



Makers of Plastic Bags to use 40% Recycled Content by 2015

excerpt by [Bruce Horowitz](#), USA TODAY

Under pressure from consumers, environmental advocates and retailers, the companies that make more than 80% of plastic bags used by the nation's big retailers on Tuesday have announced plans to make the plastic bags from 40% recycled content by 2015.

It's no accident that the announcement was made near the 39th observance of Earth Day.

The move comes as some cities are outlawing the bags and trend-setting retailers, including Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, have dropped them. Plastic bags, which take hundreds of years to degrade, are regarded by many consumers as eyesores, threats to wildlife and wasteful. The one billion dollar industry makes about 90 billion plastic bags annually in the USA alone.

With this move to ramp-up plastic bag recycling, some 463 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and 300 million pounds of waste will be cut annually, says Cal Dooley, CEO of the American Chemistry Council, the trade group for the major plastic bag makers. "This is unprecedented."

"This is a significant commitment by the plastic bag industry to reduce waste," says Matthew McKenna, president of the non-profit group Keep America Beautiful, which will receive an undisclosed donation from the American Chemistry Council.

But not everyone is applauding the move. That includes Earth

Day Network, the organizing body of Earth Day worldwide.

"It's annoying. And it's transparent," says Kathleen Rogers, president of Earth Day Network. "The death knell has sounded for plastic bags. They're just trying to continue to make a bad thing."

The Natural Resources Defense Council agrees: "We don't want people to use disposable bags. We want people to use reusable bags," says Darby Hoover, a senior research specialist.

Management consultant Pam Murtaugh says the Earth Day gambit will backfire. "They're late to the party of good sense. In bragging about it now, they're only building their own glass

house."

But Dooley insists the move is more than cosmetic. He says the industry will spend \$50 million to overhaul the manufacturing process and will collect 470 million pounds of recycled plastic annually to make the new bags.

Among major retailers that will be part of this new program: Home Depot and Walgreens.

Walgreens spokesman Michael Polzin says the program is "innovative" and will "help improve the environment."

Home Depot is "encouraged by the positive steps the industry is taking toward sustainability," says spokeswoman Tia Robinson.

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From left to right; Jill Womble, Greg Melnikoff, Mike Calvert, Elia and Frank Miles, Diana Pinto, Laureen MacDonald, Jim Wellington, Sandra Davidson, Sarah Grimm, Lisa Honseler, Debra Edwards, Donna Warnecke, Dina McClure, Kelly Bell, Melissa Anderson, Linda Wilcox, Joe Arsenault and Frank Souza. Not pictured: Sarah Alexander, Caleb Johnson and Kathy Johnson. Judy Ulrich also participated.



Tuesday June 9th from 6-9pm

Glenwood Central Receiving Station Building C

BRING: Food! Glorious Food! Partners are welcome

A selection of cold beverages will be provided

ACTIVITY: Workparty to clean and prep event bins & signs

Taking Agricultural Recycling to the Next Level *by Dari Jongsma, President Agri-Plas, Inc.*

In the latest showing of Oregon's entrepreneurial and environmental prowess, **Agri-Plas 2 Crude, Inc.**, an arm of an Oregon-based plastic recycler, **Agri-Plas, Inc.**, is the first company in the nation to convert unwanted and typically unrecyclable plastics into crude oil and ship it to a refinery for commercial processing.

Agri-Plas 2 Crude Inc., is taking discarded and unwanted plastic that chokes landfills or is abandoned, burned or buried on Northwest farms and nurseries. They are converting it back into its original form of **Sweet Synthetic Crude Oil**. Plastic products include disposable dirty agricultural film, greenhouse cover, mixed nursery and jug material and other low or zero value plastics. These plastics are too dirty to economically bring them to a higher value through normal recycling efforts.

"The fact that the Agri-Plas 2 Crude and Agri-Plas footprint has been able to take plastic that would otherwise go directly into the waste stream and convert it into a commercial product that can eventually be used in thousands of new products is truly ground breaking," said **Tom Fox**, business development officer for the Oregon Economic & Community Development Department.

