

THE CLOSED-LOOP SCOOP



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, WASTE 2 RESOURCES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

NEW KITTITAS COUNTY COMPOST FACILITY

A NEW ALTERNATIVE TO BURNING

Since July, many residents of Kittitas County have benefited from a new compost facility in Ellensburg. Instead of burning yard and land clearing waste, residents in urban growth areas can take this material to the Cle Elum transfer station or the compost facility in Ellensburg. Waste Management offers curbside yard waste collection to Ellensburg residents. The County expects this facility to prevent the burning of 4 million pounds of yard and wood waste each year. Composting rather than burning the materials improves air quality and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It also preserves valuable landfill airspace while reducing landfill methane gas production.

Because of the County's good planning, the facility will become financially sustainable by January 2010. Revenue from



Left to right: Gary Bleeker (Ecology), Patti Johnson (Kittitas County Solid Waste Director), and Canming Xiao (Ecology) review compost pile temperature data while yard waste is ground for composting at the new compost facility.

tipping fees and compost sales will support the facility's maintenance and operations.

The legislature banned burning of yard waste and land clearing debris because its smoke harms humans and the environment. This ban went into effect in 2001 for larger communities. It was phased into effect for communities with less than 5,000 people in 2007. The legislature allocated \$2 million in grant funding to help these small communities develop alternatives to backyard burning of organic materials.

Ecology's Coordinated Prevention Grants Program helped fund this project as part of the Alternatives to Burning and Beyond Waste Initiatives. "Patti Johnson, Kittitas County's Solid Waste Director, applied for funding and developed the composting facility to provide county residents with an accessible and economic way to dispose of yard and wood waste and a local source of nutrient-rich compost. In the future, the County hopes to expand the types of organic wastes accepted to include agricultural waste and other organic waste, such as coffee grounds from local businesses," says Darlene Frye, Section Manager for Ecology's Waste 2 Resources Central Regional Office.

For details, contact Patti Johnson, Kittitas County Solid Waste Director, at patti.johnson@co.kittitas.wa.us or 509-962-7542. Soon you can also find details at www.co.kittitas.wa.us/solidwaste.



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JAPANESE GULCH TIRE CLEANUP

WORKING TOGETHER MOVES A MOUNTAIN OF TIRES

It took 12 workers, 4 days, and a 30-ton crane to remove 27 tons of tires and 1 ton of trash from Japanese Gulch, a ravine on the city line between Everett and Mukilteo. Ecology's Tire Cleanup Program spent \$25,000 to remove the 2,700 tires dumped over many years into the upper reaches of the gulch.



Japanese Gulch tire removal cost four times the average tire site removal cost. The 30-ton crane, instead of the usual excavator, lifted and carried the tires from the gulch streambed. The crane option caused less damage to the ecosystem than other options would have.

The ultimate end for the tires included 12.33 tons recycled, 8.04 tons used for fuel, and 6.43 tons land-filled. That's 76 percent recycled or reused -- pretty amazing for tires buried in a gulch for more than 20 years!

The tire wrangling and removal crews' work included the following:

- Washington Conservation Corp (WCC) Olympia Spike Crew cleared trees, brush, and tires. WCC is AmeriCorps-affiliated for people 18 to 25 years old that couples green jobs in the environmental field with college tuition assistance.
- Tire Disposal & Recycling (TDR) crew wrangled tires and ultimately hauled away 26.8 tons of tires for recycling, reuse, and disposal (Ecology's contractor).
- Ford Crane spent two days lifting tires out of the gulch using a 30-ton crane (contracted by Ecology).
- Snohomish Public Works provided one crew member and free disposal of 0.86 tons of trash.

The successful cleanup is the result of a 15-month, multi-agency collaborative effort involving meetings, site walks, emails, and phone calls.

Japanese Gulch restoration efforts will be coordinated by the City of Everett, with help from local volunteers. This will include planting native vegetation and placing spawning gravel in the stream channel.

The Japanese Gulch cleanup and restoration partnership included:

- City of Everett
- City of Mukilteo
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Conservation Corps
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Snohomish County Public Works Department
- Snohomish Health District

(Continued on next page.)



Japanese Gulch cleanup crew: Stephen Schwartz (TDR), Elaine Mehary (WCC), Sean Connolly (WCC), Tobias Batchelder (WCC), Brandon Smith (WCC), Russell Greer (WCC), Collin Peterson (TDR), Arnulfo Rodrigues (TDR), Tony Hope (TDR), Mark Hope (TDR) [Chris Marsh, Snohomish Public Works, missing from photo]. Photo credits: Kara Steward.

JAPANESE GULCH TIRE CLEANUP (CONTINUED.)

- Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad
- Boeing - Everett
- Local property owners and community volunteers

Mukilteo Mayor Joe Marine said, "The gulch creates an opportunity for people to connect to nature. Decades ago, some used it as a dumping ground, but today people respect it for what it is and want to be a part of this much-needed cleanup."



Mark Hope and Arnulfo Rodrigues of Tire Disposal & Recycling unload tires and trash from the crane hoist.

The tire cleanup at Japanese Gulch is part of Ecology's Tire Cleanup Program, funded by a one-dollar fee on the sale of new tires. Ecology has so far identified 198 tire piles for cleanup in 32 counties, and has paid \$8 million for 135 tire-pile cleanups by contractors since 2007. The effort has collected approximately 49,000 tons of tires - roughly equivalent to 4.9 million average passenger-car tires - for re-use, recycling or disposal. Ecology plans 61 more tire cleanups after the Japanese Gulch project. These are expected to cost \$1.4 million and remove another 6,000 tons or about 600,000 tires. Eighty percent of the recovered tires go for recycling or re-use.

For more information, please contact Kara Steward at kara.steward@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6250.

Media coverage of the tire cleanup event can be viewed at:

www.kirotv.com/news/20276263/detail.html

www.king5.com/video/index.html?nvid=386149

www.komonews.com/news/52474497.html

For more information:

Waste Tires: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/tires/

Washington Conservation Corps (WCC):

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wcc/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 11-13, 2009 Advanced BioEnergy 2009 Conference Expo will be held in Sacramento, California. To learn more, call Travis Hochard at 719-239-2001 or visit the website at www.advancedbioenergyconference.com.

December 7-8, 2009, 2009 Northwest Environmental Conference & Tradeshow will be held in Portland, OR. To learn more, visit the website at www.nwec.org.

January 12-14, 2010, North American Environmental Field Conference & Exposition will be held in Tampa, Florida. To learn more, call David Nielson at 575-532-5535, or visit the website at www.envirofieldschool.com.

January 24-27, 2010, US Composting Council 18th Annual Conference & Trade Show will be held in Orlando, Florida. To learn more, call 631-737-4931, or visit the website at www.compostingcouncil.org/conference.

WASHINGTON GREEN SCHOOLS LAUNCHES

A NEW TOOL TO ASSIST SCHOOLS IN TAKING ACTION IS NOW AVAILABLE STATEWIDE!

As of August 17, both public and private K-12 schools across Washington State can sign up at www.wagreenschools.org to participate in the new Washington Green Schools program. This voluntary program provides on-line resources and tools that students, teachers, and staff can use to assess and take actions to 'green up' school campuses and operations. Through achievements at five different program levels, schools gain certification and awards such as a flag and public recognition.



The program emphasizes five environmental categories:

- Energy Efficiency
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Toxics Reduction and Indoor Air Quality
- Transportation and Outdoor Air Quality
- Water Quality and Conservation

School participation can lead to environmental and economic benefits such as reduced garbage and increased recycling rates, healthier indoor and outdoor air quality, lower utility costs, and less waste. In addition, students gain valuable leadership and community service skills and hands-on environmental education.

Free trainings are scheduled this fall for teachers, administrators, resource conservation managers, parent volunteers, and other interested individuals.

The training offers step-by-step guidance and tips. Participants learn program elements such as building a 'Green Team', practice completing Assessments and Action Items, and learn how to best use the website and its resources. The training also connects participants with other participating green schools in the region. Teachers can earn three clock hours.

By participating in a one-year program pilot in 2008-09, nine schools have already achieved Level 1 certification. The pilot schools took actions such as improving recycling and composting practices, starting up 'No Idling' policies, establishing computer and monitor shutdown systems, changing out faulty water pipes, and providing presentations to their schools and communities. Currently, over 50 schools in 16 counties are already participating in the program. That's 19,637 students that are attending a participating school!

Washington Green Schools is a partnership of agencies and organizations, grant-funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology. For a current list of Steering Team members and partners, go to: www.wagreenschools.org/31/about-us.html.

DNR CORRECTIONAL CAMPS WORKERS HELP CLEAN OUR STATE

REVISED WITH PERMISSION FROM DNR COMMUNICATIONS

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-supervised prison inmates removed 50 tons of illegally dumped trash from roadsides and forests in the last two years. Inmates stay at correctional camps run by the Department of Corrections and supervised by DNR. "The litter patrols help keep DNR correctional camp crews productively busy in the winter, spring and fall so we can have them trained and available in fire season as an important and cost-effective part of our wildfire response organization," said Joe Shramek, Director, DNR Resource Protection Division, which supervises the department's camps program.



