

THE CLOSED-LOOP SCOOP



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, WASTE 2 RESOURCES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

THURSTON COUNTY'S FOOD TO FLOWERS PROGRAM FOSTERS SUSTAINABILITY BY REDUCING & COMPOSTING SCHOOL WASTE

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM THURSTON COUNTY



Cutting Down on Non-recyclable Waste

Food to Flowers, Thurston County's school composting program,

helps schools reduce waste and cash-strapped school districts save money. It also teaches students how to be more responsible citizens and environmental stewards.

Here are some ways the *Food to Flowers* program is making Thurston County a more sustainable place to live:

Composting and recycling. Each year, the 19 schools and more than 9,000 students participating in the *Food to Flowers* program divert more than **150 tons** of food waste, soiled paper and recyclables from the landfill for composting or re-manufacturing into new products.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Food to Flowers schools collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 100 metric tons per year. That's the same as taking 21 cars off the road for a year, or the annual amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by 82 acres of fir forest.

Eliminating disposables. Six schools participating in Thurston County's *Food to Flowers* program switched from using "spork" kits (a plastic spork, straw and napkin in a bag) to using durable silverware. By making this change, they are keeping 353,500 spork kits from entering the waste stream each school year.

Thanks to all of the *Food to Flowers* schools for their efforts to prevent waste and foster environmental stewardship. For more information about *Food to Flowers*, contact Peter Guttchen at (360) 709-3013 or guttchp@co.thurston.wa.us.

CLOSED LOOP SCOOP SAYS GOODBYE TO SNAIL MAIL!

As a newsletter about not wasting resources, it makes sense for the Scoop to be delivered to its readers electronically. Starting with the November issue, Ecology will email an electronic version of the Closed Loop Scoop to all subscribers. Send your email address to Christine Haun at christine.haun@ecy.wa.gov or call (360) 407-6107. To receive a paper copy you will need to provide your mailing address.



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NEW COMPOST FACILITY IS UP AND RUNNING

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM CITY OF RICHLAND

In March 2011, the city of Richland started operations at their new Horn Rapids Compost Facility. The city built the facility to convert biosolids from their wastewater treatment plant along with yard waste into compost. This process diverts organic material from the landfill and transforms it into a usable soil amendment.

The new yard waste program diverts about 25 percent of residential curbside waste. Composting yard waste with biosolids will add five years to the life of the city's landfill.

The facility will complete the first batches of compost this summer. The landfill will use the compost onsite to support re-vegetation. In the future, the compost may be sold in bulk quantities.



Composting operation at the Horn Rapids Landfill.

For further information, contact Kip Eagles at (509) 942-7471.

COMPOST FACILITY OPERATOR TRAINING COMING SOON!



This year's Washington Organics Recycling Council (WORC) Compost Facility Operator Training is **October 17-21** at the WSU Puyallup Extension Office. People

with a range of compost experience come from all over to participate in this annual training, including Hawaii, Delaware, and Guam. Experienced instructors include WSU professors, compost facility operators, and consultants. Spanish translation is available.

The training offers a mix of classroom and hands-on experience, with a full day devoted to touring local compost facilities. October's tours will include GroCo, Inc. (Kent), Lenz Enterprises (Stanwood), and Bailey's Compost (Snohomish).

Topics covered include composting infrastructure, and industry problems, feedstock recovery and

testing, compost curing, screening and refining, storing and packaging and other facility management topics.

This training fills up quickly, so please register soon. For registration and to see the full agenda, visit the WORC website at <http://www.compostwashington.org/>.



Curt Shaefer of Lenz Composting. Photo courtesy of Dan Corum.

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS TO REDUCE PAPER USE IN KING COUNTY WILL SAVE \$100,000 A YEAR & BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM KING COUNTY

King County is acting on one of the most frequent suggestions from employees for improving government efficiency. New measures developed by King County Executive Dow Constantine and adopted by the Metropolitan King County Council call for reducing the county's paper consumption by 20 percent within two years, saving up to \$100,000 a year in the cost of buying paper.

The legislation adopted May 2 requires King County agencies to purchase paper with 100 percent recycled content instead of the 40 percent recycled content paper they use now. The legislation also requires them to reduce their printer and copy paper use by 20 percent by the end of 2013 through double-sided printing and copying whenever practical, employee outreach, and increased sharing of documents electronically.

According to estimating tools provided by the non-profit Environmental Network, the measures will save nearly 7,400 trees from harvest and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 375 tons. The Network also estimates the measures will avoid 3.4 million gallons of wastewater and 100 tons of solid waste that would otherwise be produced by paper manufacturers.

