THE CLOSED-LOOP SCOOP

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, SOLID WASTE & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

City of Vancouver Measures Its Carbon Footprint

Trying to Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The City of Vancouver has completed its Greenhouse Gas Inventory for government operations. The inventory provides a measure of the city's day-to-day carbon footprint and identifies areas for greater efficiencies. The final draft executive summary is now on the city's website at www.cityofvancouver.us/sustainability.

A carbon footprint includes impacts not only from commute habits, but also from consumption of food, construction materials, and other goods and services.

The inventory provides a baseline and readies the city for anticipated reporting requirements and potential carbon cap-and-trade programs. A community emissions inventory, measuring community and industry greenhouse gas emissions, will likely follow.

The City of Vancouver reports total emissions of 41,983 metric tons of carbon dioxide for 2006 and 41,013 metric tons for 2007. The decrease resulted largely from energy improvements in wastewater and water facilities and reductions in emissions embodied in materials purchases.

According to Vancouver Sustainability Coordinator Mike Piper, early observations indicate the city can further reduce emissions by better conserving energy in city buildings, reducing employee commute trips, and promoting green buildings for future development. Programs in those areas began before completion of the inventory, he added.

Different energy sources and ways to measure greenhouse gas emissions make it difficult to compare the carbon footprints of different cities, Piper said. In general, cities in the Pacific Northwest have a lower carbon footprint than those in areas of the country that experience extreme temperatures and rely mostly on fossil fuels for energy.

The inventory marks another step forward in the city's efforts to create a more sustainable Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) "Cities for Climate Protection" campaign and formally agreed to take action against climate change by becoming a signatory of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Late last year, the city called upon leaders of an array of businesses, agencies, organizations, and neighborhoods and began forging a sustainability policy and plan. The resulting Green Ribbon Panel's goal is to provide these to the City Council for consideration and adoption in 2008.

Additional information about these City of Vancouver efforts and the Green Ribbon Panel is available online at www.cityofvancouver.us/sustainability or by contacting Michael Piper, Sustainability Coordinator, at 360-487-7116.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vancouver's Footprint	1
Olympia Composts	2
Toxic Teens	3
Recycler Of the Year Awards	4
EYC Crews	5
2007-2008 School Awards	6
Solid Waste Report	11
New Statewide Grants System	11

Olympia Composts! Food Waste • Food - Soiled Paper • Yard Waste

By Tami Ramsey (with help from Ron Jones)

City of Olympia residents have long enjoyed the convenience of rolling out their garbage, recyclables, and yard waste to the curb every other week. Now they can begin adding food waste and food-soiled paper to the organics bin along with yard waste! The organics cart will remain on an every-other-week pickup cycle – even with all food waste included.

The bright green organics cart comes in two sizes. For residents who are also recycling yard waste, the recommended size is 95 gallons. A smaller 35-gallon cart is available for households that have little yard waste or have only food waste, food-soiled paper, and occasional floral trimmings.

The bimonthly rate of $15.44 will remain the same as it was for only yard waste no matter what size cart the customer uses. In other words, residents won't pay more for adding organics with yard waste.

After collecting yard waste for 14 years and knowing that food makes up 27.4 percent of the waste stream in Thurston County, the City of Olympia launched the *Organics Program*. Formerly known as the *Yard Waste Program*, it will divert an additional 200-plus tons annually of combined food, compostable paper, and residual yard debris.

The City of Olympia partnered with Thurston County to apply for a Coordinated Prevention Grant from the Department of Ecology. The grant will pay for the carts and pails, education and outreach, and staff time to expand the existing program. City staff estimate the cost of this project over two years to be $65,000, mostly in start-up costs. The result is the opportunity to capture all organic material and increase participation by 1,300 households.

All material the city organics program collects will go to a local composting facility. For a fee, the facility will take the material and compost it back into a useful soil-like product. The county transfer station can accept the food waste, so the city doesn't need to haul it directly to the composting facility. This helps keep costs down, especially with rising fuel prices. The goal of this project is to eventually eliminate all organic material from the waste stream.

