

THE CLOSED-LOOP SCOOP



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, WASTE 2 RESOURCES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

COWBOY RECYCLING COORDINATOR STANDS OUT IN HIS FIELD

Way out in Lincoln County, a big cowboy in a Carhart jacket showed off his innovative fire suppression system in his moderate risk waste building. This cowboy, Rory Wintersteen, is the solid waste coordinator for the county's public works department in Davenport. In fact, he's a real standout in the field of solid waste.



All the pieces in the plastic pile will be baled, bundled, and recycled.

"He really does incredible work out here," said Nancy Lucas, Ecology Grant Coordinator for the Coordinated Prevention Grants the Waste 2 Resources Program administrators. We stood outside in what felt like a Siberian landscape while Rory showed us the fruits of his extensive labor.

"Normally counties recycle the usual cans, newspaper and cardboard," Nancy explained. "But Rory takes on much more than that. He takes in about 17 different items for recycling, whereas other counties take in four to six types of recyclables."

Rory took us from one tidy container of materials to the next at the remote transfer station west of Davenport. He had the regular newspapers and cans, but also containers of copper wire, pipe,

plastics and triple-rinsed pesticide containers. Outside we saw where he keeps scrap metal.

Waste into resources, old into new

He takes in tires L&S Tire Co. collects. The tires are recycled into items such as loading dock and tug boat bumpers. One company uses them for rubber edges on front-

loader buckets that push municipal solid waste into trailers and recyclable commodities into balers.

We saw where he used a baler to pummel plastics into neat bundles. The same baler was used to corral tons of cardboard that once reached from ground to roof into neat packages for shipping to Longview Fiber in Longview, Washington. The baler has to be fed one box at a time. A larger, more modern baler is on the wish list.

Paper doesn't travel far at all. It's transported just down the road to the Inland Empire Paper mill in Spokane where it's de-inked and processed for reuse as newsprint.

Rory even sells bundles of plastic film, or shrink-wrap to the Trex Corporation

(Continued on next page.)



Publication No.

11-07-002

May 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Seattle Mattress & Appliance Recycling Business	2
Puget Sound Area Recipient of \$6.5 Million HUD Grant	3
Food Waste to Rescue!	4
Seattle to Reduce Phone Book Waste	5
Characterizing Waste in Washington: Organic Material	6

COWBOY RECYCLING COORDINATOR STANDS OUT IN HIS FIELD (CONTINUED.)

that uses it to make decks and deck furniture. The plastic wraps are added to sawdust and different color dyes for use in the building materials industry.

Money reinvested and innovative saving

"The money we take in is reinvested into our program and it helps to reduce our required match on the grant we get from Ecology," Rory said.

Nancy explained that by reinvesting and using cost-saving measures, he can make the program run longer. Most counties shuffle any income into their general public works budget. In Lincoln County, it goes directly into the solid waste budget.

One example of cost-saving measures at the transfer station is that Rory contracts to use Lincoln County Jail inmates in Davenport for much of the labor, including feeding the baler. They worked at the transfer station 561 hours in 2009 and 1,101 hours in 2010, saving untold dollars.

"One trustee I had from the jail was an exceptional worker, and I actually got him a job interview after his release with one of our brokers," Rory said. "The broker gave him a job, and he is very happy with the inmate's work and past experience in the recycling field that he gained out here."

But Rory also saves money by exploring other grants and loans, and taking advantage of free programs such as the "Call 2 Recycle" program, call2recycle.org. The program takes cell phones and rechargeable batteries for recycling, at no cost.

Partnering and more re-use

Rory actively administered the burn barrel turn-in program in Lincoln County, collecting and smashing 90 burn barrels in 2010. The use of burn barrels is illegal in Washington. The Washington Department of Natural Resources, Ecology and Rory used a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for the work. All who turned in their barrels received a free compost bin in return.

By the way, the cardboard the recycle bins came in and shrink-wrap off the pallets were recycled. The pallets were used to ship electronic waste. "I look at it as a zero waste program," Rory said.

Of course, the transfer station takes in electronic waste.

When asked why he goes the extra ten miles, Rory said, "Well,

I'm not a real tree-hugger. It's just my job to do it." He looked down and kicked his boot on the floor, like all cowboys do.