"Based on the experience of other local and state governments, we feel that these targets are reasonable

and achievable," said Councilmember Joe McDermott, who sponsored the legislation. "Paper produced today with 100 percent recycled content is more affordable, more available, and compatible with county printers and copiers."

Based on King County's current purchasing, a 20 percent reduction in paper use would save up to \$100,000 a year. Double-sided printing and copying, along with other paper-saving measures, has consistently been one of the most frequent submissions to the Executive's Employee Suggestion Program.

"The cost of 100 percent recycled paper has come down over the years. It is still slightly more expensive, but the higher cost is offset by the actions our employees are taking to reduce paper use, ultimately saving the county money while also protecting the environment," said Councilmember Kathy Lambert, who launched a 90-day paperless pilot project on May 3 in the council committee she chairs.

"Manufacturing 100 percent recycled paper requires less energy and fewer resources, and for that reason we expect that the price will continue to decrease relative to other types of paper."

King County has already reduced printer and copy paper use by 10 percent since 2007 through actions like King County District Court's electronic court record system.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

-August 17-18, 2011, **Resource Recycling Conference** will be held in Indianapolis, IN. To learn more, visit the website at www.resource-recycling.com/rr_con.

-August 23-25, 2011, **SWANA's WASTECON** will be held in Nashville, TN. To learn more, visit the website at www.wastecon.org/.

-September 13-15, 2011, **North Dakota Solid Waste Management Association Solid Waste and Recycling Symposium** will be held in Dickinson, SD. To learn more, visit the website at www.ndswra.org.

-September 25-27, 2011, **Waste-to-fuels Conference & Trade Show** will be held in San Diego, CA. To learn more, visit the website at www.waste-to-fuels.org/.

-September 26-30, 2011, **NAHMMA's 26th Annual Hazardous Materials Management Conference** will be held in Portland, OR. To learn more, visit the website at www.nahmma.org/displayconvention.cfm.

-October 4-7, 2011, **Greenbuild International Conference & Expo** will be held in Toronto, Canada. To learn more, visit the website at www.greenbuildexpo.org/Home.aspx.

-October 27-28, 2011, **The 5th Asphalt Shingle Recycling Forum** will be held in Dallas, TX. To learn more, visit the website at www.shinglesrecycling.org/content/home.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF HEALTHY SOILS

Ecology's Beyond Waste Plan (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>) includes raising awareness of healthy soils: how to build and maintain healthy soils by using recycled organic materials. Ecology's Waste 2 Resources Program developed a series of educational materials:

- Natural yard care: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0807064.pdf>
- Buying topsoil/soil blend products: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0907032.pdf>
- Buying and using quality compost: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/1007028.pdf>
- Buying and using organic mulch: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0907033.pdf>
- Building healthy soil: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0907035.pdf>

These resources are also available on Ecology's Information Clearinghouse website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/swicpublic>. Local governments and others can help spread the word by including a link to them on their websites. The information can also be shared at outreach events.

For questions, contact Canming Xiao at canming.xiao@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 575-2842.

KING COUNTY FIRST IN STATE TO EARN 'E-STEWARDS' DESIGNATION FOR RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING OF ELECTRONIC WASTE

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM KING COUNTY



King County became the first county in the state – and the second in the nation – to formally ensure all county agencies recycle electronic waste like computer monitors, TVs, and cell phones in

an environmentally responsible way under legislation by King County Executive Dow Constantine.

“King County agencies recycled more than 90,000 pounds of electronic equipment in 2010 and they did it the right way – under contract with an excellent local e-Steward recycler Total Reclaim,” said King County Executive Dow Constantine. “This ordinance will ensure that our agencies always use an approved recycler and pursue the most responsible recycling practices for their electronic waste.”

The e-waste recycling ordinance codifies the e-waste recycling practices of King County agencies. It also qualifies the county to earn the “e-Steward Enterprise” designation from the Basel Action Network’s (BAN) standard for responsible recycling and reuse of electronic equipment. Santa Clara County in California’s Silicon Valley is the only other local government to achieve this certification.

As an e-Stewards Enterprise, King County agrees to

always make best efforts to work with e-Stewards Recyclers, ensuring its e-waste does not contribute to the global toxic waste crisis. E-Stewards Recyclers undergo a professional audit every year to guarantee they do not export hazardous recycling byproducts to developing countries, use U.S. prison labor, or dump in municipal landfills. E-Stewards recyclers also ensure private data is kept secure, and their operations protect both workers and the environment everywhere.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than four billion pounds of e-waste was discarded in the U.S. in 2005, accounting for as much as 4 percent of the municipal solid waste stream. Only about 12 percent of the total was recycled.

