

THE CLOSED-LOOP SCOOP



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, WASTE 2 RESOURCES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SOLID WASTE & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

CITY OF VANCOUVER PLANS A SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

BY MIKE PIPER, CITY OF VANCOUVER SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

Many sustainability initiatives sponsored throughout the United States focus on new buildings or developments. Vancouver hopes to place a Sustainable Neighborhood Demonstration Project in an older neighborhood where most residents have low and moderate incomes. The city's initiative seeks to increase "livability" and economic vitality. Expected results include energy efficiency, water conservation, habitat restoration and creation, household repair and retrofit, homeownership opportunities, sustainable building materials use, recycling, community gardens, neighborhood safety, job training and development, and transportation and urban design.

Mike Piper, Vancouver's Sustainability Coordinator, said strategies implemented at the neighborhood level could serve as a model for financial and environmental performance. If successful, he added, the Sustainable Neighborhood Demonstration Project could become a valuable roadmap for a citywide program.

The city seeks \$25,000 from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. With existing \$25,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program, the city hopes to help design a process and pro-

vide planning for the project. In addition, the Demonstration Project would work with another Vancouver Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of about \$250,000 for repairs, retrofits, and weatherization of income-eligible homes.

The EECBG funding would also be used to leverage more stimulus dollars from the Clark County low income weatherization program and AmeriCorps staffing and workforce-training funds. Unemployed or underemployed residents could be trained to work on houses in the designated area. Piper said the city hopes to help hundreds of residents with CDBG and weatherization dollars alone.

Vancouver is also applying for help from Washington State University (WSU) and the state's Department of Commerce. WSU, with Department of Commerce, will provide grant funding to at least six pilot locations around the state totaling more than \$14 million.



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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES SETS HIGH GOALS IN SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM VANOC

Long after the Olympians and Paralympians pack away their medals and return home, the legacy of the 2010 Winter Games will endure in the newly trained inner-city carpenters, improved working standards at factories and eco-friendly sports centres built for the enjoyment of both the local community and world-class athletes.

These examples of sustainable legacies from the Games are described in the third annual corporate *Vancouver 2010 Sustainability Report*. The most recent edition of the report was released in January 2009 by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). The report measures VANOC's performance against its sustainability commitments between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008. Find it online at www.vancouver2010.com.

"As an organization, we have made sustainability central to everything we do," VANOC Chief Executive Officer John Furlong remarks. "In every decision we make in our day-to-day work — small or large — sustainability is a value that is top-of-mind for our team, never an exception. This report addresses each of our sustainability performance objectives, our short- and long-term goals and what we're doing to meet them."

VANOC continues to develop environmental management plans for operational venues, pursue energy and water conservation initiatives, and track the carbon dioxide emissions from Games-based activities.

The *Vancouver 2010 Sustainability Report 2007-08* examines VANOC's performance in six key areas under the organizing committee's direct control: accountability, environmental stewardship and impact reduction, social inclusion and responsibility, Aboriginal participation and collaboration, economic benefits, and sport for sustainable living. It also discusses the organizing committee's challenges and future plans on sustainability issues.

The *Vancouver 2010 Sustainability Report 2007-08* reflects input from the general public; from non-governmental organizations specializing in the inner city, the environment, sustainability, disability

issues, and labour and human rights issues; and VANOC's own staff. While developing the report, VANOC also consulted with its government partners, corporate sponsors, and its multi-stakeholder advisory committee.

Areas indicating progress by VANOC in the 2007-08 report include:

- Construction of venues that feature energy-efficiency, low environmental impact and social inclusion attributes (for more detail, refer to the Vancouver 2010 Sustainability Report available at www.vancouver2010.com).
- Compliance with environmental regulations.
- Compliance with VANOC's ethics policy.
- Continued focus on conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability performance areas the organizing committee will emphasize during the next 12 months include:

- Submitting applications for LEED certification for Whistler Olympic Park/Whistler Paralympic Park's day lodge, The Whistler Sliding Centre refrigeration building and Whistler Village high-performance centre.
- Finalizing transportation and power plans.
- Finalizing and implementing waste management efforts.
- With the City of Vancouver, BC and Canada, further develop a plan for managing Games-time impacts on inner-city neighbourhoods.
- Implementing a third cohort of trainees to the RONA Vancouver 2010 Fabrication Shop carpentry program.
- Seeking additional carbon emission reductions and finalizing VANOC's carbon offset program
- Following up on factory audits and monitoring the corrective action plans of licensees.



