

MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Summer Travel Tips Pg 1

MECCA Stats Pg 3

Volunteer Ops Pg. 4



Special points of Interest

- Poetry inspired by Short Mt. Landfill
- Volunteer acknowledgements
- Check the County web site for recycling news
- Association of Oregon Recyclers hosts annual Conference in Eugene in June
- Less Is Best : Reduce Junk Mail

SPRING MASTER RECYCLER CLASS TAKES ROOT AND GROWS!

Tis' the season for graduations, and for those enrolled in the Master Recycler Program, that time has come. The latest crop of trainees just completed an eight week cycle of education and training and they are *ready* to take on recycling in Lane County. With opportunities abounding, this group of 22 students began to volunteer even before the class was over, helping out at many community events, including:

- Fiesta Latina
- Springfield Spring Clean-up
- Earth Day
- Dexter Water Festival
- Electronics Waste Round-up
- Lane County's *Less Is Best* campaign



Master Recycling student Erica Benedict-Barta wrestles with composting machine at the Grass Roots Garden, and wins!

Welcome to the growing community of Master Recyclers in Lane County. Congratulations to:

Erica Benedict-Barta Tracy Beckmann
 Alice Burch Michaëlle Carter
 Peggy Coffman Pat Ferris
 Hilary Fisher Holly Garrow
 Liz Gimenez Wende Hitchcock

Eric Johnson Virginia Klassen
 Heidi Knight-Meigs Kristina Measells
 Melinda McCormick Anita Pierce
 Larry Sanderson Suzanne Shannon
 Pat Sweeney Chris Veloon
 Robert Vogel

It's great to have you on board!

THE LESS IS BEST TRAVELER

BY PETE CHISM

The US TravelData Center estimates that 43 million U.S. Travelers are "ecologically concerned". Here are a few ways you can reduce waste while traveling.

Use reusable bags, storage containers and towels. Rent equipment, avoid disposables, and pack waste-free picnics by bringing reusables and recyclables from home with you. Purchase electronic tickets for air travel whenever possible.

• **Take What You Need**

Food and packaging waste accounts for as much as half of what is thrown away in a day, especially when you are far from home. Reduce fast food and excess packaging in carry out food. (more on pg. 2)

Mountain of Disregard

By

Craig Nielsen

My soul is shocked to disbelief;

My eyes must be deceiving me.

A mountain made of disregard is piling up in our backyard.

The breeze that blows is sickening ~ repulsive, vile, grotesque, obscene.

Paradise is worlds away from this unholy pit today.

It's covered with a pretty name: a landfill? No!

A pit of shame!

(written with respect and gratitude to the men and women who take on the thankless task of dealing with our garbage)



LESS IS BEST TRAVELER,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"No thanks, I don't need a bag" may draw a curious look, but sometimes you must ask for what you don't want. Carry your own reusable cups, plates and flatware. Pack a cooler of food bought in bulk or deli-style. Did you grab too many packages of ketchup or mustard? They won't spoil, so save them for next time you have a meal to go.

• Transportation Tips

Choose to walk, bike or cross county ski instead of using motorized transportation. Use public transportation. Carpool with family or friends to reduce miles traveled in your vehicle. Use the hotel van instead of renting a car. Share taxis. You create less pollution, plus you leave the driving to others

• Hotel Tips

Many hotels have implemented waste reduction practices into their operation. Let hotels know that it's not necessary to change your sheets and towels every day. Reduce water by taking shorter showers and baths. When you leave the hotel room, turn off the air condi-

tioner, lights, heat television and close the drapes. Participate in hotel recycling programs by placing recyclables in appropriate bins. Leave the bottles of bathroom amenities in the room if unopened. Share any complimentary newspapers with others. Leave it in the lobby for reuse or see that it gets recycled.

• Tips for eco-tourists

Take only the brochures or maps that you need. Take photographs, but avoid disposable cameras that are expensive and wasteful. You have less packaging waste, and you'll save about 40% by the time you get your film processed. Leave only footprints. Take out everything that you brought with you so others can enjoy the area the same way you did. When it comes to trash, you can "take it with you". Set an example and pick up at least one piece of litter every day, especially at places with lots of tourists.

Contact the Lane County web site: http://www.lanecounty.org/PW_WMD_Recycle/lessisbest.htm

RESOURCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR CHECK-OUT

Many of you have heard about "Exporting Harm", a 2002 video production which exposes the overseas exportation of hazardous electronic waste, or "e-waste" to Asia. Many of you who have seen this 23 minute bombshell have requested it for check out. Please email me to reserve the video and I'll get a list started. Check out is for one week. And while you're at it, take a look at some of the other materials available to you for presentations, education and enrichment:

Better than Recycling: Waste Prevention in the Office, video by DEQ and OSU Extension Service, produced in 2001, 14 minutes.

Publications: Trashed Cans: The Global Environmental Impacts of Aluminum Can Wasting in America, 2002. Check their website: www.container-recycling.org and www.bottlebill.org

For more information, call 682-2059



REDUCE YOUR JUNK MAIL

SOURCE: NATIVE FOREST NETWORK

Junk Mail: It's irritating. It's time consuming. It's wasteful. And fortunately, much of it is preventable. By unclogging your mailbox, you can protect precious natural resources. According to the New Dream Action Network, if 1,000 of us cut our junk mail in half, we can save 170 trees, nearly 46,000 lbs of carbon dioxide, and nearly 70,000 gallons of water annually.

