

# In Brief

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

### 17TH ANNUAL FIX-IT FAIR

Hosted by the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development, the Fix-It Fair is a neighborhood event that offers resource saving strategies for the home and garden. Master Recycler volunteers will provide general waste reduction and program information to Fair attendees.

**LOCATION:** Kellogg Middle School - 3330 SE 69th Ave., Portland

**SHIFTS AVAILABLE:** Saturday, January 10th, 8am - 11am and 11am - 2pm

**LOCATION:** Blazers Boys and Girls Club - 5250 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland

**SHIFTS AVAILABLE:** Saturday, January 24th, 8am - 11am and 11am - 2pm

**CONTACT:** Master Recycler Program - 503-823-7530, [masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)

### METRO NATURAL GARDENING BOOTH - FIX-IT FAIR

Help answer questions about home composting. There will be a worm bin for folks to check out and lots of brochures. A Metro staff person will be at the booth most of the time too.

**LOCATION:** Kellogg Middle School - 3330 SE 69th Ave., Portland

**SHIFTS AVAILABLE:** Saturday, January 10th, 8:30am - 11:30am and 11:30am - 2:30pm

**LOCATION:** Blazers Boys and Girls Club - 5250 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland

**SHIFTS AVAILABLE:** Saturday, January 24th, 8:30am - 11:30am and 11:30am - 2:30pm

**CONTACT:** Amy Wilson, Metro - 503-797-1521, [wilsona@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:wilsona@metro.dst.or.us)

## Master Recycler Program Coordinator Hired

Steve Cohen, class 25, has accepted the position to lead the Master Recycler Program. In addition to being a recent graduate of the Master Recycler Program, Steve brings with him extensive experience developing and managing public outreach campaigns. His most recent professional experience includes managing communications and corporate social responsibility for Tazo Tea and public relations and marketing for the Oregon Zoo

Steve will begin working full time on January 12th.

## Free Metro Calendar Promotes Recycling at the Office

Metro's Recycle@work! 2004 calendar features tips and information to help businesses reduce the amount of recyclables they throw away every day. You'll find a year's worth of handy tips to reduce waste, save money and help the environment.

Metro's illustrated business-focused calendar is full of useful tips and information, including:

- online sources for buying recycled-content products like notebooks, fencing, envelopes and cleaning rags
- tools to help construction and demolition companies find the nearest recycler for construction waste

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MASTER  
**RECYCLER**  
PROGRAM

ADMINISTERED BY:  
CITY OF PORTLAND  
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
721 NW 9TH AVENUE, SUITE  
350  
PORTLAND, OR 97209  
503-823-7530  
[masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:masterrecycler@ci.portland.or.us)  
[www.masterrecycler.org](http://www.masterrecycler.org)

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

City of Portland  
Office of Sustainable Development  
721 NW 9th Avenue, Suite 350  
Portland, OR 97209

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Susan Anderson, Director

The Master Recycler Program is supported by Metro, the City of Portland, Clackamas County, Recycling Advocates, and the Department of Environmental Quality.

- how to trade materials with other businesses, using an on-line waste exchange
- local food-rescue agencies that help keep good, usable food out of the landfill

Businesses can get copies of Metro's free 2004 Recycle@Work calendar by calling Metro Recycling Information at 503-224-3000. A PDF of the calendar can be downloaded and printed by going to Metro's web site, [www.metro-region.org/businessrecycling](http://www.metro-region.org/businessrecycling).

## We'll All Recycle Or Else, City Council Decides

By KATHY MULADY, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER

Tuesday, December 16, 2003

Seattle, you're slacking off. In the early 1990s, you were the nation's recycling leader. In some neighborhoods, eight out of 10 households recycled. Congress lauded your efforts.

But that was then. Since 1995, you've been increasingly sloppy in separating aluminum, glass and garbage.

Yesterday, the City Council decided to get tough. Starting in January 2005, residents and businesses will have to change their wasteful ways. Recycling will be mandatory. And by 2006, homeowners who don't recycle won't have their garbage picked up until the

trash is sorted. Commercial customers — the worst offenders — face fines of up to \$50 per collection. (**Note:** The fine amount was misstated when this article was originally published.)

That means no more soda cans, glass jars, newspapers or cardboard mixed in with the regular garbage. "Oh, wow," said Sara Hardy, amid the recycling bins in front of her Ballard apartment on Northwest 58th Street. "I may have thrown a can or bottle in the garbage," she said. "I'd hate to have my garbage not picked up."

Sound extreme? Perhaps. But hey, Seattle, your reputation as one of the country's most environmentally savvy cities is at stake.

And no, the city isn't hiring a fleet of garbage inspectors to hunt through cans for illegal pickle jars. But it will be giving customers a lot more information on how and why to recycle. "Everyone is envisioning gremlins crawling in the garbage can and weighing how much paper is there," said Councilwoman Margaret Pageler.

"You don't have to be a committed environmentalist to do this. I think once people know what the rules are, 95 percent will act responsibly."

The ambitious recycling program was proposed earlier this year by Mayor Greg Nickels, and introduced in council by Pageler. The city will spend about \$748,000 on education programs and service improvements. If more trash is recycled, the city figures it could save as much as \$2 million in landfill costs.

Recycling here began in earnest in 1988, when the city was running out of landfill space. So it talked about building an incinerator in southeast Seattle.

Neighbors rebelled. Then, city garbage officials suggested aggressive recycling could be the answer. Charles Royer, the mayor at the time, set a goal of recycling 60 percent of the city's garbage.

We never came close. In 1995, recycling peaked at 44 percent. Since then, that figure has been steadily declining. At the same time, Seattle has emerged as a national leader in water conservation.

We use less water per capita than almost any other city. "For a city that has shown such commitment to water conservation," said Susan Stoltzfus, a spokeswoman for Seattle Public Utilities, "we could be a lot better on recycling."

Although cities use different ways of calculating, some boast of a 50 percent recycling rate. But all of this is lost on Hardy, the Ballard resident. She grew up in Texas, where, she says, recycling isn't as popular as in Seattle. So it's taken her a while to get used to recycling aluminum, paper and glass. She likes the ideas of gentle reminders.

Around the corner, on 26th Avenue Northwest, Todd Waffner liked the idea, though he wondered how it would be enforced. "As long as it's clear it's coming and there are some warnings, then it's fine," he said. "I can see it more as a threat. But I can't see people picking through garbage."