The company recently delivered its first full tanker (8,200 gallons) of oil to a

refinery in Tacoma, Washington, which translates to a final delivery of 196 barrels of oil. The first shipment of oil was tested by the refinery, and was in fact very high quality. They have signed a five year contract with **Plas2Fuel Corporation** and **Agri-Plas Inc.** to accept everything that they can produce.

"The State of Oregon has been a key player in helping us bring this process to market," said **Mary Sue Gilliland**, vice president of operations and business development at Agri-Plas. "We hope that with the financial assistance from the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC), we will be able to jump start construction of a new facility that will allow the company to increase crude oil production."

Agri-Plas 2 Crude, Inc. is gearing up to deliver its second shipment of crude oil in mid-March. The company is currently testing technology developed by Plas2Fuel Corporation of Kelso, Washington, an alternative energy company, that created a unique process of converting plastic into high value Synthetic Crude Oil. Agri-Plas 2 Crude, Inc. is working closely with Plas2Fuel in a strategic partnership that is planning to expand operations. Within the next year, Agri-Plas, Inc. hopes to create 35 to 40 new green collar jobs at its headquarters in Brooks. Even more Green Collar jobs will be created as this technology

expands to different areas in Oregon. Oregon will once again lead the nation in recycling efforts and solutions.

The process that Agri-Plas 2 Crude, Inc., is using to reclaim unwanted plastics back into petroleum can be refined in a variety of ways and used for thousands of purposes. The reclaimed petroleum can be used in products from makeup, gummy bears, to lubricants and other petroleum based products.

Today, Agri-Plas 2 Crude is operating one plastic-to-petroleum unit. The company expects to add three more units, which will create one full four-vessel system. Agri-Plas Inc. plans to break ground soon on a new facility, which will house a total of five four vessel systems – 20 vessels in total. These five systems will create enough recycled Synthetic Crude Oil to deliver a full tanker for refining every single day. Expansion to other areas in Oregon will help solve agricultural plastic waste problems, while creating even more green-collar jobs.

Call 503-390-2381 or visit www.agriplasinc.com

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**Family Resource Centers' Annual U of O Reusable Goods Collection
June 3rd through the 13th, 2009**

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECYCLE, GET EXERCISE AND HELP OUT LOW-INCOME KIDS! The University of Oregon has one of the nicest campuses for walking and gazing... and from June 3rd through the 13th, you can get your exercise, and do a "feel-good thing" helping low-income kids and families. We are looking for volunteers who can help collect, sort and bag usable clothing and a large variety of other usable goods that are donated by U of O students who are leaving for the summer. All usable items such as clothing, toasters, phones, plastic containers and many other things are given to needy families and kids. Volunteers meet at specific spots on campus. Teams of two **go inside dorms to collect, sort and bag the donated items and bring them to where the truck is parked.** We have 58 barrels on campus. We work clusters of dorms and have the truck parked in a convenient location. Donated items are bagged and transported from dorm to truck with rolling barrels. It helps to be able to lift up to 50 or so pounds and to be able to bend over and lower yourself to your knees. There is also **a LOT of walking and pushing large Sanipac recycle barrels** involved. If you would like to be a part of this effort, the tentative schedule is listed here. For more information or to sign up for a shift, contact Gloria Griffith by e-mail at ggriffit@sps.lane.edu or phone at 744-6769. Gloria will contact you right away with information on where to meet etc.

contact **Gloria Griffith** at 744-6769 or ggriffit@sps.lane.edu to volunteer



U of O

"Lighten Your Load" Re-Usable Collection Event June 8th-12th

Contact **Robyn Hathcock** at rjhath@uoregon.edu or 541.346.0929 by June 9th at 2 pm to volunteer

HELP CAMPUS RECYCLING STAFF DURING END-OF-THE-YEAR MOVE-OUT!

Reusable items donated by U of O dorm residents are collected and re-distributed free of charge to at-risk and low-income families in Springfield, Marcola and outlying areas of Lane County thru the Springfield School District Family Resource Centers. This is an enormous effort and volunteers are needed to work alongside campus recycling staff **walking from dorm to dorm collecting reusable items placed in or near outdoor recycling stations.** Roll carts, grabbers and gloves will be provided. Shifts are 8-12 and 1-5 every day, with the greatest volunteer need on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 10th, 11th and 12th. This is physically demanding work, requiring lots of lifting and walking. If you can volunteer for this event please contact Robyn Hathcock, UO Housing Recycling Coordinator, 1460 Villard St., rjhath@uoregon.edu or (541) 346-0929 by Tuesday June, 9th at 2pm.



photo credits: Tony Vu

One of the longest running tournaments in North America celebrates it's 31st!