(Continued on next page.)

2010 OLYMPICS (CONTINUED.)

- Continuing to raise awareness of the Paralympic Games and Canadian paralympic athletes through the Paralympic school day program.
- Diverting further waste from landfill.
- Conducting training and recruitment and identifying business opportunities for inner-city residents and businesses, Aboriginal communities, persons with a disability, and social and environmental enterprises.
- Convening the World Conference on Sport and the Environment in March 2009.
- Showcasing Vancouver 2010 Games-related sustainability innovations generated by VANOC, partners, and sponsors.

To measure its performance, the organizing committee uses the sustainability reporting guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The GRI is an internationally established standard for corporate reporting on the “triple bottom line” of an organization’s economic, social, and environmental performance. It is aligned with several worldwide sustainability initiatives used by leading corporations, and recognized by the United Nations.

VANOC intends to issue two more sustainability reports — one next year before the start of the Games and another following the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Two versions of the report are available: a shorter “snapshot” version for readers interested in a summary and a longer, more technical version for those who want more detail. Both versions are available at www.vancouver2010.com.

About VANOC

VANOC is responsible for the planning, organizing, financing, and staging of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be staged in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. Vancouver and Whistler will host the Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 18-20-2009, 2009 EPA Community Involvement Training Conference will be held in Seattle, WA. To learn more, visit the website at www.epa.gov/ciconference.

September 15-18, 2009, Natural Areas Conference 2009 will be held in Vancouver, WA. To learn more, contact the Natural Area Assn./ Action Registration by calling 360-314-4900 or email info@actionreg.com, or visit the website at www.naturalarea.org/09Conference.

September 17, 2009, Sustainable Industries Economic Forum will be held in Seattle, WA. To learn more, contact Laura Christiansen at 970-471-6587, or visit the website at www.sustainableindustries.com/forums/seattle.

September 23-24, 2009, E-Scrap 2009 Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida. To learn more, contact Jef Drawbaugh by calling 503-233-1305 or email jef@resource-recycling.com, or visit the website at www.resource-recycling.com/E-Scrap%20conference/2009/index.html.

September 24, 2009, Rural Roots 2009 Producer-to-Producer Workshop Series will be held in Clarkston, WA. To learn more, call 208-883-3462, or visit the website at www.ruralroots.org.

October 28-29, 2009, 2009 Western US Pollution Prevention and Sustainability Conference will be held in San Diego, CA. To learn more, visit the website at wsppn.org/Conf09/FutureConference.cfm.

LITTER...

THROUGH EYC EYES

Well, summer's here, and the Ecology Youth Corps (EYC) summer youth crews are well on their way to picking up that unsightly litter that populates our state roads. After a hard day's work in the 90 degree heat, Thurston County crew members shared their thoughts on the growing problem of litter.

Having already worked for a couple weeks at the job, Trenton Green explained that litter is a large problem – “a way bigger problem than I ever realized.” Now that he's “labored picking up garbage”, he believes if he ever sees his friends littering, he “will definitely tell friends not to do it.” “Trucker bottles (urine bottles) are by far the worst,” says Danny Stohr. “I'm surprised at how rude some people can be. Using a bathroom isn't rocket science – it's just common courtesy.” Well put! We all agree with you on that one, Danny!

Danny has also learned over these past couple weeks that “many people could care less about the future of the environment. Too many people litter and too many companies overpackage.” Nathan Sosa agrees: “There are a lot of overpackaged items – and Styrofoam is bad for the environment.” He now knows that most of the litter he finds is actually non-biodegradable. “There is *tons* of trash on the shoulders of the freeway.” That surprised him more than anything. Lawyer Tillman added “there is a lot of overpackaged items with nonbiodegradable material in them,” and that it takes these items “a lot longer to biodegrade than we'd ever think.”



Thurston County Crew picks up litter along I-5 in Lakewood, WA.

Tyler Reed's least favorite part of her EYC job is “all the trash and heat.” But what surprised her most about the job was that “picking up trash and recycling can actually be fun!” Many of the crew members felt this way. Heidi Clarke mentioned that she “loves her crew and how they work together.” As a matter of fact, all crew members reported that what they like most about their job, are the great people they've met, the teamwork, the camaraderie, and how their crew had become like a family away from home.



Thurston County Crew during an EYC orientation.