For more information, contact Ron Jones with the City of Olympia at 360-753-8509 or rjones@ci.olympia.wa.us

Calendar of Events

Sept. 7-10, 2008, Global Waste Management Symposium 2008 will be held in Rocky Mountains, Colorado. For more information, call Alice Jacobson at 202-364-3724, or visit the website at www.wastesymposium.com.

Sept. 17-18, 2008, E-Scrap 2008: The North American Electronics Recycling Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information, call 503-233-1305, email Cara Bergeson at cara@resource-recycling.com, or visit the website at www.e-scrapnews.com.

Oct. 13-16, 2008, Solar 2008 Conference will be held in San Diego, California. For more information, call toll-free 866-229-2386, or visit the website at www.solarpowerconference.com.

Oct. 14-16, 2008, International Exposition and Conference for the North American Market: Energy from Biomass and Waste will be held in Pittsburg, PA. For more information, call Nathaniel Doyno at 412-241-9323, or visit the website at www.ebw-expo.com.

Oct. 21-23, 2008, Wastecon 2008 will be held in Tampa, Florida. For more information, call toll-free 800-467-9262, or visit the website at www.wastecon.org.

Dec. 10-11, 2008, Waste to Energy Expo will be held in Bremen, Germany. For more information, call Nathaniel Doyno at 412-241-9323, or visit the website at www.wte-expo.com.

Thurston County Works to Protect Teens from Toxins

By Rachel Laderman

In 2007, Thurston County embarked on an Ecology-funded grant to reduce teens' exposure to hazardous products. The focus was on personal care products containing endocrine disruptors and other ingredients that present a threat to environmental and personal health.

Thurston County's Public Health & Social Services Department, Environmental Health Division partnered with the state Department of Health, which provided technical review. The project began with researching hazardous materials in personal care products. Staff chose to focus on endocrine disruptors for several reasons. These included new information on endocrine disruptors in personal care products, the increased use of these products during teen years, particular health concerns during times of rapid hormonal changes, and teens' interest in the subject of personal care products.

Project staff interviewed teens on products they use and asked how to make the information engaging and useful. Staff gained training and materials by attending a teacher training called "Personal Care Products: Safety and Labeling." The Northwest Association for Biomedical Research provided this training.

The final middle and high school guest presentation, "Get Out of My Hair: Toxins in Personal Care," is very popular. In large part this is because it includes the making of a simple, natural lip balm that all students can keep. The curriculum includes a slide show, a true-false quiz, and a homework assignment as well. Students also get several handouts such as Shopping Tips, the lip balm recipe, and a parent quiz to engage teens in talking with their parents.

Already, nearly 2000 students have attended the presentation. Comments from girls have been strongly favorable, but boys are also interested. Staff plans to expand the classes when possible to include a field trip to the LOTT treatment plant. They are also working with retailers of personal care products to provide in-store information.

Teens learn that no one has tested the long-term health effects of many ingredients in personal care items.

From 607 in-class evaluations that were returned from students, 223 stated that health concerns about chemicals in personal care products gave them "new information." The majority of students had not known that government doesn't strictly regulate these products, or that teens may put over 100 chemicals on their bodies a day. Seventy-two percent of girls and 43.5 percent of boys said they would use the website (see below) to research safer products; 73 percent of girls and 48.5 percent of boys said they would make changes.

After a Project GREEN Student Congress presentation at The Evergreen State College, one sixth grader responded in an email, "You inspired me so much that when I got home I immediately jumped on [the] website and looked up all my skin care products… without you…I would have never gotten on that website. I'm looking forward to…buying healthy and safe products for my skin." The Environmental Working Group website she referred to, www.cosmeticdatabase.com, provides an easy way to check if personal care products contain toxic or suspect ingredients.

For more information, contact Jennifer Johnson at 360-754-4111 ext. 7631 or johnsoj@co.thurston.wa.us.