Want to help one of the biggest Frisbee tournaments in the Northwest get even greener? Want to have some fun in the sun? Then the **Eugene Summer Solstice 2009 Ultimate Tournament** wants you! The tournament, which runs **June 20-21**, plays host to more than 500 Ultimate players from the Northwest and beyond. Last year, we added recycling receptacles for the first time. It was a big hit with visiting teams, and we'll be doing it again this year. We're looking for **volunteers who will work with our recycling coordinator** to set up and break down the receptacles, educate users and just generally keep an eye on things. Help a little or a lot -- either way, we're extremely appreciative! If you're interested, please shoot an email to Matt Cooper, tournament director, at mattcooper975@gmail.com.

USA TRACK & FIELD June 25 - 28 at Hayward Field

2009 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS I don't know if you've heard, but the sustainability efforts of the Eugene 08 Olympic Track and Field Trials were so successful and so widely acknowledged that the Oregon Track Club is committed to maintaining the high standards in waste reduction set by that event. This success was largely due to the contribution of Master Recyclers. It is so exciting to see such real and tangible gains in advancing Zero Waste goals at events.



First American recipient of the International Olympic Committee's Sport and Environment Award, Eugene '08 also received the Lane County TrashBuster Event Award, the Governor's Sustainability Award and nomination for the Association of Oregon Recyclers Recycler of the Year Award.

This summer, June 25-28th the 2009 World Track and Field Trials will be going for gold in green again. While final contract negotiations for management of the zero waste effort have not been completed at this time, we are recommending that the same team of Master Recycler, BJ Hurwich and Elysium events be employed for the most seamless route to repeating last year's success.

Last year, dozens of Master Recyclers provided invaluable leadership as crew captains, inspiring neophyte recycling volunteers and dazzling everyone associated with the event with their enthusiasm, knowledge and hard work. It is my hope that a majority of Master Recyclers will step up to assist with this effort again. Please sign up on the events volunteer webpage, and contact me at sarah.grimm@co.lane.or.us or 682-4339 if you are willing to be a crew captain. I will forward crew captain names to the management team. If you do not want to be in a leadership roll, please don't let that prevent you from being a part of this great success. There are many, many shifts to fill--setting up the recycling bins before the event, roaming the event to top-sort recycle and compost bins, sorting contaminants from the compost headed to Rexius, and taking down and packing away supplies for next year.

To volunteer at this event go to: www.volunteermanagement.net/2009USATFChampionships/login

RUSTLE THE LEAF BY PONCE & WRIGHT



Be sure to indicate in your volunteer sign up that you wish to work for the Recycling effort and if you are willing to be a crew captain indicate that as well. The Oregon Track Club treats its volunteers very well with apparel, meals and lots and lots of sugary snacks.

Join the team that goes for green!

Contributed by Sarah Grimm, Waste Reduction Specialist, Lane County Public Works Waste Management Division



Eugene/Springfield RELAY FOR LIFE July 24th-25th Lane Community College Track

Relay for Life is a 24 hour event to Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back against cancer. Your help would be very much appreciated with the recycling effort at this event which brings approximately 6,000 participants to our community. **Volunteers will be needed for sorting at the recycling station** (1 or more hours of your time). Helpers are needed to replace full garbage and recycling containers with empties and then bringing the full containers to the garbage/recycling station. Golf cart drivers are also needed for lots of duties throughout the Relay; drivers will have to qualify for a "Relay driver's license". Please contact **RaNae**, Relay Recycling Coordinator, at ra-nae.mitchell@petersoncorp.com or (541) 607-4546 if you'd like to participate. Help us eliminate cancer and provide cancer-free generations with a green world.



MUSIC CRAFT VENDORS BAKE SALE MAKE-IT-TAKE-IT WORKSHOPS...



BRINGfest is Back! Come celebrate BRING's mission and neighborhood presence.

