

OSU Master Recycler Program In Brief December, 2002



**OREGON STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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

Volunteer Opportunity News

1. It's Fix-It Fair time again!

The Fix-It Fairs were designed to connect residents with resources that save money, conserve resources and improve neighborhoods. City, county, and community exhibitors provide information, hands-on demonstrations, and over a dozen different workshops on topics related to the home and garden.

Master Recyclers are invited to staff booths for Metro, the City of Portland, and for the Master Recycler Program. Volunteer opportunities in the winter months are scarce—so call soon if you are interested in one of the last two spots.

Dates and Locations:

January 11 at Lane Middle School, 7200 SE 60th Ave., and
January 25 at Portsmouth Middle School, 5103 N Willis Blvd.

Time: 8:30-2:00.

Option 1: January 25 only. City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development recycling and waste prevention booth. One volunteer needed to staff the booth. The volunteers will not need to pick up anything.

Option 2: January 11 only. Metro composting booth. One volunteer is requested to help staff the booth. A Metro staff member will also be at the booth most of the day. This can be broken into two shifts. The volunteer will arrive at 8:15 and will not need to pick anything up.

Contact: Megan, 503-725-2035.

2. Answer Phones for AOR

The Association of Oregon Recyclers helps answer calls during the Oregon Public Broadcasting fund drive. If you are interested in volunteering for AOR, call Charlotte Becker at 503-661-4475. The event is in early December. This is a fun way to earn payback hours!

SCRAP Holiday Happening & Bizarre Bazaar

Saturday, December 7, 2002; 11am-5pm

Conserve resources while preserving the imagination this holiday season. Dare to do it differently! Consume Less? Create more! Come be inspired.

The Scrap Open House and Open Workshop will be held at 3625B North Mississippi Ave. (one block north of Fremont next to the ReBuilding Center) on the #4 Fessenden TriMet line. Join us for:

- * Tea Party: Community and Conversation
- * Gift ideas with project sheets and a sample gallery
- * Scrap Wrap-o-rama to package all your giftish goodies (bring meaningful hand-me-downs and other regiftables to adorn and wrap)
- * Gift memberships and certificates for the creative people on your list - ideal for teachers and artists

The Scrap Bizarre Bazaar will be held across the street from SCRAP at the Mississippi Pizza Pub, 3552 N. Mississippi Avenue. Join us for:

- * A village-style marketplace of affordable reuse art and craft
- * Refreshments, community and conversation
- * Live music and merriment
- * Community Barter Hours 4-5pm: What have you? (bring barterables/certificates for services)

The Mississippi Avenue Open House. This year we've joined forces with our wonderful neighbors for the Mississippi Avenue Open House. Plan to make a day of it! Holiday specials, studio sales and celebrations will be held all along the avenue.

For more information phone Molly or Teri at 503/294-0769 or email info@scrapaction.org

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OSU EXPERT GIVES HINTS ON HOW TO MINIMIZE HOLIDAY WASTE
(11/20/02)

PORTLAND - We all know that winter holidays are for spiritual reflection, getting together with friends and family and, of course, exchanging gifts.

But do you ever find yourself on Christmas morning, waist-deep in wrapping paper and feeling vaguely queasy?

Here are some hints on minimizing waste during December holidays from Megan Cogswell, coordinator of Oregon State University Extension Service's Waste Reduction Program in Portland.

"Even if you choose to start small, you are still keeping down the clutter of the holidays to better enjoy the other parts-like food, friends, family and fun," said Cogswell.

REDUCE WRAPPING WASTE:

- Buy wrapping paper with recycled content in light or pastel colors. Bright colored paper is tough to recycle because it is hard to remove all the ink.
- Avoid shiny wrapping paper. It cannot be recycled.
- Use raffia (natural fiber cord), reusable fabric ribbon instead of plastic ribbon.
- Wrap gifts in reusable items such as fabric tote bags, scarves, baskets or gift bags.
- Wrap gifts in the Sunday comics, or old



maps or posters.

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS:

- Send electronic greeting cards via e-mail. Think of all the paper and postage you will save.
- Buy gift certificates for retailers, services or dining. These are perfect for the hard-to-buy-for recipient.
- Give experiences, like a day at OMSI, a day's skiing and lessons, a day at the coast, a weekend in a state park yurt or art lessons.
- Make your own certificates for your own services, such as hours of housecleaning, babysitting, window washing, driving, grocery shopping or lawn mowing. These don't cost anything but your time and love.
- Make your own gifts. Just a few ideas include jam, jelly, cookies, fudge, ornaments, pot holders, cookie or soup mixes in a jar, candles, soaps, bird houses, scarves, hats and fancy liqueurs.
- Search rummage sales, antique stores and flea markets for fun recycled gifts. How about a silver spoon for a new baby? A re-finished crib for a baby doll? Old kitchen gadgets and crocks can become objects d'art.
- Support local craftspeople by buying handmade gifts at craft and holiday fairs.
- If you have a friend with a favorite book or author, find a first edition of that book with a used book dealer.