Inmates work in 10-member teams directed by trained DNR forest crew supervisors. The inmates spent 52,289 hours over the past two years removing trash from roadsides and dump sites. They removed: 528.7 cubic yards of litter; 1,188 illegal dumps; 3,460 illegally dumped tires; and 506.6 cubic yards of illegally dumped trash.

(Continued on next page.)

DNR CLEANUPS (CONTINUED.)



Before fire season, DNR trains inmates as wildland firefighters. Along with more than 700 DNR employees and 375 seasonal workers, inmates work on fires on DNR-protected public and private lands. Inmate crews in DNR camps also plant trees, clean up streams, maintain recreation sites and forest roads, and help other state and local agencies with labor projects.

DNR participates in four adult and one juvenile correctional camps. DNR is reimbursed by the Washington Department of Ecology for the costs of crews and supervisors to remove litter. DNR received \$477,000 during the 2007-2009 biennium from the state's Waste Reduction, Recycling and Model Litter Control Account.

BEYOND WASTE

THE PLAN UPDATE



The Beyond Waste 2009 Plan Update is almost done! The Beyond Waste Plan is the state solid and hazardous waste management plan. Like local plans, the state plan needs updating every five years. After lots of hard work of assessing progress, getting input, and making changes, the plan update is nearly complete. It will be officially launched on December 7th at the Dept. of Ecology.

The update continues with the original vision to eliminate most wastes and toxic substances by 2035, building on the five initiatives and two current issues section laid out in the original plan. The overall plan structure and all of the background papers written as part of the original plan remain unchanged. Many of the recommendations and milestones also stay the same.

So what's changed? We've strengthened the focus on product stewardship and prevention; their importance has only increased over the last five years. We improved the Implementation Plan,

Beyond Waste Initiatives

1. Moving toward Beyond Waste with Industries.
2. Reducing Small Volume Hazardous Materials and Wastes.
3. Increasing Recycling for Organic Materials.
4. Making Green Building Practices Mainstream.
5. Measuring Progress Toward Beyond Waste.

The Plan also addresses current hazardous waste and solid waste issues.

Beyond Waste 30 Year Vision

We can transition to a society where wastes are viewed as inefficient and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated. This will contribute to environmental, economic and social vitality.

adding a section that more clearly defines local governments' role. We also more closely aligned the plan with agency priorities on mitigating climate change, protecting Washington waters, and reducing toxic threats. That's because Beyond Waste is about more than just waste.

And of course, there are some new and improved recommendations and milestones. These changes came from many sources, including the Climate Action Team, state and agency priorities, Ecology staff, the state Solid Waste Advisory Committee, public input, and lessons learned during the first five years. We also made milestones more measurable and better aligned with recommendations. This should keep recommendations and milestones on track to meet the 30- year goals.

The plan update will be issued in December 2009. Implementation, which has already begun in some areas, will continue into the next five years. It's a state plan that provides guidance for all of us - local governments, businesses, Department of Ecology, other state agencies, and non-profit organizations. We cannot get Beyond Waste without all of us working together.

To see the 2009 Beyond Waste Plan update, go to: www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0907026.html after December 7, 2009. If you want a hard copy or have questions, contact Janine Bogar at jabo461@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6654.

PREPARING FOR FLOODS

WHAT TO DO TO PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

People in King County are diligently preparing for a flood in the Kent Valley this winter. Due to irregularities in the Howard Hanson Dam, the Corps of Engineers will not be able to store as much water behind the dam. This will put additional pressure on the levee system, increasing the likelihood that the Green River will flood.

Even if you don't live in King County, it is a good time to prepare for winter storms. Floods can happen anywhere. Even if your home or business is not in a floodplain, it could be flooded by natural or manmade events. Taking time to prepare can protect human health, property, and the environment from flood damage. With a focus on hazardous materials, the following tips are applicable to homes or businesses.

Before Flood Season

Know what hazardous materials you have.

Be familiar with their hazards, safe handling, disposal, and cleanup procedures. Purchase only what you need and use it up.

Use the safest products possible. Keep an inventory of what you have - that can help with post-flood cleanup.

Reduce the amount of hazardous material you have.

Get as much of your hazardous waste off site as possible before an emergency happens. Whether you rely on a private contractor or your local HHW facility, dispose of hazardous wastes properly. For a county by county list of links, see: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/mrw/mrw_contacts.html. Be sure to ask if your county has a materials exchange if the products are usable.

Store hazardous materials properly. Try to keep original labels on containers. Keep containers sealed and in good condition. Store materials indoors and secure them so they don't float away. If practical and safe (according to fire or other local codes), store materials above flood levels.

