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# CHAPTER 22 PLACES TO VOLUNTEER

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## INTRODUCTION

**F**rom art to building salvage, fixing to sharing, composting demonstrations to staffing an information booth, there is a niche in just about every corner of the greater Portland area for a Master Recycler. People in this region are excited to have Master Recyclers join in because they know that you know your stuff. Many organizations will make announcements in the monthly newsletter and Master Recycler volunteer calendar online. But they also welcome the Master Recycler who takes the initiative to contact them.

This chapter is devoted to Master Recyclers who would like to find a spot where they can settle in and do some deeper volunteer work. It is a listing of organizations or projects where Master Recyclers have become regulars. Some of them are one-time events that Master Recyclers return to participate in year after year. Some of them are organizations that need your expertise for a one-time special project. Some have on-going projects that need a committed volunteer to take the lead. You will learn about the organization mission, how Master Recyclers have gotten involved in the past, and the contact information. It is up to you what you do next. You can decide to jump in with some of the existing projects or contact an organization and say that you want to use your special talents and see if they have a need for you.

## YOUR LOCAL JURISDICTION

During the class, you will have met the staff from the jurisdiction that hosted that particular class and learned about how Master Recyclers can participate in their campaigns. Previous chapters have also discussed many of the local government campaigns by topic. This is a listing of all of the local jurisdictions' major campaigns and projects so that you can see them at a glance.

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### City of Beaverton

Elizabeth Cole [ecole@beavertonoregon.gov](mailto:ecole@beavertonoregon.gov) 503-526-2665

- Multi-family *door to door outreach*
- Beaverton Information Booth on Residential Solid Waste and Recycling
- Eat Smart, Waste Less tabling and presentations (food waste prevention)
- Adopt a multifamily housing community

## Clackamas County

Colleen Johnston, 503-742-4463, [cjohnston@clackamas.us](mailto:cjohnston@clackamas.us)

- Clackamas County Information Booth on Residential Solid Waste and Recycling and toxics reduction
- Multifamily door to door outreach
- Repair Fairs

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## City of Gresham

Meghan Borato, 503-618-2134, [meghan.borato@greshamoregon.gov](mailto:meghan.borato@greshamoregon.gov)

- Gresham Information Booth on Residential Solid Waste and Recycling
- Eat Smart, Waste Less tabling
- Adopt a multifamily housing community
- Earth Day E-waste Collection Event
- Repair Fairs and Swaps

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## City of Portland

Genevieve Joplin, 503-823-0232, [genevieve.joplin@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:genevieve.joplin@portlandoregon.gov)

- Business recycling assistance
- Be Cart Smart (Residential recycling and composting information booth)
- Resourceful PDX (Information booth that promotes reuse, fix and maintain, sharing and buying smart)
- Multifamily presentations and information booth
- Special project assistance
- Adopt a multifamily housing community
- Eat Smart, Waste Less program

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## Washington County

Ricardo Palazuelos, 503-846-3651, [ricardo\\_palazuelos@co.washington.or.us](mailto:ricardo_palazuelos@co.washington.or.us)

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Eat Smart, Waste Less information booth and community presentations

Heather Robinson, 503-846-3660, [heather\\_robinson@co.washington.or.us](mailto:heather_robinson@co.washington.or.us)

- Multi-family *door to door outreach*
- Adopt a multifamily housing community
- Repair Fairs

## OTHER PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

**T**he organizations (below) are presented alphabetically. After this list there are two indexes so you can search by location and by topic.

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### Center for Diversity and the Environment

[cdeinspires.org](http://cdeinspires.org)

**Mission statement:** *We harness the power of racial and ethnic diversity to transform the environmental movement by developing leaders, catalyzing change within institutions and building alliances.*

**Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:**

- Join Environmental Professionals of Color (EPOC) to network with fellow leaders of color who work on critical environmental issues.
- Volunteer to support their many individual, organizational and systemic programs.

What does not count as volunteer hours:

- If you just attend trainings without the intention of applying the information to a specific project.

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### Clackamas Waste Reduction Education Program

Laurel Bates, Waste Reduction Education Coordinator 503-742-4454, [lbates@clackamas.us](mailto:lbates@clackamas.us)

**Mission Statement:** *The Clackamas County Office of Sustainability and the Clackamas County Refuse and Recycling Association work together to support school sustainability and recycling efforts with resources, recycling containers, presentations and education kits.*

**Ways that Master Recyclers have volunteered:**

- Master Recyclers with an education background have assisted Laurel in classroom presentations and programing in Clackamas schools.

