



# The Closed-Loop Scoop

Washington State Department of Ecology, Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

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## Public Event and Sports Facility Recycling

—It's the Law

The opportunity for recycling at public events just got a legal boost in many communities around the state. Recycling has been difficult and often neglected at events because of the large volumes of waste generated in a short period of time. Most communities have focused on improving residential or business curbside recycling programs with great success. However, away-from-home waste generation and recycling is still a challenge in cities and counties in Washington state and nationwide.

Substitute House Bill 2056 passed during the 2007 legislative session and became effective July 22, 2007. It requires a recycling program at every official gathering and sports facility in communities with established curbside commercial recycling service. Vendors selling beverages in single-use bottles and cans are responsible for providing and funding a recycling program that must include:

- Clearly marked recycling receptacles or reverse vending machines.
- Recycling collection of beverage containers sold at the event (single-use aluminum, glass, and plastic bottles and cans).
- Provisions to transport and recycle the collected materials.

**The law defines an official gathering as:**

*“...an event where authorization to hold the event is approved, recognized, or issued by a government, public body, or authority, including but not limited to fairs, musical concerts, athletic games, festivals, tournaments, or any other formal or ceremonial event, during*

*which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans.”*

**A sports facility is defined as:**

*“...an outdoor recreational sports facility, including but not limited to athletic fields and ballparks, at which beverages are sold by a vendor or vendors in single-use aluminum, glass, or plastic bottles or cans.”*

While the new law is brief, it has the potential to give new life to hundreds of thousands of beverage containers that otherwise would go to a landfill. When you consider the energy all those bottles and cans embody, keeping them in the manufacturing loop is right in line with Washington's focus on a clean, green economy and moving *Beyond Waste*.

Some local governments have already taken the lead in educating event organizers about the new law. To increase awareness, the Department of Ecology will launch an outreach campaign in June 2008. This educational campaign will include a best management practices guide for event recycling and will target affected jurisdictions, event planners, and vendors. Other stakeholders include high school athletic directors; recreational sports leagues; convention centers; chambers of commerce; local government solid waste, parks, and planning departments; and state hauler, recycling, and festival associations.

If you want more information or would like to provide feedback on the draft *Event Recycling Guide*, please contact Shannon McClelland at 360-407-6398 or [mcs461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mcs461@ecy.wa.gov).

Enjoy the upcoming entertainment season and look for recycling bins at a concert, festival, or sporting event near you!

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# Thurston County Master Recycler Program

By Colleen Uuereb

The Thurston County Master Recycler program has been going strong since 1993. Every year, Thurston County trains each Master Recycler volunteer how to become a community resource on solid waste issues, such as waste reduction, recycling, and composting.

In exchange for 18 hours of free training, participants agree to spend 36 hours during the following year working as community volunteers.

Master Recyclers participate in a wide range of waste reduction activities, or work in their own neighborhoods, schools, or workplaces to encourage waste reduction and recycling. Many volunteers donate their time helping at County-sponsored workshops, recycling events, and informational booths.

In 2007, Master Recyclers donated over 300 hours worth of volunteer service. Their assistance has been invaluable to the staff at Thurston County's Department of Water and Waste Management.

For more information about the program, contact Colleen Uuereb at [uuerebc@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:uuerebc@co.thurston.wa.us).



Master Recyclers on a tour of Silver Springs Organics.



Emmett Brown of Pacific Disposal gives a tour to Master Recyclers.

## Calendar of Events

**May 18-21, 2008, Washington State Recycling Association Conference 2008** will convene in Pasco. To learn more, visit the conference website at [www.wsra.net](http://www.wsra.net).

**May 19-21, 2008, 2008 International Symposium Electronics and the Environment** will take place in San Francisco, California. To learn more, visit the conference website at <http://www.regconnect.com/content/isee/>.

**June 9-12, 2008, Northwest Hazardous Materials Management Conference** will be held in Troutdale, Oregon. To learn more, call toll free 877-292-1403 or visit the conference website at <http://www.nahmma.org/displayconvention.cfm?conventionnbr=5027>.