AFTER OPENING, WHAT'S NEXT?

After the presents are opened, how do you deal with the debris?

- Don't burn the wrapping paper. Put it in brown paper bags and leave it with your recycling. It's okay if there is a little tape on the paper, but too much is a problem. Ribbon should be removed. Don't recycle foil paper.
- Put plastic and foil-coated paper in the garbage.
- Fold up leftover and the more intact used paper and ribbon and save it for next year.
- Take those packing peanuts to local mail services to reuse them.
- Wondering about those big pieces of block foam? Call your local recycling center or landfill company and ask if anyone will take it. In the Portland Metro area call 503-234-3000 for resources.
- Cardboard boxes should be put out with your recycling or taken to a recycling center. Don't burn them. Make sure the cardboard you recycle has a wavy layer before you put it in the cardboard recycling. If it is not corrugated, it is actually "gray board," and should be recycled with your scrap paper.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO PREVENT WASTE BEFORE IT HAPPENS:

- Instead of giving gifts, make a donation to a charity and give people cards that explain that you are donating in their name. (This does not always go over well with the under-10 crowd).

- With your kids, let toy companies know they use too much packaging and that you won't buy it until they reduce packaging.
- Have a holiday party where people bring gifts for charity instead of one another.
- Volunteer at a local shelter or children's agency party. Or help them buy gifts for low-income families.
- Go on a trip and avoid the holidays altogether.

By Carol Savonen, 541-737-3380

SOURCE: Megan Cogswell, 503-725-2035

This is the last newsletter of 2002! I hope everyone has an enjoyable December and a Happy New Year. Please keep on volunteering and sending in your hours. I will be putting together end of year reports for OSU, so now is a great time to report.

*All the best,
Megan*



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Compost Workshop

The Washington Organics Recycling Council (WORC) (along with co-sponsoring Composting Council of Oregon) is pleased to present a one-day seminar featuring the latest information on compost quality issues and opportunities - December 3, 2002 in Vancouver, Washington. Register now! Visit the Web site www.compostwashington.org for more information.

Congratulations and Thanks to the Newest Certified Master Recycler Alicia Polacok

For Sale

MR Brendan Fitzpatrick is selling handmade wooden cutting boards. The boards are very pretty and make excellent gifts. If you are interested, e-mail Brendan at bren-jfitz@hotmail.com. The cutting boards are \$15 for the small size and \$20 for the large size. Brendan frequently buys materials at the Rebuilding Center.

Class 23 Completed

Twenty-eight new Master Recyclers completed the fall training on November 19. Welcome to the program!

Metro's fourth annual "Buy Recycled" holiday gift fair

Friday, Dec. 6, 2002
10a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand Ave.

Shop, enjoy and buy gifts made from recycled materials. You'll find a variety of items – useful, whimsical, unique and beautiful – and all made from materials that used to be something else. Thirty –one artists will participate this year.

What you may find at the Buy Recycled gift fair

- Garden art
- Sculpture

- Lanterns
- Jewelry
- Mosaic items
- Toys
- Bird houses and feeders
- Christmas Ornaments
- Pottery
- Glassware
- Quilts and rugs
- And much more

On-Line Shopping

Megan Cogswell

I have been researching different on-line auction and discount websites lately after some people in the last MR class mentioned them as a good place to buy used goods. It is pretty amazing what is available—everything from second hand books, cosmetics, "gently used" clothes for every member of the family, toys, pet supplies, antiques... On Ebay, I found lots (multiple items in one listing) of boys clothes for under \$20, including shipping. For research purposes (of course) I bid on and won the clothes. The items arrived in excellent condition and cost about the same as at a consignment shop. I found a snowsuit for my two year old for \$10, including shipping. It is very cute and perfect for our limited uses. The biggest surprise was the half.com website which has fixed price used goods at a variety of prices. The items are listed by individuals. I found a video my oldest son wants for \$3.78, including shipping.

Shopping at home using the computer is way too easy, especially compared to going to second hand stores with two excited little boys. The things I found to watch for is the method of payment preferred by the seller and the shipping costs. It is possible to pay more for shipping than the actual cost of the item—which can still be a good deal if you are aware of the cost ahead of time.

