic (melamine) dinnerware.

Proceeds from the Estate Sale benefit Community Warehouse, a non-profit organization that provides furniture and household items to those in need. Pictures will be posted at [www.oregoncommunitywarehouse.org](http://www.oregoncommunitywarehouse.org)

### **Build It Green! Tour of Homes and Information Fair**

Saturday, September 16

Tour: 11am - 5pm, Information fair: 4:30pm - 7pm (hosted by Environmental Building Supplies )

Build It Green! is a self-guided tour of 20 new and remodeled green homes throughout the Portland metro area. After the tour, an information fair hosted by Environmental Building Supplies features green building products and services, entertainment and free refreshments. The event is presented by the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development in partnership with Metro and the Solar Energy Association of Oregon.

For ticket sale locations and prices visit [www.sustainableportland.org](http://www.sustainableportland.org) or call 503-823-7222.

### **Be Featured in a New Recycle at Work Campaign**

Metro is seeking partners to pledge their support for recycling at work as part of a new campaign to launch mid-September. Support the campaign by completing a Partnership Sign-up Form found at [www.recycleatwork.com](http://www.recycleatwork.com), telling Metro what recycling activities your business already does or would commit to doing. Partners receive free support, resources and recognition in the Portland Business Journal.

Bridging  
the gap  
between  
awareness  
and  
action by  
motivating  
people  
to reduce  
waste  
in their  
homes and  
workplaces.