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### Community Warehouse

3969 NE MLK Jr Blvd, Portland 97212 | 8380 SW Nyberg St, Tualatin 97062 | 503-891-7400

[www.communitywarehouse.org/volunteer-2](http://www.communitywarehouse.org/volunteer-2)

**Mission Statement:** *We help vulnerable populations improve the quality of their lives and become self-sufficient by providing them with basic household furnishings. Community Warehouse is the only full-service furniture bank in the Portland metro area. In the last three years alone, Community Warehouse has provided essential furniture and household items to more than 22,000 low-income people. After visiting Community Warehouse, recipients have enough furniture, beds, kitchen items, and linens to create a safe and stable home and allow them to devote their time and resources to meeting other needs such as employment assistance, health care, or food.*

**Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:**

- Outreach Ambassadors: help with special Community Warehouse fundraising events, outreach fairs and spreading the word, and information booths in community events.
- Staffing the Community Warehouse van at Neighborhood Cleanups to ensure that only reusable household items are accepted.
- Join the Board of Directors.

## Cracked Pots

[crackedpots.org/](http://crackedpots.org/)

**Mission Statement:** *to use art to encourage our community to creatively look at trash. Reuse is at the heart of all we do.*

Cracked Pots has two events that promote reuse and art.

- Cracked Pots McMenamins Edgefield Garden Art Show. Artists sell recycled garden art.
- Glean is an art show also sponsored by Metro. Five artists are selected each year to glean materials from the Metro transfer station and spend five months making art and blogging about it.

Cracked Pots also runs the ReClaim-it Store. ReClaim It! sells items and artists materials that have been gleaned from the dump or received from local businesses. Metal boxes, wooden window frames, musical instruments, turned chair legs, heavy glass shelves, fishing rods and golf clubs, flooring and tile samples, interesting metal pieces, old typewriter parts, old tools...who knows what else will be added each week as our gleaners sort through the dump, looking for treasures?

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Check out materials and kits from one of the local jurisdictions and staff a booth at the Cracked Pots Edgefield Artshow in Troutdale. This is a two day event that usually takes place on a Tuesday and Wednesday in July.
- Support the Glean Art Show or ReClaim It! Store through outreach, articles. One Master Recycler helped design storefront displays to promote creative reuse.
- Join Cracked Pots' Board of Directors

### Things that don't count as volunteer hours:

- Helping with inventory in the store.

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## Down the River Cleanup on the Clackamas (Annual Event)

[www.welovecleanrivers.org](http://www.welovecleanrivers.org)

**Description:** An on-river, volunteer litter clean up. Water paddle crafts, on-land teams and rafters join in to remove trash. Attracting over 300 people, and typically removing 3 to 4 tons of trash from the Clackamas River. There are about five parks where the event is staged.

### Ways that Master Recyclers have volunteered:

Several years into the event Master Recyclers started helping get materials recycled. Now as much as 50 percent is recycled. This event has job descriptions you can find on the website. These two jobs count as volunteer hours:

- Organize the recycling plan.
- Sorter Captains: lead teams of 10+ to set up and sort incoming materials for recycling.

Jobs that don't count as volunteer hours:

- Sorter assistants, registration, on-land volunteer.

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## Eco-School Network

Ecoschoolnetwork.org

**Description:** The Eco-School Network is an organization of parents promoting sustainable practices and raising ecological awareness in elementary schools in Oregon. The Network equips parents and students to lead school communities toward sustainability through free training and ongoing support.

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Attending the training
- Helping a school become Oregon Green School Certified
- Leading student green teams
- Participating in earth day activities.

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## Free Geek

1731 SE 10th Avenue, Portland | [www.freegeek.org](http://www.freegeek.org)

**Mission Statement:** *Free Geek transforms used technology into opportunity, education, and community. Free Geek receives donated used computers from the public and businesses, and Build volunteers refurbish them with care. These computers are then adopted out to our Adoption volunteers in exchange for 24 hours service or after successfully completing our Build Program.*

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Provide a presentation on recycling.
- Provide a workshop in the classroom or training in the rebuild program.
- Promote Free Geek with an information booth at community events.

### Things that don't count as volunteer hours:

- Recycling and rebuilding computers.
- Helping with inventory in the store or warehouse.

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## Habitat for Humanity ReStore

10445 SE Cherry Blossom Dr, Portland | 13475 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton | 610 NE 181st Ave, Gresham

Pdxrestore.org

**Description:** *PDX ReStore locations are stocked with new and reclaimed building materials, furniture, appliances and other home goods, and are the reuse equivalent to Home Depot. All proceeds go to help build homes for families.*

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- PStaffing a summer booth with ReStore outreach staff.
- Offering a workshop or training at any of the stores on creative reuse or recycling.