2008 Recycler of the Year Awards

WSRA Presents Awards to Individuals and Businesses for Recycling Efforts

The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) presented its 2008 Recycler of the Year Awards on Tuesday, May 20. The presentations took place at a gala banquet in Pasco, Washington, part of WSRA's annual Recycling Conference and Trade Show. The awards recognized ten companies, institutions, and individuals for their performance and leadership in recycling over the last year. Three individuals made it into WSRA's Recycling Hall of Fame.

Individual – Oliver "Rusty" Elam, Assistant Solid Waste Coordinator at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, was the Individual Recycler of the Year. Elam stood out for his unwavering commitment, innovation, drive, and skill in realizing additional waste diversion and program improvement. The Navy Whidbey recycling center serves a population of nearly 33,000 military, civilian, contracted and retired personnel and their families. Rusty came to this facility 12 years ago as an equipment operator with a background in logging and metals recycling. Heading up a crew of 20 involved in all aspects of the operation, Rusty's reputation around the station has evolved to being a "jack of all trades" and a man who always steps up to work in any area, consistently performing above and beyond all expectations.

Most Innovative – Snohomish County Office of Economic Development was Recycler of the Year. This office won honors for challenging the Evergreen State Fair to turn its own cooking oil into a biodiesel fuel for use in the fairground's trash collection tractors. The overall environmental benefits included cleaner burning fuel, fewer air emissions, local fuel, and conversion of a waste product into a reusable product. Fair attendees can now eat more curly fries, elephant ears, and funnel cakes with a slightly lighter conscience. One of the trash tractor drivers commented, "The diesel fumes used to give me a headache; now I just get hungry."

Public Agency – The Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle was Recycler of the Year for significantly reducing its disposable solid waste. Staging hundreds of meetings and trade shows each year, the Center generates a staggering volume of recyclable materials. Fortunately, the Center has understood the importance of recycling and conservation since it opened 20 years ago and has been an industry leader in waste prevention. In 2007, the Center recycled 174 tons of cardboard; 2,460 pounds of aluminum cans; 186 tons of mixed paper, plastic, and glass; and 12 tons of scrap metal. The Center returned an estimated 8,000 wood shipping pallets for reuse, and over 3,000 gallons of kitchen oil and grease went to a rendering plant.

Outstanding Public Education – Thurston County Solid Waste Education Team won honors as Recycler of the Year. The Team gained this recognition for developing new programs, refining existing ones, and creating successful community-based outreach strategies. These strategies resulted in explosive growth in public participation and tonnage diverted, as well as renewed countywide excitement about waste reduction. The Team implemented a countywide commingled curbside recycling program and devoted careful attention to education, including educating residents for the multifamily recycling program too. These efforts increased recycling tonnage by 40 percent with a 100 percent increase in the number of businesses participating in Waste Free Holidays and a 42 percent increase in the use of the 2good2toss materials exchange website.

Composting and Food Waste Recycling – Pagliacci Pizza won recognition for its composting effort begun in 2005. This effort required extensive employee training, and the company continually added stores until all of its locations are now composting. Pagliacci composted about 400 tons of food and food-soiled paper in 2007. Dozens of tons of food scraps from Pagliacci stores eventually fertilized local land to grow produce, which the stores then featured as pizza toppings. Pagliacci is also switching its plastic to-go bags to fully certified biodegradable material. Stores provide a canvas tote bag instead of a plastic bag to deliver single 2-liter bottles of soda to customers. Pagliacci won praise from Cedar Grove Composting as a customer that is best at composting – meaning the material from Pagliacci contains hardly anything that won't compost.

(continued next page)

Recycling Achievement – Totem Ocean Trailer Express of Tacoma, won honors for implementing a company-wide recycling program that includes dock workers, ships' crews, and office staff. In May 2007, the company began its recycling initiative by putting comprehensive recycling programs in all its Federal Way and Tacoma offices. In June 2007, it expanded the effort to include its maintenance, stevedoring, and long-shore operations at the Port of Tacoma, collecting wood, cardboard, paper, plastic, steel, tin, and beverage containers. Then the program expanded to include the fleet, which, like most ships, has disposed of garbage by onboard incineration. In its first year, the program reduced landfill waste by 88 percent and reduced solid waste costs by 60 percent, or thousands of dollars every month.