**June 19-20, 2008, Foodservice Waste Management Workshop From Operations to Disposal** will be offered at the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle. To learn more, visit the workshop website at [http://www.fcsi.org/North\\_America/2008\\_SuperRegionals.htm](http://www.fcsi.org/North_America/2008_SuperRegionals.htm).

**June 24-27, 2008, Air and Waste Management Association 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition** will be held in Portland, Oregon. To learn more, call 412-232-3444, or visit the conference website at <http://www.awma.org/ACE2008/index.html>.

**September 7-10, 2008, Global Waste Symposium** will meet in Copper Mountain, Colorado. To learn more, call 813-994-4654, or visit the conference website at [www.wastesymposium.com](http://www.wastesymposium.com).



# Closed Loop for Paint

*The Department of Ecology Seeks to Promote the Demand for 100% Recycled Paint*

Each year in the United States, we waste an estimated 64 million gallons of paint. Approximately 70 percent is latex paint. According to one estimate, we waste at least 695,000 gallons of paint in Washington state each year. The Department of Ecology's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Program seeks to create a market for 100 percent postconsumer recycled paint. To do this Ecology is encouraging the purchase of recycled paint.

Certified recycled content paint is now available on the Washington state contract at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/ContractSearch/ContractSummary.aspx?c=00207>. The General Administration contact for this contract is Michael Maverick, who can be reached at 360-902-7430 or [mmaverick@ga.wa.gov](mailto:mmaverick@ga.wa.gov). State and local governments can receive a discount through the contract. Households can also purchase recycled paint through the vendors listed in the contract.

This contract is unique in that only the amount of paint the vendor received from Washington may be purchased off the contract. In other words, if the vendor received 100 gallons of leftover paint from Washington State, then only 100 gallons of recycled paint could be sold off the contract. Once customers begin buying paint, Washington State will move closer to closing the recycling loop for paint.

Recycled paint on the state contract has to meet Green Seal standards (GS-43) or its equivalent. This means that the paint must contain less than 250 grams per liter of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. To meet the Green Seal standard, recycled paint manufacturers must also pass the same quality tests that virgin paint manufacturers have to pass. Therefore, every batch must be tested for pH, viscosity, fineness of grind, and gloss.

Here are some tips on what you can do to help reduce the amount of wasted paint:

- Purchase only the amount needed for the job.
- Store it properly and use later.
- Find someone else who can use it.
- Take it back to the manufacturer.
- Call your local solid waste agency or environmental health department to find their recommendations for leftover paint management.

For more information about environmentally preferable products, standards and certifications, law and directives and more, visit the EPP website at [www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/epp.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/epp.html). Or email your questions Karin Kraft at [kakr461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kakr461@ecy.wa.gov).

## Attention Litter Crews!

### New Safety Regulations in Effect

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) recently issued new safety requirements for litter crews operating on state roads (interstates and state highways). Among the new requirements are safety vests rated to ANSI Class II standards, use of 28-inch traffic cones, positioning of additional signs, and new limitations on where vehicles can park.

Diagrams of new set-up procedures are available on WSDOT's website at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals/fulltext/M51-01/Maintenance.pdf> (see pages 6-34, 6-36, and 6-37).

These new rules may also apply to county roads if your county has adopted state or federal regulations (specifically the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). To be sure, check with your county road department or traffic engineer. Either way, it is a good time to review your safety procedures and see if any additional precautions are needed.

For additional guidance, please contact your local WSDOT maintenance office at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/maintenance/> or Ecology's regional litter administrators at:

Southwest Region: Ariona (360) 407-6351.

Northwest Region: Steven Williams (425) 649-7048.

Central Region: Rod Hankinson (509) 454-7209.

Eastern Region: Gary Lambacher (509) 329-3506.



# Kitsap County Announces Earth Day Award Winners

*Solid Waste Awards Given to Individuals, Businesses, and Organizations in the Kitsap County*

Each year Kitsap County recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses for their notable contributions to the environment in Kitsap County.