Delete your name from national nonprofit and commercial mailing lists. Call Pete at 682-4339 for a Reduce Your Junk Mail brochure and instructions on how to stop junk mail.

Junk Mail Facts:

- 44% of all junk mail is discarded, unopened and unread
- Approximately 40% of the solid mass that makes up our landfill is paper and paperboard
- 100 million trees are ground up annually to produce junk mail
- Each American receives an average of 560 pieces of junk mail each year
- 4.5 million tons of junk mail are produced annually

MECCA SEES RESULTS FOR APRIL

BY JENNIFER FOGERTY-GIBSON (MASTER RECYCLER)

MECCA, the Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts, is a 501(c)3 organization in Eugene, Oregon. We divert useful materials from the waste stream and teach others how to make art with them. We are located in Eugene's oldest neighborhood, the Whiteaker Community, and we are dedicated to providing access to low-cost education and materials to the public.

With the partnership and help of Whiteaker residents and artists, the Whiteaker Community Council and a Neighborhood Matching Grant from the city of Eugene, MECCA installed a mosaic sculpture at the intersection of Blair and Van Buren in summer, 2001. The second part of the project is the completion of MECCA's studio and gallery at 449 Blair at W. 4th, due for completion by the end of 2003.

Our Materials Exchange is thriving since its

Grand Opening in August 2002. We have successfully diverted hundreds and hundreds of pounds of reusable materials from the landfill. Our store houses many materials that encourage artist, teachers and the public to reuse and rethink what can be done with the ordinary materials around them. Come on in and scavenge with us!

IN THE NEWS: We love your donations! With your help, MECCA diverted and estimated ONE TON of material in April, 2003. A whopping 2,094 pounds was brought into our small shop in April for all of you to enjoy and reuse. It is really exciting for us to see our materials exchange grow ~ in March 2003 we diverted an estimated 604 pounds. Thank you for your contributions. Now come in and shop!

Visit the MECCA web site: www.material-exchange.org for photos and links...

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON RECYCLERS CONFERENCE IN EUGENE, JUNE 19—21

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS BEFORE AND/OR DURING THE CONFERENCE. TO APPLY, CONTACT PETE CHISM (682-4339) BY JUNE 1ST

AOR'S 25TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE VALLEY RIVER INN.

SOME OF THE CONFERENCE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- COMMUNICATION
- LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND THE RECYCLING MESSAGE
- OUTREACH
- GREENING OREGON'S SCHOOLS
- BUYING RECYCLED
- COMPOSTING
- FRAMING THE FUTURE
- PERFORMANCE MEASURES
- E-WASTE AND PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP
- AND MUCH MORE...

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND SPEAKERS, VISIT THE AOR WEB SITE AT WWW.AAOR.ORG



Nxcycle representative Tony consults with Julie Daniels of BRING on transport of e-waste to Nxcycle's recycling and deconstruction plant in Utah.



Over 325 individuals and 23 businesses dropped off material at the Glenwood site.

EARTH DAY AND ELECTRONICS ROUND~UP VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

We at Lane County Waste Management wish to extend a huge "thank you" to the following volunteers who made Earth Day and the BRING Electronics Collection event a great success:

Ernie Maruska, Laoni Davis, Sandy Martin, Jane Moodie, Jennifer Fogerty-Gibson, Grant Weigert, Cheri Smith, Ward Ricker, Robert Vogel, Dwan Rae, Rex Fox, Zachary Zakon, Julie Carpenter, Gary Cornelius, Pat Ferris, Judy Potter, Connie French, Erica Benedict-Barta, Janet Morrison, Bill Surber, Barbara Coolman, Chris Haleska, Kristina Measells, Karen Carlson, Robin Best, Chris Veroon, Emily Evans and Heidi Knight-Meigs.

Your efforts resulted in:

- 29 tons of electronics collected for recycling, and shipped to Nxcycle for domestic deconstruction and recycling
- 4 tons of electronics donated to St. Vincent de Paul for reuse
- Over 145 individuals reached through education at the Earth Day Celebration
- A newly designed Master Recycler display board to be used at future fairs and events
- The satisfaction of a job well done

Lane County Waste Management

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Eugene, Oregon
97403

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Fax: 541-682-2353
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: MORE WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

Spring and Summer seasons are the “peak” times for events and volunteer opportunities in Lane County. Sign up for recycling/compost sorting at Art in the Vineyard, July 4-6 and the Lane County Fair, August 12–17. Call Lorraine Boose at 682-2059 if you want to help. You may wish to help out with any number of activities through BRING. Sarah Grimm, Education Coordinator at BRING Recycling offers these ways to be involved in recycling education:

- July 12 and 13 Children’s Celebration, Springfield. Guide a recycle craft activity. Need four to six interested people to help.
- July 14 through 18, Present to Kid groups, Worm Wonders (training provided) two trainings per day.
- August 12 through 17, Lane County Fair, Eugene. Reuse bottle caps to create a giant mosaic: requires four volunteers each day of the 5 day fair.
- Reuse and Repair Clinics, workshops and demonstrations on evenings and weekends all summer long (please indicate your specialty).
- Help sort and reclaim materials for reuse in the BRING warehouse

To volunteer with BRING, contact Sarah Grimm, 746-3023 or sarahg@bringrecycling.org



Volunteer in Lane County with the Master Recycler Program and the many partners that keep recycling viable in our community.