### Things that don't count as volunteer hours:

- Helping with inventory in the store.
- Accepting donations.
- Repairing or recycling materials that have been donated

## James Recycling Collection Events

[jshrecycling.com](http://jshrecycling.com)

**Mission Statement:** *James Recycling is a private locally owned recycling company that runs events for the collection of a variety of non-curb-side recycling materials. Events take place in various locations throughout the region.*

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Help promote events.
- Help with the Inspect & Correct area, as follows: Donors with soft plastics, large or small rigid plastics and Styrofoam recycling items will be directed to Inspect & Correct, where you will 1) Review donor contents for cleanliness and acceptability. 2) Offer suggestions and answer questions, 3) Recommend and oversee any needed corrections, and 4) Approve donor corrections and forward them to the drop-off areas.

### What does not count as volunteer hours:

- Collection events involve a lot of hauling and sorting of waste. It is okay if you end up doing some of this work, but it cannot be the primary role you play. Your primary role should be to supervise or advise the other volunteers how to do this or act as a key contact for the public.

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## Milwaukie Farmer's Market

Colleen Johnston (Class 36) [colleen.johnston@providence.org](mailto:colleen.johnston@providence.org)

**Description:** Learn tabling ropes with two pros or just have fun at a great little market. Join two Master Recycler Mentor's Colleen Johnston (Class 36) and Rob Kappa (Class 37) at this creative and popular information booth that frequents this market several Sundays in the summer months.

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## MROc (Master Recyclers of Color)

[groups.google.com/g/MROC\\_PDX](https://groups.google.com/g/MROC_PDX) | [www.facebook.com/mrocpxd](https://www.facebook.com/mrocpxd)

**Mission Statement:** *Master Recyclers Of Color (MROC) is a community group for any individual who identifies as Black, Indigenous or a Person of Color, who is interested in waste and recycling.*

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Monthly meetups
- Social media, e-networking
- Zine, food garden outreach
- Organizing speakers, presenters and tours.

## Ecochallenge.org

[www.ecochallenge.org/hello/](http://www.ecochallenge.org/hello/)

**Mission Statement:** *Ecochallenge.org is a non-profit organization that inspires people to take responsibility for Earth.*

### Ways that Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Organize your church, coworkers, friends or family to take the fall EcoChallenge. For two weeks, in mid-October, challenge yourself to change one habit that benefits both you and the planet. Create a profile and report your results online.

### Things that don't count as volunteer hours:

- If you just do challenge by yourself without involving others (it is great to do, but just doesn't count as hours).

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## Oregon Green Schools

[oregongreenschools.org](http://oregongreenschools.org)

**Mission Statement:** *Oregon Green School is dedicated to energizing and engaging students through student-driven activities that advance their understanding and ownership of sustainability. Oregon Green Schools is helping with programs to recycle, reduce waste, save energy and conserve water with:*

- Hands-on assistance.
- Curriculum and funding resources.
- Recognition and events.

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Use the OGS Certification process to get your local school certified.
- Help OGS recruit schools in the region.
- Provide assistance to several schools in the region.

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## Oregon Zoo

Master Recycler Program Manager, [masterrecycler@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:masterrecycler@oregonmetro.gov)

**Description:** The Oregon Zoo's mission includes offering education on wildlife, their habitats and what we can all do to protect them. Master Recyclers have many ways that you can participate in this mission and have fun family-friendly activities that reach a diverse audience.

### Ways Master Recyclers can volunteer:

- Check out materials or create your own display and set up a table almost any day in the zoo.
- Set up a table at a number of scheduled education days and major events like Howloween, Hop into Spring, and Zoo nights.

## PlanetCon (Westside Planet Alliance)

PlanetCon.org

**Description:** PlanetCon is a community recycling, swap and repair event that offers a hall of exhibitors with information as well. A group of Master Recyclers in Hillsboro and Forest Grove began partnering with Washington County and local recyclers to collect non-curb-side recycling along with conducting a swap event and repair fair.

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Joining the planning committee.
- Staffing an information booth on Eat Smart, Waste Less, Waste-Free Advocates, toxics, recycling and more.
- Helping on the day of the event with logistics, greeting and helping people understand recycling.
- Repairing items in the Repair Fair section.

