

MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

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Special points of interest:

- Aluminum Can facts
- Check the Lane County Web Site for e-waste news
- Prose by a Master Recycler



November 15: America Recycles Day

It All Comes Back To You!



America Recycles is launching its 8th Annual campaign to encourage Americans to recycle and buy recycled products. As part of its focus, the group has designated November 15 as America Recycles Day.

America Recycles 2004 is one of the most comprehensive recycling awareness campaigns in the nation. Each year, millions of people become better informed about the advantages of recycling at home and buying recycled as a result of the group's efforts. Last year, thousands of people signed pledges to recycle and buy recycled. Hundreds of events were staged to support the campaign in almost every state.

According to Kate Krebs of the National Recycling Coalition, "America Recycles Day has been successful from day one, but we need to begin to establish the thought that recycling must be an ongoing activity if it is to make a

major difference. We'll still focus on one day, November 15, to maximize awareness of the campaign and give people, local government and organizations a rallying point. But our message will definitely be to recycle all year."

It all comes back to you is a new theme for 2004. The message is threefold: recycled products will come back to the consumer as another new product., that it's good for the environment and good for the economy, and that it's up to each person to do their part.

This year, Master Recyclers will have an educational booth at the Saturday Market on November 13th from 10 a.m. until 4p.m., downtown on the Park blocks. The booth will be staffed by volunteers who will let people know the importance of buying recycled goods and urge them to sign a pledge to practice the 3 R's. Come by the booth and say hello and show your support.

America Recycles 2004 maintains a website at www.americarecyclesday.org where you can go to find information about events around the county, to sign a pledge and to learn more about this year's campaign.

REPURPOSED ART ON SALE TO BENEFIT BRING RECYCLING NOV. 20 & 21

Bottle cap earrings, fleece boas, felted wool bags and many other cleverly crafted goods will be featured at the Holiday Market at the Lane County Fairgrounds on E. 13th Avenue on November 20th and 21st.

This is the perfect way to shop for the holidays if you are turned off by over-consumption and want to avoid buying more

traditional gifts. These items are re-used and hand crafted by artists who repurpose materials to fashion wonderfully "new" and different goods. All proceeds from the sales will benefit BRING Recycling's capital campaign.

Stop by and shop with a purpose!

Tire Wire Scrap: Putting a New Spin on Tire Recycling

Did you know that ten tires, when left intact, can occupy more than a cubic yard of space in a landfill? For years, that has been the fate of out of service tires- taking up landfill space. Today, however, tires are taking a new spin on life-one that is giving them use long after their days as tires are gone.

By chipping tires and recovering the steel wire, up to 99 percent of the average passenger car tire can now be captured for recycling. Tires were initially recycled for their rubber content, which is chipped, ground and/or melted into products such as asphalt and playground padding, as well as tire-derived fuel. But thanks to advances in technology, recycling steel tire wire is also an environmentally-responsible means of collecting a high quality source of steel scrap and conserving landfill space. The average passenger tire contains approximately 10 percent steel wire by weight, which helps make the tire stronger and more rigid.

Tire wire scrap is used to make new steel. Each year, between 60 and 70 million tons of steel scrap, including old steel cans, broken-down appliances, old automobiles and construction metals, are recycled- making steel North America's #1 recycled material. A ton of steel



scrap used to make new steel conserves 2500 pounds of iron ore, 1400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone and nearly 11 million Btu's of energy. What's

more, all new steel contains a minimum of 25 percent recycled steel. For nearly as long as steel has been made, recycling steel scrap has been a part of the steelmaking process.

In 1995 alone, the steel tire wire from an equivalent of nearly eight million tires was shipped to be recycled into products such as the steel soup cans and appliances in your kitchen, as well as the car you drive and the tires that move them.

For more information on steel recycling options, contact the Steel Recycling Hotline at 1-800-YES-1-CAN (937-1226).

LCWM HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR MATTRESSES

BY JEFF BISHOP, LANE COUNTY

Since the beginning of the mattress collection program at the Glenwood Central Receiving Station a year ago, we have collected over 15,000 of the pesky buggers from commercial sources and households. The mattresses are hauled to St. Vincent dePaul's mattress recycling facility on Prairie Road, where they are either remanufactured for sale or ground up for recycling of the various components, depending on the condition of the mattress.

End to end the mattresses we've collected would cover 19 miles. The 15,000 mattresses weigh about 350 tons, but because they are so bulky for their weight, the space we saved by recycling them have created room for over 1200 tons of regular garbage at the landfill.

If some logistical issues can be worked out, we'd like to expand the program to other sites in the future. Great work!

Recycler's Wish List: If you must buy, buy local

BY SARAH GRIMM, BRING RECYCLING

After trying all year to stem the tide of consumerism that decimates earth's life support systems and engorges our landfills, and then reading accounts of shoppers starting at 4 a.m. to mob stores the day after Thanksgiving, I'm thinking maybe it's time to take a different approach. According to everything we've seen on the subject, two-thirds of the U.S. economy is driven by consumer spending!