Inmates contracted from the Lincoln County Jail in Davenport save untold dollars in labor costs.

BED BE GONE OFFERS MATTRESS RECYCLING

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM KING COUNTY ENEWS LINK

Seattle is now home to a new mattress recycling option. [Bed Be Gone](#) accepts mattress and processes the components for recycling.

Owner Matt Althaus started Bed Be Gone as a "green, stress-free alternative to dumping mattresses." Bed Be Gone offers both mattress pickup and drop-off, and works with a local natural bed company to recycle their customers' old mattresses.

Bed Be Gone ships many of the mattresses to [Correctional Industries](#) for processing. In the past, they even processed mattresses on-site to create new products such as bags and wine racks. Due to increased volume, they now concentrate on landfill diversion instead. Since opening in October 2010, the company has diverted more than 100 mattresses from the landfill.

Wanting to divert other materials from the landfill, Matt also recently started [Appliance Away](#). They will help residents dispose of refrigerators, washers/dryers, ovens and other large items in an environmentally responsible way.

HUD AWARDS GRANTS TOTALING \$6.5 MILLION TO PROMOTE SMARTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PUGET SOUND

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM HUD



On October 14, 2010, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Deputy Secretary Ron Sims, U.S. Senator Patty Murray and HUD Northwest Regional Administrator Mary E. McBride announced the award of \$1.5 million to the

Thurston County Planning Council and \$4,999,700 to the Puget Sound Regional Council to support regional planning for more livable, prosperous and sustainable communities in the Puget Sound area.

The awards were made under HUD's new Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. Forty-five organizations received awards, competitively selected from a pool of more than 1,000 applicants from across the country.

The grants are part of the Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings EPA, HUD, USDA and DOT together to ensure the agencies' policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection. This interagency teamwork gets better results for communities and uses taxpayer money more efficiently. Coordinating federal invest-

ments in infrastructure, facilities, and services meets multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives with each dollar spent.

"Regions that embrace sustainable communities will have a built-in competitive edge in attracting jobs and private investment," said Deputy Secretary Sims. "Planning our communities smarter means parents will spend less time driving and more time with their children; more families will live in safe, stable communities near good schools and jobs; and more businesses will have access to the capital and talent they need to grow and prosper. In awarding these grants we were committed to using insight and innovation from our stakeholders and local partners to develop a 'bottom-up' approach to changing federal policy as opposed to 'top-down.' Rather than sticking to the old Washington playbook of dictating how communities can invest their grants, HUD's application process encouraged creative, locally focused thinking."

The grants are awarded through one of two categories: 1) assisting regional planning for sustainable development where such plans do not currently exist; and 2) supporting implementation of existing sustainability plans.

(Continued on next page.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

-May 15-19, 2011, **Building Materials Reuse Association's DECON'11** will be held in New Haven, CT. To learn more, visit the website at www.bmra.org.

-May 16-18, 2011, **North American Waste-to-Energy Conference** will be held in Lancaster, PA. To learn more, visit the website at www.nawtec.org/.

-May 22-25, 2011, **WSRA's 31st Annual Conference** will be held in Pasco, WA. To learn more, visit the website at www.wsra.net/.

-June 14-15, 2011, **Fundamentals of Carbon Capture & Sequestration** will be held in Richland, WA. To learn more, visit the website at www.carbontechalliance.org.

-June 16-18, 2011, **33rd Annual Association of Oregon Recyclers Annual Conference and Trade Show** will be held in Seaside, OR. To learn more, visit the website at www.aorr.org.

-June 21-23, 2011, **Recycling Metals From Industrial Waste** will be held in Golden, CO. To learn more, visit the website at <http://csmospace.com/events/recycmetals/>.

-June 21-24, 2011, **A&WMA's 104th Annual Conference** will be held in Orlando, FL. To learn more, visit the website at <http://events.awma.org/ace2011/>.

-July 26-28, 2011, **Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania 21st Annual Conference** will be held in Erie, PA. To learn more, visit the website at www.proprecycles.org/Conference/2011/index.html.

HUD AWARDS GRANTS TOTALING \$6.5 MILLION TO PROMOTE SMARTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PUGET SOUND (CONTINUED.)