Jim Puckett, Executive Director of BAN, said e-waste is the fastest growing part of the U.S. garbage stream. He applauded King County’s efforts to become an e-Stewards Enterprise. “At this pivotal moment in the worldwide e-waste crisis, King County joins a growing number of business, academic and governmental leaders taking action to stem a toxic tide,” said Puckett.

The legislation also updates the county’s surplus auction practices. It requires that all electronic

(Continued on next page.)

KING COUNTY FIRST IN STATE TO EARN 'E-STEWARD' DESIGNATION (CONTINUED.)

equipment is functional and in good working order before it goes to auction.

The ordinance aligns with King County's Strategic Plan by addressing the goal to safeguard and enhance natural resources and the environment by promoting desirable environmental practices by individuals and businesses. It also minimizes King County's operational environmental footprint by contracting with vendors certified to process electronic equipment in the most environmentally sound

way possible.

Located in Seattle, Total Reclaim is the leading recycler of computers and electronics in the Pacific Northwest. They offer a variety of environmental services for management of electronics and other hard-to-handle materials, including fluorescent lamps, refrigerant gases and appliances.

To learn more about Total Reclaim, see www.totalreclaim.com.

OUTSTANDING RECYCLERS RECEIVED AWARDS AT PASCO CONFERENCE ON MAY 24TH

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM WASHINGTON STATE RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) honored organizations, businesses and individuals for outstanding recycling achievements at their Recyclers of the Year Awards Banquet as part of their annual conference on May 24. A panel of WSRA members representing a variety of aspects of the recycling industry, including collectors and processors, government agencies, businesses and non-profit organizations, selected the recipients.

The 2011 honorees included:



Clark County Recycled Arts Festival promotes art made from reused materials. Contact: Sally Fisher, Clark County Environmental Services, sally.fisher@clark.wa.gov, 360-397-2121.

City of Moses Lake overcame significant challenges to implement commingled recycling and yard waste collection, creating a model for other small communities. Contact: Ron Cone, City of Moses Lake, ronrcone@cityofml.com, 509-764-3732.



Enviromason, Virginia Mason Medical Center's comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship with strategic staff involvement. Contact: Stephen Gross, Stephen.gross@wmcc.org, 206-341-1399.

King County Elementary School Reduction and Recycling Assembly Program entertains and educates more than 20,000 students each year with enthusiastic responses from students, teachers and administrators.



Contact: Donna Miscolta, King County Solid Waste, donna.miscolta@kingcounty.gov, 206-296-4477.



Renton's V&G Styro Recycle overcame many challenges to provide Styrofoam recycling service in Washington. Contact: Marilyn Lauderdale, info@styrorecycle.com, 253-838-9555.

Seattle Mariners Baseball Club increased recycling by 50% in just a year by converting most of their public garbage containers to food waste collection. Contact: Rebecca Hale, Seattle Mariners, rhale@mariners.com, 206-295-9574.



(Continued on next page.)

OUTSTANDING RECYCLERS RECEIVED AWARDS AT PASCO CONFERENCE (CONTINUED.)

Virginia Mason and Boeing Classic PGA Tournament Striving for Zero Waste program diverted more than 90 percent of 2010 tournament waste from landfill disposal. Contact: Ingrid Sellie, Virginia Mason Communications, Ingrid.OuglandSellie@vmmc.org, 206-223-6168.



mize recycling and reuse. Contact: Scott and Jill Wilson, 360-462-4444.

Another highlight of the May 24 WSRA awards event was the induction of three long-time Washington State recyclers into the WSRA **Recycling Hall of Fame**:

- **Ann Murphy**, Education Coordinator, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, AMurphy@SpokaneCity.org, 509-625-6535.
- **Bill Reed**, Senior Program Analyst, King County Solid Waste, bill.reed@kingcounty.gov, 206-296-4402.
- **Jeff Gage**, Consultant, Compost Design Services, jpgage@msn.com, 360-957-0900.

For more information about the WSRA conference and awards presentation, visit www.wsra.net or call 206-244-0311. Award applications are available each

November at WSRA's website.



Washington Green Schools, a K-12 certification program including 150 active schools across the state took action in recycling and waste prevention, energy & water conservation, air quality, and toxics reduction.