This year the Earth Day Awards presentation took place on April 14 at the Board of County Commissioners regular meeting at the Kitsap County Administration Building in Port Orchard.

## Solid Waste Division 2008 Earth Day Awards

### Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability: Grounds for Change

This coffee roasting company in Poulsbo makes all its decisions with environmental and social implications in mind. That is why Grounds for Change roasts only shade-grown Fair Trade organic coffee. They use only 100 percent recycled-content paper, and recycle everything they can, even the burlap bags, which are sewn into reusable totes, and the chaff, which is composted. The company also participates in Puget Sound Energy's Green Power program to bring essential financing to wind farms and solar power projects—while offsetting its own carbon footprint. Cofounder Kelsey Marshall was recently a guest speaker at a regional business conference at the University of Puget Sound, helping other businesses and agencies learn how to become more sustainable.



Sustainability Award Winner:  
Kelsey Marshall, Grounds for Change

### Clean Kitsap Award:

#### Hansville Community Center Volunteers

Any time of year, you can find up to 20 people cleaning the roads of litter in the Hansville area. These are the Hansville Community Center Volunteers, a group of folks who joined the Adopt A Road program and regularly organize group cleanups to keep Hansville looking clean and green.



Clean Kitsap Award Winner:  
The Hansville Community  
Center, represented by the  
Center's Volunteers

### Green Building—Construction:

#### Kitsap Community Resources (KCR)

A 29,000-square-foot building recently built in downtown Bremerton serves as the new headquarters for KCR. This actually consolidated two buildings and enabled KCR to conserve energy, water, and other resources. The new building features permeable asphalt; restroom fixtures that reduce water usage by 20 percent; reflective roofing to avoid an "urban heat island"; native drought-tolerant landscaping to further reduce water usage; and walls, windows, lighting, and heating/cooling equipment that minimize energy usage. The team also implemented a Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan to protect workers and prevent air quality problems when the tenants moved in, and the contractor recycled more than 90 percent of the construction waste from this project. The building has been awarded the Silver level in the LEED green building certification program.

### Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Education:

#### Bill McKinney

Bill McKinney is an employee of the City of Bremerton's Forestry Division. The County recognized Bill for his excellent work in providing community outreach about watersheds, in which he speaks passionately about sustainable forestry practices and biosolids recycling. In addition, he regularly provides information about watershed restoration and the salmon life cycle at Jarstad Park. In 2001 he was instrumental in replacing a 750-foot concrete channel at Gorst Creek with a streambed that replicates a more natural system.



Environmental Education Award Winner:  
Bill McKinney, City of Bremerton  
Forestry Division

***(Kitsap County Earth Day Awards, continued.)***

**Green Building—Education:  
Home Builders Association of Kitsap County**

The Low Impact Development program is well known by now in Kitsap County. The Home Builders Association (HBA) not only developed a comprehensive educational campaign on stormwater management, its members walked the talk by forming partnerships throughout the community to retrofit approximately 11,000 square feet of their own grounds, turning it into a stunning demonstration project. While partially grant-funded, this project required a substantial commitment by the Home Builders Foundation and the building and development community. HBA's website, informational booths, presentations at association meetings and Earth Day events, classes at Olympic College, and articles have made a "substantial impact" on low impact development awareness.

**Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Leadership—Adult: Olympic Printer Resources**

Olympic Printer Resources started in a Kingston basement as a business that remanufactures used toner cartridges. Since 1993, the company has grown to include selling or leasing remanufactured copiers and collecting electronic waste. In 2007 it held collections in Poulsbo and Silverdale that resulted in responsible recycling of 70 tons of computer equipment and televisions. Additional efforts include community education programs at local environmental events; participation in the Kitsap e3 education, environment, and economy Summit; and winning the Stillwaters Environmental Learning Center Sustainable Business of the Year award in 2005. The company raises the bar by modeling its leadership efforts and by offering green solutions to businesses, schools, government agencies, and residents in Kitsap County and beyond.

**Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Leadership—Youth: Bainbridge High School Youth Service Corps**

This is an example of what a group of high school students can do to make a difference in their school and the broader community. In addition to recycling at their school, they worked with the City of Bainbridge Island to ensure recycling at community events, were involved in the recycling of 50 percent of the construction waste when their cafeteria was built, and convinced the school administration to convert to reusable lunch trays. Their waste audit resulted in funding from the Department of Ecology to purchase a 10-foot compost tub, which will help them raise money to fund other projects.

**Waste Wi\$e Kitsap**

Each year the Waste Wi\$e Kitsap program honors an employee or department for leadership in reducing waste in County operations. This year the County honored the Public Works Roads Division for its outstanding efforts.

Roads continued to reuse asphalt and road sand onsite, saving over \$500,000 on disposal, transportation, and avoided costs for new materials.

In addition, even the smallest things were evaluated for reuse such as the retired blue lights from Sheriff's cars. The North Road Shop replaced the blue lens with an amber lens and reused them on Public Works vehicles. The Roads Division also used brush chippers to chip wood waste resulting from cutting down trees and performing overhead brushing, and then made them available to the citizens, saving disposal and transportation costs.

The diesel furnaces at the Central Road Shop were replaced with a waste oil furnace, which reduced diesel fuel costs and allowed used oils to be reused onsite. Energy-efficient HVAC systems were installed at the Road Shops, reducing expenditures on natural gas at North and South, and eliminating the old electric baseboard heaters at Central.

Waste Wise Award Winner:  
Public Works Roads Division,  
represented by Don Schultz,  
Road Superintendent



For more information about the Kitsap County Solid Waste Division Awards, contact Vicki Bushnell at 360-337-4678.



Environmental Leadership-Youth  
Award Winner:  
Bainbridge High School Youth Service  
Corps, represented by Corps members

# Silver Recovery is Easy and Affordable

by Tami Ramsey (with help from Brad Zulewski)

Silver recovery is not a new concept; however, its effectiveness warrants some attention.

Thurston County implements an aggressive pollution prevention program with local businesses. It was through this effort that specialists found 94 percent of dental facilities met state regulations for mercury amalgam disposal. However, most were not in compliance for adequately treating silver-laden waste.

Even more disturbing was that half of the dental and medical businesses in the county were utilizing their own silver recovery systems, but most did not have the proper type of system. Add this to another common problem identified, inconsistent maintenance, and you end up with many businesses unintentionally discharging untreated silver waste into the municipal wastewater treatment system.

In response to the lack of local waste-treatment options to assist local medical, dental and photo processing businesses, Thurston County's HazoHouse and the LOTT Alliance Budd Inlet Treatment Plant recently installed a silver recovery system.

Local businesses were then presented with options to either upgrade to an appropriate treatment system, remove their inadequate systems altogether and use a vendor for waste treatment, or utilize the county's free waste management service.

"Over 40 local businesses are taking advantage of this free waste management service," claims Brad Zulewski, Thurston County Environmental Health Specialist, "and as a result, the county has collected and properly treated nearly 1,800 gallons of silver-laden waste that was likely being discharged without adequate treatment."

## Choosing the Right System

Thurston County chose the MARK-9 silver recovery system that is just one system available to process silver-laden waste. The MARK-9 captures silver in specially designed cartridges that go to a metal refiner for recycling.

Keep in mind that when you are considering a silver recovery system, you should take the time to define your needs for a system and then select the system that meets those needs. Don't just take an off-the-shelf, one-size-fits-all system and hope it will work. The process of choosing a system or combination of systems needs to include consideration of four main factors:

- 1) Your compliance situation: Check with your local wastewater utility for applicable regulations before purchasing a system. Keep in mind that you may not dispose of treated silver waste into on-site septic systems.
- 2) Capital cost and projected revenue: Silver

recovery systems may not be economical for businesses generating smaller quantities of silver-bearing waste.

- 3) Ongoing maintenance: These systems require regular testing to ensure proper function.
- 4) Space requirements: A system needs to be easily accessible for testing and maintenance.