Institution of Higher Education – University of Washington Housing and Food Services (HFS) was Recycler of the Year for overcoming significant barriers to expand residence hall recycling. With help from SEED (Students Expressing Environmental Determination), HFS created a program for composting postconsumer food in dining halls and other food outlets. The number of compost collection toters increased from 279 in January 2007 to 1047 in October 2007. This was equivalent to more than 32 tons of compostables diverted from the garbage. HFS now has recycling and compost collection in all 22 food-service areas and uses one of the most complete compostable serviceware packaging lines in the region.

For more information, visit the conference website at www.wsra2008conference.net/awards.html. Or contact Diana Leland WSRA Acting Director at 206-244-0311 or email DLeland@wsra.net.

Teens Fight Litter on State Highways

Ecology Youth Corps Crews Are on the Road Again

In central Washington, 60 youths are at work picking up litter this summer, and 114 teens are cleaning up roadsides in eastern Washington.

For many of the teens, aged 14-17, this is their first job. Statewide, 320 teens are part of Ecology Youth Corps (EYC) crews that clean state highways and roadsides. Last year, EYC crews collected more than 1 million pounds of litter from roadsides and medians across the state. Crews collected more than 205,000 pounds of that litter in Eastern Washington.

Crew members earn $8.07 per hour. The focus of EYC is not just litter pickup, but also educating youth about good stewardship of the environment.

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), which operates the litter cleanup program, urges motorists to use extra caution when they see the orange "Ecology youth working" signs along state highways.

"These young people work extremely hard in very tough conditions," said Rod Hankinson, who coordinates the EYC crews in seven central Washington counties. "Most kids talk about helping the environment, but these kids are actually doing something about it. We are asking the motoring public to please slow down when they see the orange signs and crews along the road. We're proud of the work our youth crews do to help keep our environment clean."

"These kids are really dedicated to helping improve the environment in eastern Washington. They deserve to be recognized and respected for what they're doing. We hope drivers will be particularly careful when they see our crews working a stretch of road," said Gary Lambacher, who coordinates EYC in the eastern region.

EYC is part of an overall Ecology-coordinated effort that annually removes more than 7 million pounds of litter and illegally dumped materials statewide. The program is supported by a tax on items that contribute to the litter problem. Other participants include county and city community litter-cleanup programs and the state departments of Natural Resources, Transportation, and Corrections, along with the state Parks and Recreation Commission.

School Awards Recognize Environmental Stewardship

Schools Also Find Help to Fund New Programs

The annual Terry Husseman Sustainable School Awards program culminated in a ceremony on May 22, 2008, in Olympia. Forty-seven schools shared $36,025 in awards that ranged from $100 to $5,000. The awards program, presented by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), recognizes schools for managing and using materials to produce less waste. Judges consider each school program's creative features, its purchasing practices, and its success at reducing waste and increasing recycling.

"This is the 20th year of this cash award. We are proud we've been able to work with schools to reach so many children with practical programs promoting environmental stewardship," said Laurie Davies, manager of Ecology's Solid Waste Program. "Sustainability is about taking care of our earth today for future generations."

The schools received their awards from Ecology Director Jay Manning at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Department of Social and Health Services headquarters building in Olympia. The ceremony celebrated exceptional efforts to conserve resources, reduce waste, and preserve the environment. Some of the programs include habitat restoration, alternative energy projects, and recycling.

The winners for the 2007-08 school year are listed below.

The three categories of awards are the:

• **Seed Award** that assists schools with the costs of starting up programs. Twenty-six schools received awards ranging from $200 to $3,200.

• **Sustainable School Award** that acknowledges schools with ongoing waste-reduction, reuse, or recycling programs. Nineteen schools received awards ranging from $100 to $375 each.

• **Environmental Curriculum** category that encourages schools to develop original curricula to teach environmental awareness in Washington schools. Two schools each received an award of $1,000.