Shelley Poticha, Director of HUD's new Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities said, "The response to this program is huge. We were inundated with applications from every state and two territories - from central cities to rural areas and tribal governments. This program was designed by people from local government, and incorporated local input at every stage."

The Puget Sound Regional Council Sustainability Initiative will receive \$1,499,700. Partners include King, Pierce and Snohomish counties; the cities of Bellevue, Des Moines, Everett, Federal Way, Kent, Lynnwood, Mercer Island, Montlake Terrace, Redmond, Seattle, SeaTac, Shoreline and Tacoma; and Sound Transit, University of Washington, Cascade Land Trust, Impact Capital, Community Development Collaborative, Urban Land Institute, Quality Growth Alliance, and the King County and Seattle housing authorities.

The Thurston Regional Planning Council will receive \$1.5 million and focus its sustainability effort on Thurston County. Partners in the effort include Thurston County; the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Rainier, Tenino and Tumwater; the town of Bucoda; and the Washington State departments of Com-

merce and General Administration.

HUD's new [Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program](#) will support 45 state, local, and tribal governments, as well as metropolitan planning organizations in development and execution of regional plans that integrate affordable housing with neighboring retail and business development. Many of the grants will use existing infrastructure, and all will reward local collaboration and innovation.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

FOOD WASTE TO RESCUE!

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that food waste is the third largest waste stream in America . . . right behind paper and yard debris. And of the 32 million tons of food waste generated in the US in 2008, only one million tons (about 3%) were rescued to feed hungry people, animals, industry and soil. The rest fed already stuffed landfills and incinerators.

In Washington, the statistics for wasted food are similarly dismal. The [Washington Statewide Waste Characterization Study \(2009\)](#) indicates that food waste weighed in at more than 913,000 tons, and represented approximately 18% of all materials disposed. Based on the amount of waste generated plus the amount reported as recycled, food waste recycling captured almost 6% of what was generated in 2009.

Today, composting accounts for most of the food waste recycling in Washington. But by focusing on composting as the main industry to solve our food waste woes, we are ignoring a number of opportunities that can help us make the most of our food resources. To help state and local government learn about these opportunities, EPA and the US Department of Agriculture recommend a new food waste recovery hierarchy.

EPA's hierarchy is accompanied by tools such as calculators for estimating the amount and cost of wasted food, fact sheets, how-to guides and case studies of successful programs that are reducing food waste or diverting food to feed people, animals, industry and the soil. The links on the following page will take you to EPA's Website and additional information on each topic.

(Continued on next page.)

FOOD WASTE TO RESCUE! (CONTINUED.)

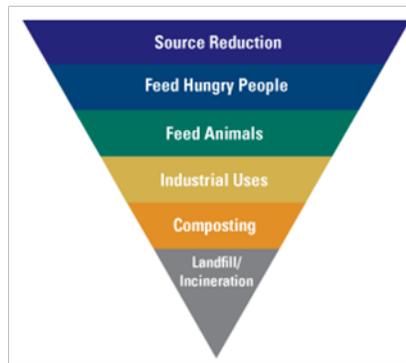
Source Reduction - Reduce the amount of food waste generated.

Feed People - Donate excess food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters.

Feed Animals - Provide food scraps to farmers.

Industrial Uses - Provide fats for rendering; oil for fuel; food discards for animal feed production; or anaerobic digestion combined with soil amendment production or composting of the residuals.

Composting - Recycle food scraps into a nutrient rich soil amendment.



The hierarchy represents the silver “buckshot” approach to reduce the impact of food waste disposal. With information about options, communities, schools, and businesses have a better chance of choosing a rescue/ recycle program that is convenient and cost effective.

Stay tuned for more information about reducing/rescuing/recycling wasted food in Washington. And if you have developed or participated in an innovative food rescue or recycling program, please contact Chery Sullivan at chery.sullivan@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6915. We’d like to hear from you.

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO REDUCE PHONE BOOK WASTE

ADAPTED AND PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION FROM CITY OF SEATTLE

Residents and businesses tired of getting two or three – or more – unwanted yellow pages phone books will soon have an efficient, effective way to stop those deliveries following the 8-1 City Council vote.