Of course, everyone bragged about their “great supervisor.” Rick Mortlock has worked with EYC for three years now. Rick chose to work for Ecology Youth Corps saying he “loves the outdoors and doing something for a living that you can see immediate tangible results. It feels great to have contributed to the lives of young people and the community as well.” Rick is a school teacher and “loves working with kids.” What he has learned about litter since he began the job is that unfortunately it accumulates at an exponential rate...even after having cleaned a “set.”

Next time you are driving on our beautiful *clean* state roads this summer, just stop for a moment and think of these hardworking EYC kids, and thank them for the fine work they do...in the 90 degree heat! And let's envision a new world...beyond waste and beyond litter – where all humanity cares enough to curtail consumption, shop consciously, chose zero-to-low-impact products, and completely close the loop!

SCHOOL AWARDS 2009

SCHOOLS EARN CASH AWARDS FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

The Department of Ecology presented 65 Washington public and private schools with cash awards for their outstanding environmental programs. Now in its 21st year, the Terry Husseman Sustainable School Awards program recognized schools for developing and implementing innovative curricula, sustaining ongoing waste reduction efforts, or starting new environmental programs.



Attendees learn about composting food scraps from ECY Composting Expert, Michelle Andrews.

For the first time, private schools were eligible to compete in the environmental awards program. Out of the 67 applications received, 11 private schools received awards.

The three categories of awards are Seed Award, Sustainable School Award, and Environmental Curriculum Award. Award amounts ranged from \$100 to \$5,000 and totaled just over \$52,800.

"This is a limited investment in our students and our schools that will have long-term benefits by building environmental infrastructure and teaching the concepts of stewardship and sustainable behaviors," said Laurie Davies, manager of Ecology's Solid Waste Program.

"What they learn at school, they can practice at home, pass on to family and practice for a lifetime."

Much of the Seed Award funds are for supplies to start up recycling, composting, or organic gardening projects on school grounds. The Sustainable School Awards recognize schools already reducing waste through successful recycling and composting programs. These schools also promote sustainability and environmental stewardship to students, staff, and the community.

Typically, schools awarded for their environmental curriculum incorporate typical environmental courses in their programs. Some schools stretch further, with studies in global food systems, sustainable businesses and community service.

The awards program was named for Terry Husseman, a former deputy director of Ecology. Terry was deeply committed to Ecology's mission and a strong advocate for the school awards.

For more details about the program's award-winning schools, see Ecology press releases dated May 19, 2009: www.ecy.wa.gov/news/news.html#may.



About 200 people attended the ceremony and enjoyed the refreshments. After composting and recycling, what remained was this little bit of garbage.

THE SOLID WASTE & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS A NEW NAME: THE WASTE 2 RESOURCES PROGRAM (W2R)

For some time we have noticed that calling ourselves the Dept. of Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program was no longer reflective of the work we do. We wanted a name that reflects a future as described in the Beyond Waste Plan, where most wastes will be viewed as materials. We also wanted a name that is more inclusive of the Industrial Section, which oversees the state's largest facilities (e.g., pulp and paper mills and aluminum smelters). To minimize costs, the roll out will be gradual. **Waste 2 Resources** was selected because it:

- focuses our direction on reuse of wastes as materials.
- stresses the importance of keeping waste material toxics-free by reducing toxic chemical use in products.
- captures Industrial section facilities, which take used cardboard, hog fuel, and co-mingled recyclables.
- includes conversion of Waste to Energy, another resource in high demand.
- implies that this program covers everything from wastes to resources, including financial assistance and technical assistance resources.

DEMONSTRATION LID RETROFIT AT EVERGREEN STATE FAIRGROUNDS



Over one million people visit the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, WA each year. They come for the annual fair, 4-H clubs and swap meets, for concerts and horse shows, and meetings and races at the speedway. Now they can also come to learn about low-impact

development (LID) – a smart new approach that uses soils, vegetation and the landscape to mimic the natural flow of water.

Snohomish County Public Works built eight different LID demonstration projects around the Fairgrounds last year, using grant funding from the Department of Ecology. Of the three pervious pavement examples, one was designed to represent a sunrise and another, a stream. Two large bio-filtration planter boxes receive barn roof water, and three specially-designed parking lot islands infiltrate stormwater from the extensive, paved lot. Compost-amended soils and other rain gardens were built at the Long House and the historic cabin onsite. Each of the eight locations has signs that explain to visitors what they are seeing and how to use LID in their own projects. Visit [www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Public Works/Divisions/SWM/Work Areas/Urban Drainage/FairgroundsLID.htm](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Public%20Works/Divisions/SWM/Work%20Areas/Urban%20Drainage/FairgroundsLID.htm) , www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0910043.pdf and www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0910023.pdf to see more!