The awards for creating an original curriculum went to programs that will have the children take part in the day-to-day operations of the school's recycling program and experience the social issues involved in running it. Other awards will help fledgling programs with start-up costs, and some awards will encourage established programs to continue operating.

Many of the programs add composting and green-purchasing plans to the more common recycling activities. Some schools are helping their communities by creating recycling and compost centers, mapping shorelines and providing the maps to businesses and citizens, and planting useful wetland areas.

Guests and other visitors enjoyed the educational displays and activities hosted by the Ecology Youth Corps, Litter Program, Ecology Composting Program, and the Hands On Children's Museum. After enjoying the organic refreshments, guests could contribute their leftovers to the Ecology composting bin.

Seed Award

Bainbridge High School, Kitsap County. Students from several schools worked together to apply for this award. This $2,500 award will help pay for an earth tub for their organic waste.

Bainbridge High School receives award from Jay Manning.

Boston Harbor Elementary, Thurston County. Students worked with their Parent-Teachers Association to raise half the money they need to build a compost staging area. This award provides additional funds of $2,130.

Central Valley, Spokane County. This school is going to use its $250 award to support mixed-paper recycling efforts.

Chautauqua Elementary School, King County. This $500 award will help Chautauqua provide an educational component to its solar irrigation system.

Cowlitz County Youth Services and Loowit High School have partnered together on an organic gardening program that helps "at risk" youth to contribute to the community by growing and sharing their produce with others. These youth will learn about the environment and how to grow organic food and plants to share through this $2,000 award.

Cowlitz County Youth Services and Loowit High School receive award.

Discovery Community School and Carl Sandburg Elementary School, King County. These schools plan to use their shared $720 award to buy worm bins, classroom bins, reusable dishes, garden tools, and mulch.

Edison Elementary, Skagit County. This $2,300 award will help purchase bins for cafeteria waste, along with gloves, durable dishes, and educational materials.

Edison Elementary receives award.

Evergreen Elementary School, Snohomish County. Evergreen is interested in adding a worm factory, a compost tumbler, and a rain barrel to its schoolyard habitat. This $1,000 award will help buy the needed supplies.

Ferndale High School, Whatcom County. With this $600 award the school will be able to buy some much-needed recycling collection containers.

Islander Middle School, King County. Islander's cafeteria wishes to use this $1,500 award to change from disposable food trays to durable food trays. This change will eliminate a large part of the daily waste from lunch periods.

Islander Middle School receives award.

La Conner Middle School, Skagit County. This school provides hands-on learning experiences for students in botany, culinary arts, elementary sciences, nutrition, recycling, and composting. This award of $1,100 will help the school buy worm bins, a composter, rain barrels, tools, and equipment.

Liberty Lake of Spokane is going to use its $225 award to support efforts to recycle mixed paper.

Lynden High School, Whatcom County. The $800 award is for classroom recycling bins, a large paper collection bin, and marketing materials.

Lydia Hawk Elementary, Thurston County. Lydia Hawk would like to establish a pesticide-free gardening and composting learning lab. This $500 award will help the school buy the supplies to get started.

Lydia Hawk Elementary School receives award.

Olympic Middle School, Mason County, wants to switch from disposable cafeteria trays to durable trays. Ecology is glad to help with an award of $3,200.

Prospect Point Elementary, Walla Walla. With the support of the Future Farmers of America, science classes, and local farmers, all the school needs is some garden tools, pavers, seeds, and materials to get its organic garden project off and running. This $1,000 award will help the school buy materials it needs to get the organic garden projects started.

Prospect Point Elementary receives award.

River's Edge High, Benton County. A student-initiated recycling project includes educational elements. The students reinvest money earned from recycling into the program. They will use this award of $1,500 to buy organic garden supplies. **River's Edge** also received a $1,000 **Environmental Curriculum Award.**

Sacajawea Elementary School, Benton County. The school would like to turn part of its campus into an outdoor classroom featuring native plants and an organic garden containing samples of crops grown in the local area. This award of $600 will help the school buy a composting bin and garden supplies.