## Local Regulations and other Considerations

Always check your local regulations before purchasing a silver recovery system. Some sewer districts have set their own local silver discharge limits for businesses. In many locations, discharge levels are so low that businesses using on-site silver recovery technologies will have difficulty meeting these levels. Businesses in areas with strict sewer limits may have no choice but to explore other options including off-site options.

Other considerations include initial equipment cost, the amount and value of silver recovered, and the return on investment. Space and energy requirements, frequent testing and maintenance, and overall reliability are also important. It is necessary to know the amount of silver available for recovery, the total volume of fixer and bleach-fix solutions used in processing, and the expected performance of the recovery method under consideration.

## Sustainable Features

Since the spring of 2006, HazoHouse and the LOTT Alliance Budd Inlet Treatment Plant have collected approximately 1,800 gallons of silver-bearing waste, recovering a total of 216 ounces (13.5 pounds) of silver. Based on past silver prices of \$11-\$13 per ounce, the profit has averaged \$760 for every 400 hours of service. The contractor gets 10% of the silver to cover the O&M contract.

Since silver is a valuable commodity, proceeds from the metal refiner offset the costs of ongoing system maintenance and can potentially repay the initial start-up costs in less than two years, making the collection program financially self-sustaining.

A project like this can allow for free waste management service to local businesses that do not generate enough waste to maintain a cost-effective contract with an environmental firm.

For more information about this project, contact Brad Zulewski at 360-754-4111 x 6451 or [bzulewski@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:bzulewski@co.thurston.wa.us).

### Sources:

[www.p2pays.org](http://www.p2pays.org)

[www.ecy.wa.gov/dentalbmpps/x-ray\\_recovery](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/dentalbmpps/x-ray_recovery)

[www.silverprofit.com](http://www.silverprofit.com)



# Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG) Money Available

*For Beyond Waste Projects and More...*

The 2008-09 regular cycle CPG agreements are close to being in place. The next cycle, the 2009-10 offset cycle, is right around the corner. Ecology will have approximately \$5 million (this is our best estimate at this time) for projects that take place between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2010.

Approximately \$3.6 of the \$5 million are Beyond Waste proviso funds that grantees will use solely for organics composting and conversion, green building, and moderate risk waste initiatives described in the state's Beyond Waste plan. Regional grant officers and the CPG Coordinator are available to discuss local government project ideas or give examples of projects that would meet the intent of the proviso.

Now is the time to think about any additional projects your jurisdiction may want to carry out. Applications are due July 16, 2008!

The offset cycle offers counties and cities great opportunities to fund solid waste and hazardous waste planning and implementation projects such as:

- Additional organics composting and conversion, green building, and moderate risk waste initiatives beyond your regular work.
- Beginning to build infrastructure that will further statewide goals to move beyond waste.
- Developing alternatives to burning yard waste.



Whatcom County EnviroStars is a business recognition program to promote hazardous waste reduction and proper hazardous waste disposal in local businesses.



Clark County Master Composters/Recyclers composting with worms. Here is a group of trainees learning how to assemble a worm bin used to compost food scraps.

The offset cycle can also fund solid waste enforcement projects such as:

- Continuing your solid waste enforcement regular cycle work.
- Creating a "learning" project that other health jurisdictions could benefit from after you have paved the way.

Optional pre-applications are due by June 20, 2008. However, you may contact your grant officer before then to begin pre-application discussions and to get answers to your questions.

Review the 2008-09 CPG Guidelines at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0707021.html>. See Chapter 6 and Appendix G for information about:

- Available funds.
- Project eligibility.
- Who may apply.
- How projects compete.
- How to apply.
- Offset cycle timeline.
- A list of offset cycle key Beyond Waste projects.

For more information, contact your regional grant officer or Shelly McMurry, CPG Coordinator, at 360-407-6223 or [smcc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:smcc461@ecy.wa.gov).

**Department of Ecology**

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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 e-mail.

We eagerly await your news.

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