COMPOST FACILITY OPERATOR TRAINING IN OCTOBER

The Washington Organic Recycling Council (WORC) will offer the next Compost Facility Operator Training (CFOT) on October 19-23, 2009 at the Washington State University Research Station in Puyallup.

CFOT engages a professional team of 5 instructors, several guest speakers, and 8 to 10 panelists from all walks of the organic materials management world. The low student-to-instructor ratio provides abundant opportunities for individual support and interaction. Students with a variety of backgrounds and experience work together in teams for the field



Andy Bary, WSU Puyallup Soil Scientist, helps students build the "perfect" compost pile.

demonstrations, adding to the opportunity to learn from each other.

The 5-day curriculum consists of classroom lectures, hands-on interactive field demonstrations and labs, facility tours, and two panel discussions – one with end users and another with professional facility operators. Topics include:

- Organic Processing Technology
- Biology of the Compost Pile
- Odor Management and Response
- Feedstock Recovery and Preparation
- Facility Design and Regulation
- Compost Use in Agriculture and Horticulture
- Sampling and Testing
- Compost Quality
- Product Marketing and End Use
- Compost Facility Management

Please register early. Space is limited to 32 participants. For registration information, please email the WORC office info@compostwashington.org, or visit their website at www.compostwashington.org.

RECYCLING CONTINUES TO SHOW RESULTS

FOCUS SHEET SHOWS ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS SAVINGS WITH RECYCLING

Recycling is more than a way to manage wastes. It is an important way to reduce the harmful environmental effects of industrial activities. And if that's not enough to win over the non-recyclers, here's a timely fact that is sure to sway... Recycling provides "green" jobs.

According to a new Ecology publication, *Focus on the Benefits of Recycling*, Washington's recycling levels from 2007 showed important environmental and economic gains. For example, the seven million tons of material collected for recycling in Washington in 2007 saved energy equivalent to about one billion gallons of gasoline. This is about a third of all energy used in Washington businesses annually. In addition, the focus sheet shows how recycling reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, conserves natural resources, creates green jobs, and lessens emissions of air and water pollutants.

Focus on the Benefits of Recycling was developed using various data sources. One source, EPA's Waste Reduction Model (WaRM), charts the British Thermal Units (BTUs) saved and GHGs avoided through recycling.

Download this publication from the Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program website at: www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0907027.html.

If you have comments or ideas to share, please contact Gretchen Newman at gnew461@ecy.wa.gov or at 360-407-6097.

Energy & Greenhouse Gas Savings by Recycling in Washington (2007, Selected Materials)

Recycled Material	Tons Recycled	BTUs Saved (millions)	GHGs Avoided (MTCE)
Aluminum Cans	14,005	2,890,943	52,216
Steel Cans	22,315	445,546	10,932
Glass	96,934	206,024	7,371
PET	14,024	740,915	5,932
Corrugated Cardboard	555,757	8,568,752	471,515
Mixed Paper	361,043	8,282,976	348,197
Newspaper	289,250	4,768,561	220,763
High-Grade Paper	82,806	834,770	64,384
Yard Trimmings	845,455	53,581	46,786
Food Scraps	167,268	94,665	9,039
Mixed Metals	1,125,544	91,021,528	1,613,857

TIRE PROGRAM UPDATE

Ecology has identified nearly 200 tire pile sites (192 and counting) in 32 of the 39 counties of Washington. Cleanup is complete at 126 tire piles. These 126 tire pile sites contained 4.8 million tires and cost \$7.5 million to clean up. The remaining 66 tire piles contain an estimated 7,000 tons of tires and will cost an estimated \$1.6 million. Since 2008, nearly 90% of the cleaned up tires have been recycled or reused.



Funding for the Tire Program will continue into 2011 and beyond. However, the 2010 -2011 budget for the program will be reduced. **How would you like the limited funding in 2010 and 2011 to be used? Please contact Kara Steward with your ideas at 360-407-6250 or kara.steward@ecy.wa.gov.**

READ THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

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Newsletter Editor: Layne Nakagawa

Newsletter Assistant: Jean Maust

Dept. of Ecology
W2R Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
lnak461@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6409

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