Seth Woodard Elementary, Spokane County. The school will use the $1,000 award to increase the recycling program and to expand the organic greenhouse. It will help buy recycling containers and native and perennial plants and seeds.

Stanwood Middle School, Snohomish County. The students at Stanwood are highly involved in running their recycling program. They even develop the public service announcements and action plans. Their $1,000 award is for recycle bins and field trips to a landfill and recycle center.

Summit K-12 in King County will use its $650 award to create an organic demonstration garden. This garden will be useful for classroom projects, for organic gardening, and for rest and meditation.

Talbot Hill Elementary, King County. Talbot will use its $200 award to purchase supplies for collecting and sorting, composting, and reusing recyclables while educating its school community about the importance of sustaining the earth and its resources.

Wapato High School, Yakima County. The sophomore classes that run this program will use their award of $2,000 for composting equipment and organic gardening supplies.

Washington Elementary, King County. The school will use its $1,000 award to build a worm bin and to buy composting and recycling equipment.

Washington Elementary School receives award.

West Valley High School, Spokane County. The school would like to use its $1,500 award to expand the current recycling program to include as many materials as possible and to educate its students about the benefits of recycling. West Valley hopes to create a school atmosphere which helps students and faculty support and take part in ongoing sustainability practices.

White River High School in Pierce County will use its $250 award for educational and promotional materials to raise awareness of the recycling team and the need for more recycling on campus.

Sustainable School Award

This year we selected the following applicants for this award:

Adams Elementary School, Spokane. Students here are adamant about protecting our earth and its natural resources for future generations. They want their community to be one that will take steps to prevent global warming. They received $100.

Burton Elementary School, Clark County. Students have transformed their school grounds into thriving, productive, organic gardens that attract insects and wildlife. In addition to this organic landscaping program, Burton now composts cafeteria waste and recycles, earning them $200.

Edgerton Elementary School, Pierce County. Run by industrious sixth graders, this program includes recycling, energy and water conservation, and environmentally friendly cleaning products. It has community support and in turn, supports the local Girl Scouts with money from aluminum can recycling. The program earned $100.

Edgerton Elementary School receives award.

Evergreen Elementary School in Snohomish County has a recycling club to help children understand the importance of recycling, the environment, sustainability, and waste reduction. The school received an award of $200.

Gatewood Elementary School students in King County run a composting program. Since January of this year, they have diverted over 4,000 pounds of solid waste. They received an award of $200.

Knolls Vista Elementary, Grant County. This school has a waste reduction and recycling program that gets the community involved. Knolls Vista has even partnered with local government and private businesses to promote waste reduction, earning the school a $100 award.

Lister Elementary, Pierce County. Lister's EnviroKids program strives to reduce waste and educate the students, faculty, and neighborhood community. Students take a direct role and gain hands-on experience in waste reduction. They earned $200.

Lister Elementary School receives award.

Marcus Elementary School, Benton County. This program started small, but in eight years has grown to include recycling paper, aluminum, and cardboard, as well as recycling tennis shoes and electronics. The forth-grade students operate the program in partnership with the local high school. They received $100.

Mount Baker School District No. 507, Whatcom County – Acme Elementary, Whatcom, $375 – Mount Baker Junior/Senior, Whatcom, $375 – Kendall Elementary, Whatcom, $375 – Harmony Elementary, Whatcom, $375. Mount Baker's schools set the standard for sustainability in public schools. Students in this district graduate with 13 years of composting, waste reduction, reuse, and recycling experience.

Mount Baker schools use the environmental programs to benefit the entire community through a website, fliers, tours of the schools, curriculum tie-ins, and more.

In Mount Baker, each school participates in the recycling program and promotes reuse and toxic-free practices. Recent additions to environmental programs include a food composting program it calls "Food to Flowers" and a district-wide energy awareness program that educates everyone about how to save energy by making simple changes in school buildings and at home.

Mount Baker Schools receive award.