Contact: Marcia Rutan, Seattle Public Utilities, marcia.rutan@seattle.gov, 206-684-3976.

Wilson Recycling, a relatively new business in Mason County, collaborates with local agencies to opti-



A RISE IN GREEN FAITH

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM THURSTON COUNTY

Across the country, faith groups are taking an active role in environmental stewardship. Green values are appearing in sermons, facility and grounds practices, and service projects. Many feel that keeping the earth healthy is a duty, not a choice.

Faith groups in Thurston County are stepping out as leaders in green worship. Olympia First Baptist Church is working hard to reduce waste. Each Sunday, the church feeding ministry composts paper and food scraps left from 250-400 meals. The church has replaced plastic forks and spoons with durable metal utensils, and switched from Styrofoam to compostable paper cups. From service ware to food scraps, church staff members compost, recycle, or wash and reuse every part of the meals they serve. Staff members no longer fill 10-12 trash bags after each weekly meal. They now just fill one or two.

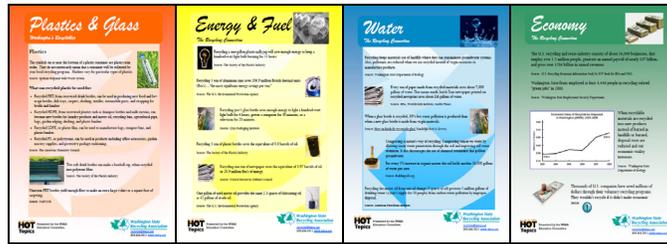
St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Lacey started an Earth Ministry Team to help its members become "greener." An energy audit conducted last spring revealed the church uses less electricity than the average facility its size.

If your place of worship is in Thurston County and you would like to reduce waste, Thurston County Solid Waste offers free assistance. They can do onsite waste sorts, offer advice on green purchasing options, and provide signs and staff training. Contact Emily Orme at (360) 867-2086 or or-mee@co.thurston.wa.us for more information.

For more information about environmental stewardship, you can also visit www.greenfaith.org. This interfaith partnership offers environmental leadership programs and certifies houses of worship as "Green Faith Sanctuaries."

WASHINGTON STATE RECYCLING ASSOCIATION'S HOT TOPIC FACT SHEETS ARE UPDATED

The Washington State Recycling Association's (WSRA) Education Committee updated its Hot Topics fact sheets. These one-page, colorful fact sheets offer information about the benefits of recycling and highlight a variety of recyclable material such as paper, plastics, glass, and construction and demolition debris. They also offer information about how recycling saves resources, such as energy and water, and how recycling benefits the economy.



The Hot Topic fact sheets are ideal for the classroom, displays, meetings, or to promote recycling programs in a business setting or community. You can view or print them from WSRA's Hot

Topics webpage at http://www.wsra.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=71.

For more information, contact WSRA at 206-244-0311 or recycle@wsra.net.

CITY OF ANACORTES INSPIRES STUDENTS TO THINK ABOUT RECYCLING

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM CITY OF ANACORTES



The city of Anacortes is proud to be a recycling city. To spread the word about recycling, the Public Works Department holds a contest each year to look for new slogans and artwork that show benefits of recycling. The contest is open to all elementary school students in Anacortes.

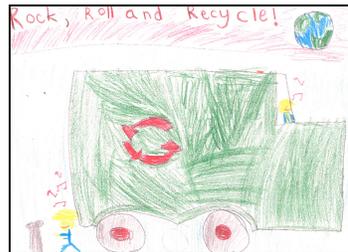
The city displays the winner's artwork on the city's website and solid waste trucks. The artwork is even showcased on TV Channel 10!

Congratulations to our 2011 Recycle Slogan Contest Winners!

They are from left to right: Debolika Sen, Ryan Metcalf, Jeremy Willson, Mayor Dean Maxwell, Jessica Augustoni, Fiona Frein, Sally Vaux, Caitlin O'Connor, and Emily Fitchett.



Ryan Metcalf



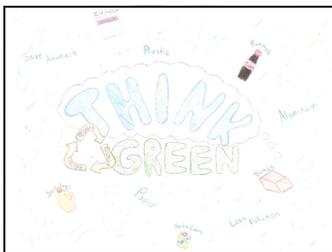
Emily Fitchett



Jeremy Willson



Jessica Augustoni



Debolika Sen



Caitlin O'Connor



Fiona Frein



Sally Vaux

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If you see news happening, or if you make news yourself, please let us know. You can submit articles or notices to the editor by regular mail or by email. We eagerly await your news.

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