The new Seattle [ordinance](#) also requires yellow pages publishers to begin paying for recycling unwanted and outdated yellow pages directories beginning next year.

The new law creates an Opt-Out Registry that Seattle residents and businesses can access on the web, by phone or by mail. The law requires yellow pages publishers to pay the costs to operate the registry, for which the City expects to hire a contractor. The legislation also sets out penalties for yellow pages publishers who continue to deliver books when requested not to.

“Seattleites are constantly looking for ways to reduce their impact on the environment, and the Council has heard from an overwhelming number of people who don’t want phone books,” said Councilmember Mike O’Brien, who chairs the committee and is the prime sponsor of the legislation. “Creating a one-stop shop

managed by a third party will help reduce clutter, increase residential security, and save Seattle Public Utilities customers, the people of Seattle, money. This is a win-win for Seattle.”

Based on information supplied by some of the yellow pages publishers, Seattle Public Utilities estimates nearly 2 million yellow pages phone books are dropped off in Seattle every year, costing about \$350,000 to recycle.

Through the ordinance passed today, the Council established a fee of 14 cents per book to pay for the registry, likely declining to 7 cents per book after five years. Based on the principle of product stewardship where producers are responsible for recycling their products at end-of life, the legislation also imposed a cost recovery fee on yellow pages publishers, requiring them to reimburse the city for the cost of collecting and recycling discarded phone books, currently \$148 per ton.

“This ordinance has national significance as the first phone book opt-out requirement in the country,” said

(Continued on next page.)

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO REDUCE PHONE BOOK WASTE (CONTINUED.)

Scott Cassel, Executive Director of the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI). "PSI is using Seattle's legislation, along with other legislative examples from around the country, to create a model bill for states and municipalities that are ready to follow Seattle's lead."

"We will use technology and common sense to give the public the ability to pick and choose which yellow page publications they want to receive and those they do not, all in one spot. This will not only make opting-out easier, it will also reduce our recycling costs," said Councilmember Bruce Harrell.

"Combined with the expansion of organic waste services to multi-family housing, our work to reduce unwanted junk mail volumes and implementation of the foam ban earlier this year, the [Zero Waste Strat-](#)

[egy](#) is decreasing our carbon footprint and keeping Seattle on track to reach the City's recycling goal of 60 percent," said Council President Richard Conlin.

"This new law will reduce the number of unwanted phone books left on people's doorsteps and small non-profit organizations will be able to continue to distribute guides and directories to their membership or others who wish to receive them," said Councilmember Tom Rasmussen.

The registry is expected to be ready to use no later than July 1, 2011 and publishers will begin reimbursing the City's Solid Waste Fund for all 2011 deliveries.

[Read more about the Council's phone book ordinance.](#)

CHARACTERIZING WASTE IN WASHINGTON BY CATEGORY: ORGANIC MATERIALS

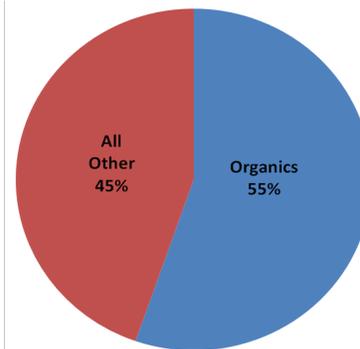
In the November 2010 edition of the Closed Loop Scoop, we ran an article called "Characterizing Waste in Washington." The following article is first in a series of follow-up articles that will focus on elements of the 2009 Washington Statewide Waste Characterization Study.

Washington State law requires the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to determine solid waste generation and recycling rates for each waste or material category. One of the largest categories of growing concern in the past 20 years is organics. The concern is so great the Beyond Waste Plan (statewide plan to reduce waste and toxics) has an initiative dedicated to increasing recycling for organic materials.

To help determine progress in organics management, the 2009 Washington Statewide Waste Characterization Study measured the amount of organic material disposed of in the state. Study results provided disposal estimates for nine organic materials, eight categories of wood debris, six types of paper packaging, and nine types of paper products.

The study shows that organic materials is the largest category of disposed waste statewide. Not including wood and paper categories, organic materials make up 27.2 percent of disposed waste. With wood debris and paper included, that number rises to 55.2 percent.