New Market Skills Center, Thurston County. New Market's Environmental Explorations classes started a campus-wide recycling program in October. In November, they connected with the Culinary Arts students and started a composting program. They received $200. **New Market** also received a $1,000 **Environmental Curriculum Award.**

New Market Skills Center receives award.

Olivia Park Elementary School, Snohomish County. This program has reduced the amount of the school's waste by recycling many kinds of materials. The program also contributes to the education and awareness of staff and students about sustainability principles, waste reduction, global warming, and recycling, earning an award of $100.

Olympia High School, Thurston County. This school's program includes waste reduction and recycling. It provides students with reusable water bottles and helps cafeteria staff reduce the use of disposable food containers and utensils, earning $275.

Olympia High School receives award.

Sakai Intermediate School, Kitsap County. This past year the school increased recycling efforts by including cans and bottles from the Coho Cafe. The school reduced waste and will be trying to reduce even more by including a complementary compost program. They received $200.

Secondary Academy for Success, King County. Students and staff are involved in environmental projects at the school and at a sustainable farm in Woodinville. Activities at the farm include removing blackberries without using toxic substances, building paths, spreading woodchips from onsite pruning, and sustainable farming. They earned $275.

Trout Lake School, Klickitat County. This school has been practicing recycling and waste reduction since 1991. Over the years, this program has evolved into a multifaceted, easy-to-maintain program that benefits the school, the community, and the environment. This school's award was $375.

West Valley City School, Spokane County. Students help run their recycling program and conduct food waste data reports daily. They grow organic produce and raise trout for release in Liberty Lake. They are also involved with the community through service projects such as stream cleanups and habitat restoration. They earned $275.

Creative Environmental Curriculum

This year two schools won an award.

New Market Skills Center, Thurston County. Students identify, investigate, and analyze environmental problems to evaluate the risks associated with these problems. They explore alternative and sustainable solutions for preventing and solving problems. They received $1,000 for this award. New Market also received a $200 **Sustainable School Award**.

River's Edge High School, Benton County. The Columbia River Studies curriculum helps students understand the connection between natural systems and human activities as they investigate the reasons for salmon population decline in the Northwest. The school received $1,000 for this award. River's Edge also received a $1,500 **Seed Award.**

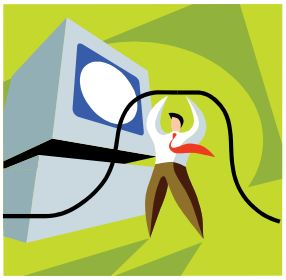
For more information about the Terry Husseman School Awards Program, contact Michelle Payne at 360-407-6129 or mdav461@ecy.wa.gov, or visit the website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/terryhusseman.html.

Annual Solid Waste Report

The new *Solid Waste in Washington State, Sixteenth Annual Status Report* is now available at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0707048.html.

If you would like a hard copy, please contact Millie White at miwh461@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6900.

New Statewide Contracts and Grants System Is Coming



The state Office of Fiscal Management (OFM), in coordination with other state agencies including the Departments of Ecology and Community Trade and Economic Development, is developing a new online statewide Grants, Contracts, and Loan Management system (GCLM). You will be able to search for opportunities, apply, report, and submit invoices online in the new system.

After several years of planning, the GCLM is currently being configured and should be ready for testing in December 2008. The State plans to put the GCLM online by June 2009. All new and open contracts and grant agreements in effect at the time will be entered and managed in the new system. Any parties who wish payment for services they provide the State under an agreement (contract, grant, or loan) will have to register in the new system.

To learn more about the project, you can visit the OFM website at www.ofm.wa.gov/isd/grants/default.asp. Through this website you can view newsletters that will keep you updated on the project. You can also subscribe to a list-serve to receive regular project updates.

Read this newsletter online!

The Closed-Loop Scoop newsletter should not create waste. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail please send e-mail the editor with the subject line reading "Subscribe Closed-Loop Scoop." To make changes to our mailing list, please contact the editor.

Give Us the Scoop!

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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