Figure out an emergency plan. A plan will help you react quickly and effectively. Economists estimate that every \$1 spent in flood preparedness saves \$7 in disaster-related economic losses. The plan should include communications, evacuation, staying in place

and other topics. Prepare a cleanup kit with essentials like gloves, boots, coveralls, eye protection, duct tape, plastic bags, trashcans, buckets, and spill kits. Check that your insurance policies are up-to-date and include flood insurance. Federal flood insurance is available through www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/.

When Flooding is Possible/Probable

Monitor news reports and alert systems.

Two websites to check are NOAA, www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/, and EMD, www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/business/prepare_business_respond.shtml.

Deploy sandbags and other protective measures. Prepare to evacuate. Take critical documents and contact information with you.

After the Event

Return to your home or business only after local authorities have issued an "ALL CLEAR." Check for structural damage and other hazards before re-entering. Keep electricity turned off until a qualified electrician has inspected the system. When safe to do so, take pictures of damage from the flood.

For more information and guidance:

- Washington Military Dept., Emergency Management Division www.emd.wa.gov/hazards/haz_flood.shtml
- Federal Emergency Management Agency www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtml
- King County www.kingcounty.gov/safety/



Why the Kent Valley Flood Risk Has Statewide Significance

- Flooding could disrupt transportation systems including road and rail. Solid waste collection service may be disrupted or shipments may have to be re-routed.
- Many local programs rely on private contractors to ship and process hazardous waste. These services might also be temporarily disrupted in the event of flooding.

GRANT COUNTY MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING

CREATIVE HOME COMPOSTING TRAINING REACHES ACROSS THE STATE

Joan Melvin, Grant County Solid Waste Recycling Coordinator, and Erik Lampi, Master Gardener Program Coordinator for Grant/Adams County area, partnered to embrace compost education.

Twenty one Master Gardeners, recycling coordinators and compost enthusiasts from several counties, came together to get the scoop on composting, healthy soil, vermicomposting and grasscycling. After satisfying their thirst for compost know-how in three, 8-hour classes, volunteers will reach out and share what they know with friends and neighbors through farmers markets, fairs and other events.

Joan and Erik used several creative approaches to develop this training program.

Partners with a common vision: A Coordinated Prevention Grant from the Department of Ecology funded the bulk of training and program development costs; Grant County partnered with WSU Extension Master Gardener program where training and outreach are established practices. And the Moses Lake Fire Department hosted the classes in their conference room.

Volunteer educators: Different educators from across the state led each class. This allowed Joan and Erik time to learn more about home composting and about teaching future classes.

Become a master of your compostable kitchen and garden waste

Waste not

- In 2004, food waste was 19 percent of the total landfill mass. Yard, garden, and prunings comprised 6.5 percent
- 90,000 tons were disposed in the Ephrata landfill in 2008
- Early in 2009, the Delano Landfill closed. The waste from cities near Grand Coulee Dam now come to the Ephrata Landfill
- Today, all of the waste generated in Grant County is disposed of at the Ephrata Landfill, which is operated by Grant County

Thank to the Washington State Department of Ecology for partially funding this course

From Garbage to Garden
It's Compost Time!

GRANT COUNTY
Recycle
Reduce
Reuse
Revolving Money & World of Difference
Grant County Solid Waste

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Master Composter Training
Master Gardener Program

Long days: Each class covered several topics and took a full day. This schedule encouraged students from outside the immediate area to sign up, allowing them to save time and fuel by reducing the number of trips needed to attend class.

With plenty of partners and planning, Master Composters will soon spread the word about home composting through Grant, Adams, Whitman and Lincoln counties.

Need more information? Contact Joan Melvin, joan-melvin@co.grant.wa.us or Erik Lampi, elampi@wsu.edu.

PURCHASING FUEL-EFFICIENT TIRES

You can save fuel and reduce greenhouse gases by choosing fuel-efficient tires for your vehicles. Of course, tire purchases should be based primarily on performance and safety factors, such as handling, traction, and resistance to hydroplaning. But tires with lower rolling resistance allow vehicles to roll more easily on the road. This improves fuel efficiency.

A one to two percent change in miles per gallon (MPG) occurs for every 10 percent change in rolling resistance, according to tests performed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (www.nrel.gov/programs/) and Ecos Consulting.



This means that fuel efficient tires can save two to six percent in fuel use per vehicle. Over the typical four year life of tires, this fuel savings really adds up. Tires that come with new cars are often fuel-efficient.

Another way to improve your fleet's fuel efficiency is through good tire maintenance. Full tread depth tires have lower rolling resistance than worn tires. And don't forget to keep correct tire air pressure. This can dramatically affect fuel economy too.

To learn more about how to purchase fuel efficient tires, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0907037.html or contact Tina Simcich at 360-407-7517.

READ THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

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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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