Rather than try to reverse the engine that drives everything, why not just steer a path closer to home? Buy local products first! With Christmas just a twinkling eye-blink away, and newspapers filled with stories about the state's economic woes, spending our holiday dollars at local merchants and for local products makes the best kind of sense.

Oregon is #1 when it comes to producing blackberries and other cane berries, hazelnuts, Christmas trees, Peppermint and potted florist azaleas for the rest of the country. We come in second for Dungeness crab, garlic and processed snap beans. Pears, sweet cherries, blueberries, strawberries, cranberries also make their marks nationally. Atlantic Monthly recently announced that Oregon Pinot Noir wine is competing favorably with French Burgundy in blind tastings.

We have Tillamook and Bandon cheeses, Pendleton blankets, Boyd's Coffee, Leatherman Tools, Oregon Candy Company and Van Dуйn's chocolates, Hood River apples and

pears and more wineries than we can count. And don't forget the recycled products made in Oregon. Resource Revival has upscale home decor items made from bicycle parts. Aurora Glass is giving new life to old window glass as useful and beautiful decorative items. And there's dozens of talented crafters using recycled materials at the Holiday Market every weekend at the Lane County Fair Grounds.

If you prefer to shop from home, an Internet Google search on the above company names is all you need. Or check out Oregon in general by searching on "Oregon products." Find out about Oregon's wines through the Oregon Wine Advisory Board, www.oregonwine.org. Travel Oregon and see what our state has to offer with the Oregon Tourism Commission, www.traveloregon.com. And the Oregon Association of Nurseries, www.nurseryguide.com, will show you who grows what and where.

If you're not making your own gifts and you are not skipping the holiday, be patriotic, be a community supporter, focus your gift hunting and gathering on the many Oregon products. And while you're at it, ask for "paper" with every purchase; most of those brown paper bags are made with Oregon jobs from a r e n e w a b l e r e s o u r c e .

Have a wonderful, peaceful and holiday!
Sarah Grimm
541-746-3023

NEW MATERIALS IN YOUR LIBRARY

Your library has some new items. Check it out!

If you are a teacher or a volunteer who would like curriculum materials for the classroom, your Master Recycler Resource Library has just the ticket!

First, the Nike "Air to Earth" program, a series of six lessons that explore the topic of sustainability. Studying the

life cycle of a product, namely athletic shoes, students can explore science and nature, resource conservation and choice making. This is designed for students between 5th and 8th grade. Materials are provided.

Second, EcoCycle has developed a handy waste reduction activity kit for grades 4 through 8. This kit has five one hour lessons on the 3

R's and includes all the materials needed to teach on these topics: The history of trash, precycling, environmental benefits of recycling, closing the loop and making recycled paper.

Don't forget, we have videos and books that you can check out for a week at a time. Call Lorraine at 682-2059 for more information.

Aluminum Can Facts:

In the past 30 years

Over 1 Trillion
TONS of aluminum
cans have been
wasted

Laid end to end,
would stretch to the
moon and back

158 times!

That's 17.5 million tons
of wasted aluminum
metal

It equals the annual
production capacity of
50 to 60 modern
aluminum smelters

It is worth \$21 billion
at a scrap price of 60
cents per pound



Recycle or redeem
cans!

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 Master Recycler Program
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Why Green?

By Pat Sweeney,
 Master Recycler

Why save the environment?
 Someday humanity will disappear
 like the dinosaurs. Geologic
 forces will erase the waste and
 pollution.

Why not live for the moment and
 consume mountains of resources?
 Dump the garbage into the
 ocean. Bulldoze the wilderness.
 Poison the rivers.

Because I'm not the center of the
 universe.

My pollution impacts the whole
 world, and erodes the magnifi-
 cence that others who live a sim-
 pler life might enjoy.

Isn't it obvious?
 Nature inspires me, benefits my
 health and brings me joy. When I
 listen to my inner voice, I know
 this.

When I stand by the ocean, I see
 it.

When I insulate myself with crea-
 ture comforts, sometimes I forget.

*The Master Recycler Program Mission Statement: To bridge the gap
 between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid
 waste in homes and workplaces.*



Food Collection Pilot Program Begins January 1st

While backyard composting is highly successful in Eugene, there are still large amounts of food waste ending up in the garbage. Over 5,700 tons of residential food scraps make their way into Eugene's waste stream according to a waste composition studies conducted by the Department of Environmental Quality. In order to capture this resource, the City of Eugene Solid Waste and Recycling program will be conducting a pilot study of 1400 households throughout 2005 to determine the feasibility of adding vegetative food scraps to the current curbside yard debris collection program.

Half of the pilot participants will be provided with a countertop compost bucket to determine if this improves participation in the study. Master Recyclers are needed to help pass out compost buckets, and to assist in quarterly yard debris composition studies. If this is something you'd like to help with, please call Anne Donahue with the City of Eugene Solid Waste and Recycling program: 682-5542.