**Disposed Organic Materials
vs. All Other Materials**



(Continued on next page.)

CHARACTERIZING WASTE IN WASHINGTON BY CATEGORY (CONTINUED.)

Organic Materials Disposed in Washington		
Material Category	Estimated Percent of All Waste Disposed	Estimated Annual Tons Disposed
Organics	27.2%	1,356,253
Wood Debris	8.8%	438,174
Paper Packaging	9.4%	469,574
Paper Products	9.8%	490,049
All Organic Materials	55.2%	2,754,051
All Other Materials	44.6%	2,224,445
Total Statewide Materials	100.0%	4,978,496

When compared to past studies, waste characterization data shows how citizens' purchasing and disposal decisions are changing. It also shows progress that government, business, and industry are making implementing programs to handle those wastes. Such data is helping measure progress toward the goals of the Organics Initiative of Beyond Waste.

A previous study of the waste disposal stream in Washington, the Washington State Waste Characterization Study (1992), estimated the amount of organic material in the waste stream to be about 64.7 percent, including wood and paper. The main difference between the 1992 results and the 2009 results is that paper represented about 10 percent more of the waste stream in the previous study. Clearly we are capturing more paper for recycling now than in 1992, while disposing more of other materials.

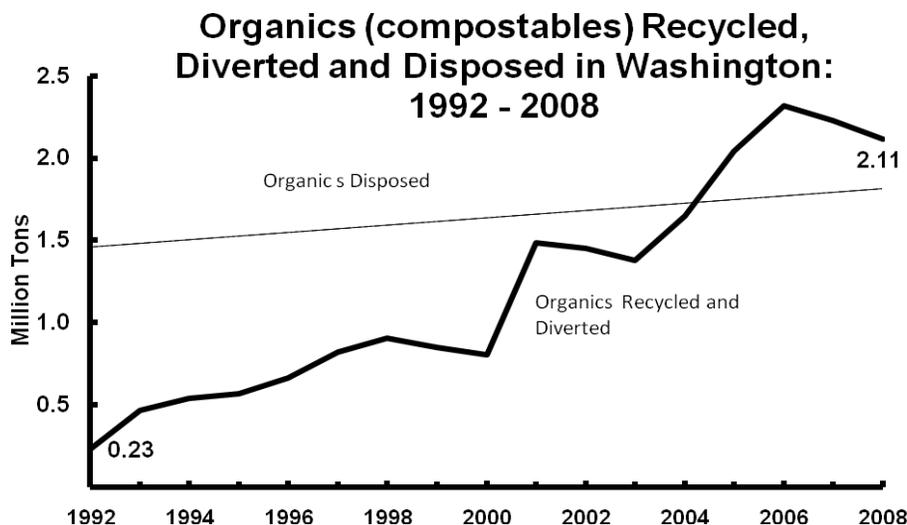
Food scraps (both vegetative and non-vegetative) is the largest single material disposed in landfills. This was true in 1992 and remains true today based

on the recent study. The percentage of food waste going to landfills has increased since 1992. Food represented 11.8 percent of the disposed waste stream in 1992, about 477 thousand tons annually. The amount of food going to landfills in 2009 is estimated at 18.3 percent or 913 thousand tons (almost double what we were throwing away in 1992).

When considering the amount of organic material recycled in 1992 compared to 2009, there have been great gains. Department of

Ecology's Annual Recycling Survey shows that organics recycling in 1992 was barely getting started, capturing only around 230 thousand tons of material for recycling and composting. In 2008, businesses and local governments reported that more than 2 million tons of organic material was recycled or composted. The amount of organics that were recycled exceeded the amount disposed in landfills and incinerators.

For more information and data contact Gretchen Newman with the Department of Ecology Waste 2 Resources Program at gretchen.newman@ecy.wa.gov.



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 email 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 email. We eagerly await your news.

Newsletter Editor: Christine Haun

Newsletter Assistant: Susanne McLemore

Dept. of Ecology
W2R
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
christine.haun@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6107

The Washington Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity agency.

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Waste 2 Resources Program at 360-407-6900. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

Printed on paper containing 50% postconsumer waste and 50% sugar cane paper, using vegetable-based ink.