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## Rebuilding Center

3625 N. Mississippi Avenue, Portland 97227 | [www.rebuildingcenter.org/volunteer](http://www.rebuildingcenter.org/volunteer)

**Mission Statement:** *We offer affordable used building and remodeling materials with the goal to promote the use of salvaged and reclaimed materials — a non-profit resource to strengthen environmental, economic and social fabric of local communities. As a community building organization, we have inverted the volunteer model and would love to hear how we can serve you and expand your ambitions and skill sets.*

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Receive training on Rebuilding Center programs and staff information booths at the region-wide home and garden and remodeling tradeshows (mostly at the Convention Center and Expo Center in NE and N Portland) to promote purchasing of salvaged materials and deconstruction options right when people are thinking about making changes to their home.
- Help with the newsletter, blog or website.
- Join their volunteer leaders program.
- Collect stories of creative reuse for their website and community board.

### Things that don't count as volunteer hours:

- Helping with inventory in the warehouse.

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## Repair Fair

[repairpdx.org](http://repairpdx.org) (Portland and Gresham) | [repairfair.org/](http://repairfair.org/) (Beaverton to Hillsboro)

**Description:** Repair Fairs or Repair Cafés are events where volunteers with “fixing” skills help others fix broken items. Volunteers may be able to repair small appliances like blenders or coffee makers, jewelry, bikes or clothing that needs a new button or a zipper fix. Good things can happen at a Repair Fair, including: meeting new people, learning useful skills and keeping items in use. Repair PDX started a Repair Voucher program in 2021. People can select their own repair company or one from a list by Repair PDX and then present the voucher. Repair PDX will pay the repair company for the repairs.

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Help organize a Repair Café.
- Assist with public orientation and entry.
- Teach people how to repair.
- Outreach for RepairPDX's new Repair Voucher Program



## Scrap

1736 SW Alder Street, Portland | [portland.scrapcreativeuse.org](http://portland.scrapcreativeuse.org)

**Mission Statement:** *Inspiring creative reuse and environmentally sustainable behavior by providing educational programs and affordable materials to the community.*

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Provide a workshop on creative reuse.
- Bring a group to one of the workshops or parties.
- Help with fundraising events.
- Teach at the summer camp.
- Help with teacher trainings.

### Things that don't count as volunteer hours:

- Helping with inventory in the warehouse.

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## Trash for Peace

Portland schools | [www.trashforpeace.org/](http://www.trashforpeace.org/)

**Mission Statement:** *Turn trash into peace. To educate and spread awareness about the capacity we have as human beings to use our creativity and innovation to replace the concept of trash with resourcefulness and giving back. We strive to encourage people to reduce, reuse, and then recycle for a healthier and more peaceful planet.*

Trash for peace works on Youth empowerment, business outreach, and creative bin designs all focused on achieving their vision: Empowered, healthy communities living in a world without waste. One program of Trash for Peace is Ground Score. Ground Score is an association of environmental workers who create and fill low-barrier waste management jobs. They created outreach materials to support our local waste pickers through proper set-out of our bottles and cans

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Use their classroom manuals to conduct creative reuse presentations in classrooms.
- Empower youth of all ages to promote self-esteem, leadership, team building, and job skills through the lens of environmental education.
- Help with waste free cooking classes.
- Promote the rights of waste pickers with Ground Score outreach materials to support through proper set-out of our bottles and cans.
- Join the Board of Directors

## Waste-Free Advocates

[www.wastefreeadvocates.org](http://www.wastefreeadvocates.org)

**Mission Statement:** *Waste-Free Advocates empowers and connects Oregon communities to minimize over-consumption and waste..*

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Work with companies' Green Teams to inspire coworkers to think of waste prevention ideas dealing with lunchtime choices (food carts, GoBox, BYOs, etc.) and in other aspects of their daily activities.
- The Oregon Legislature convenes in February. Help us target and track environmentally sensitive legislation through the house and senate.
- Become a Board Member.
- Write newsletter articles.

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## Your Local Farmer's Market

[www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org/](http://www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org/)

**Description:** Farmer's markets are a bustling center to communities throughout the region. Along with providing our region with farm fresh food, they are also community gatherings of music and information-sharing that take place usually weekly sometimes more often. It is best to contact the Master Recycler Program Manager to find out if a Master Recycler is already involved in your market.

### Ways Master Recyclers have volunteered:

- Check out a kit from your local jurisdiction and set up an information booth. Some Master Recyclers have even set up a booth one day a month for the summer months and rotated the topic. Use the contact information in the directory for your market to find out if they would allow a free space for you to set up. Also ask them if they have a table, chair and canopy available.
- Provide technical assistance in helping the market reduce waste or become the ongoing sustainability coordinator. Connect them with resources, work with your local jurisdiction's Recycling Specialist to identify places that take hard to recycle or compost materials, help them improve recycling/composting signage and containers or implement a durables program for the food vendors.

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