FOR DATES AND TIMES GO TO WWW.BRINGRECYCLING.ORG OR CALL 746-3023

BRING's mission is helping people understand how the stuff we use shapes the planet we share.

BRING It Home

A TOUR of innovative homes and gardens
Sunday, July 26th, 2009 • 9am - 5pm
Tickets go on sale June 15th

The Oregon Green and Solar Tours are coordinated by Solar Oregon as part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour

GO TO www.bringrecycling.org for information about BRING events.

CONTACT Michele at 606-9093 or michelep@bringrecycling.org to be a BRINGfest vendor or to volunteer at BRING events.

LANE COUNTY FAIR August 18-23, 2009

LOCATION:

Lane Events Center Fairgrounds
796 W 13th Ave, Eugene

FAIR HOURS:

Tue-Thu: 11am-10pm
Fri-Sat: 11am-11pm
Sun: 11am-8pm

TOP SORTING SHIFTS:

Tue-Sun 11:30am-2pm & 4-6:30pm

RECYCLE JEOPARDY!

BOOTH SHIFTS:

Tuesday-Sunday
10:30am-2pm, 2-5pm and 5-8pm

SIGN UP:

go to docs@google.com to sign in: **USERNAME:** lanecounty-masterrecycler@gmail.com

PASSWORD: preventwaste

- OR -

CONTACT:

Kelly Bell at
kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us
682-2059 or 255-5665

Master Recyclers are admitted free each day they volunteer!

It's all good.

Public Works
Waste Management Division



3100 E 17th Ave
Eugene, OR 97403

Phone: 541-682-2059
Fax: 541-682-2353

Email: kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us

Master Recyclers bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating others to reduce solid waste in homes and workplaces.

Please report volunteer hours. Include: date, #of hours, activity, a contact person, and the number of people served!

Event Coordinators-After an event please fax your volunteer sign-in sheets attn: Kelly at fax: #682-2353 to insure that Master Recyclers receive credit towards "payback."

printed on Recycled Paper made with 100% Post Consumer Waste

If you prefer to receive this newsletter without the paper, send an email to kelly.bell@co.lane.or.us

Oregon Reports Electronics Recycling Collection Numbers for YTD

Recycling Today Magazine

The state of Oregon is reporting that since the beginning of this year close to 5 million pounds of computers, monitors and televisions have been collected.

First-quarter collection and recycling totals show that the program brought in 4.94 million pounds of electronic waste, said E-Cycles Project Lead Kathy Kiwala of DEQ's Solid Waste Program.

The 4.94 million-pound figure is ahead of projected program goals. Oregon E-Cycles' original projection for minimum total returns for 2009 is 12.2 million pounds. For materials collected in the first quarter, televisions accounted for 55.7 percent of total pounds recycled. Monitors accounted for 33.3 percent, and computers accounted for the remaining 11 percent.

In addition to recycling, 8,938 units (of televisions, computers or monitors) were diverted for reuse, Kiwala added.

Electronics manufacturers finance Oregon E-Cycles, which was launched on Jan. 1, 2009. Many manufacturers support the DEQ-administered state contractor collection and recycling program. Three other manufacturer groups operate their own collection and recycling programs, but all of the programs operate under the Oregon E-Cycles umbrella.

Broken out individually, Dell Inc. collected and recycled 1,111,472 pounds and has already exceeded its minimum goal. Dell reported that 2,745 units of televisions, computers or monitors were reused through its partnership with Goodwill.

The Individual Producers Responsibility Group collected and recycled 743,374 pounds, reaching 32 percent of its minimum goal for 2009.

The Manufacturers Recycling Management Company LLC collected and recycled 2,281,327 pounds and is already at 45 percent of its minimum collection goal for 2009. In addition, MRM reported the reuse of 2,466 televisions, computers and monitors through Goodwill and several other non-profit reuse organizations within its collection network.

The State Contractor Program collected and recycled 802,368 pounds and has reached 20 percent of its minimum collection goal for the year. The program reported that 3,727 units of televisions, computers and monitors were reused by NextStep and FreeGeek, two non-profit reuse organizations within its collection network.

For more information on Oregon E-Cycles, see DEQ's website at www.oregoncycles.org.