

MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

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VOLUNTEERS; THE BACKBONE OF COMPUTER REUSE AND RECYCLING



Lorraine Kerwood started the non-profit-organization MacRenewal (now CRRC) out of her garage. That's when Chris Horton (fall '05) met her the first time. "The business concept immediately appealed. We can't just trash our earth. Working here is the best non paying job I have ever had," he says, "and absolutely essential to this community".

Karen Carlson tells us that "CRRC sends extracted picture tubes to a company that reprocesses the lead for other uses.

The CRT tubes are fragile and the work is not easy. Therefore, the contribution of the Master Recyclers is particularly valuable to the CRRC."

Rick Ahrens agrees. "E-waste is a growing problem that doesn't have the visibility of other recycling issues. It's nice to be around others who share the same obsessive-compulsive tendencies to conserve our planet's resources. It's also a great opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of these silicone beasts. CRRC is an easy place to volunteer as you don't need to commit to a specific time each week."

Cliff Fountain, specialized in old laser printers, says: "It is very enjoyable to fix computers people have thrown away and to find someone to buy them. Other computers are given to people in need. This is a very good feeling."

Tim Foelker concurs: "Volunteering at CRRC is greatly rewarding. Everybody is here because they WANT to be. It doesn't get any better. There are such a variety of tasks and skills needed, there's something for everybody. I've even set up a thriving little worm bin for volunteers' lunch leftovers..."

Visit our website at: www.lanecrrc.org

Foam Round Up a Success



Only master recyclers would be so smiling and bright working in such cold, wet weather. Three semi trailer loads of foam packaging was corralled from the public and sent to recycling. Many thanks to all those that made the day a success!

Reducing Waste At Work

by Risa Dotson (Spring 2005)

Most of us do a great job of recycling at home, but what about at work? I have worked for 6 years at a company with 80 employees. I'd like to share a few success stories that might help you actively try to get your place of employment to reduce waste.

1. After getting permission, I brought a container to work and started collecting compost. I dump the compost in a 4 foot by 4 foot area in my backyard. The compost at work contains mostly coffee and filters, but also quite a bit of paper towels and fruit peels.

As the "composter" at work, several co-workers have come up to me in the break room and asked me questions about composting! I have even seen the stubborn old man (who once said he did-

n't believe in composting) put his fruit peels in the compost container! I estimate is that this collection has diverted 3000 lbs. from the landfill. An added bonus is that my compost has so much coffee that it very rarely stinks!

2. I was involved in getting my department to reuse paper in the printer. The used paper is collected in a stack by the printer, and we print on the blank side before recycling it. We haven't had to buy paper for 2 years because of this. We



also tried reusing paper in the copy machine, but it jammed, so we have to use "virgin" paper for that.

3. The shipping department keeps boxes, envelopes, and styrofoam peanuts for sending- which keeps the cost of supplies down!

4. When Sarah Grimm sent out an email to collect items (calendars, cards, magnets, etc.) I posted a note at work (saying it was for art and educational programs in Eugene) and set up a box. In one month, the box quickly filled up! The feedback I got for this was all very positive.

5. The easiest and most effective success story- I posted up a small note at work that said I was a Master Recycler in Lane County, please ask me questions about Reducing, Reusing, Recycling, and Composting. People have come to me with lots of questions, and I have brought in and photocopied the brochures I collected when I was in the Master Recycler program for my co-workers. I gave the one about recycling florescent lights to my boss, and now they are taking the lights at work to True Value Hardware to be disposed of properly!

It isn't hard to do a few small things that might make a big difference. And if you think about the large amount of commercial waste there is, reducing even a little bit of that waste is well worth the effort.

The Justice of Waste Prevention

Do reformatting documents, streamlining document distribution, and double-sided printing and copying really prevent paper waste in offices? According to a case study in three Oregon courts, they sure do—by more than 200 cases of paper per year. The two year Partners in Waste Prevention project saved about \$35,000 in paper, printing, copying, mailing, and labor costs.

David Allaway, of DEQ, worked on this study of waste prevention in the Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas County circuit courts. The study report, along with an employee survey and sample e-mail messages to promote waste prevention, is available at www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=14533 or by contacting David at allaway.david@deq.state.or.us.

(from the Association of Oregon Recyclers Newsletter)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Time will fly by before you know it, and you won't want to miss these great chances to help our community!



Oregon Green Schools Summit

Friday March 17th at Willamette High School

Help welcome, register and facilitate statewide students and teachers of all ages sharing ideas on how to employ the RRR of resource conservation at their schools. **Contact Eileen Moran at eileen.t.moran@eugene.or.us or phone (541) 682-5379 to sign up** for a shift. Job duties include registration, classroom assistant, or lunchroom set-up and recyclers. Please let Eileen know what block(s) of time you'll be available to help out. If you volunteer 4 or more hours, you'll get a free lunch! - but you have to let Eileen know if you'll be joining us for lunch.

Thanks in advance for your help - you'll have a lot fun volunteering at this event!

Master Recycler Potluck

Thursday March 30th 6pm

Goodson Training rm. off Delta Hwy

Kelly Hoell and Mary Elizabeth Glenn (Spring '05) will put on a short skit for us to kick off a new season of sharing. We'll work on the BRING newsletter mailing and door prizes will consist of 2 six month subscriptions to *Sustainable Industries Journal* and your choice of coupons from my two Chinook Books. Hope you can join us for a fun evening! Library items checked out here will be due at the NEXT potluck (or sooner if you are

Earth Day

— Its not too early to sign up!

This year's theme is Sustainability; Food for Thought. This event is growing better every year. Event volunteers are needed in large quantities. Just let me know what hours you can help out and show up at the event info booth for your assignment.

Sarah.grimm@co.lane.or.us or 682-2059

Aurora Glass

Seeks Volunteers

St. Vincent de Paul's Aurora Glass is looking for volunteers to help out in the preprocessing and packaging of recycled products they make from window glass.

Pre processing glass includes sorting, breaking, removing labels etc. Safety equipment provided. And after product is made, drilling holes and an assortment of other packaging activities are also necessary.

Contact Lynn Gates, Aurora Glass, 681-3260, or lynn@auroraglass.org.

The NEXT

Master Recycler Class

begins April 4th and continues Tuesday evenings until May 30th. The same basic chapter sequence of the course will apply to this

class. If you missed a class in the past or would like a refresher, please feel free to contact me for a syllabus and confirmation of schedules. It would be nice to be able to introduce new students to experienced Master Recyclers.



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**Toot Your Horn,
Spread the Love**

Master Recyclers are invited to submit nominations at any time for the Lane County Trashbuster Awards. Forms are available from Lane County's website, www.lanecounty.org/PW_WMD_Recycle/ or Call 682-2059

Master Recyclers bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste in homes and workplaces.

- Printed on Recycled Paper -

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If you do not wish to receive this newsletter at all, please let us know & we will remove your name from our list*

Intolerable Beauty

Photographer Chris Jordan explores the dark side of consumerism and makes it somehow beautiful. His latest project, "Intolerable Beauty" has been seen as far and wide as New York, Seattle, and Italy. This series of oversized canvases, featuring the discards of society—from cell phones to cigarette butts, circuit boards to cars, gives cultural significance and visual testament to the massiveness of our waste issues. Learn and see more about Chris' work at www.chrisjordan.com.

