

MASTER RECYCLER NEWS

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It was a pleasure and delight to teach my first class with this inspiring, enthusiastic and warm group of people! This committed group is a perfect addition to the Master Recycler community. Jennifer White (front/center) has already completed her 30 volunteer hours!

Front Row from left to right: Alex Bibicoff, Lorraine Kerwood, Brady Cox, Jennifer White, Wendell Butler, Laura McNamara, Linda Frazier, Aaron Toney and Ron McMullin.

Back Row: Christina Elliot, Armando Soliz, Nina Whitney (Coordinator), Cheryl Turnbo, Dianna Larsen, Chris Laurion, Andrea Messenger, Kara Brinkman, Lisa Cassidy, Cindy Biles, John Fischer and Terri Brown.



Kitty Litter Facts - Master Recycler Terri Brown

- Up to the 1980's cat litter was made from a clay called Fuller's earth which was developed by Edward Lowe of Edward Lowe industries. They are still the largest producers of cat box filler in the U.S.
- In 1984 Thomas Nelson observed that bentonite clay clumped in the presence of moisture. Today roughly 60% of the cat litter sold in the US is clumping variety and most is made of bentonite clay.
- 90% of the market is clay based litter. It is estimated that more than 160,000 tons of nonbiodegradable cat litter ends up in municipal solid-waste landfills each year.
- 1994 1.5 million metric tons of clay were mined to make absorbent cat litter.
- All clay contains crystalline silica, which is considered a known human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.
- Recent alternatives are litters derived from plant sources: newspaper, pine sawdust, corn, corncobs, wheat byproducts, beet pulp and kenaf.
- New to the market is litter made from silica gel, an odorless mineral mostly seen in desiccant packets, largely imported from China.
- Very few cat litter containers list the ingredients in their products.

Computer Reuse and Recycling Center has a new name and a new location!

- Lorraine Kerwood, Director of NextStep Recycling/ Master Recycler

Three years ago, I moved MacRenewal, a computer refurbishing nonprofit, out of my mother in law's garage into a 2900 sq. foot warehouse in the Whiteaker neighborhood. MacRenewal grew into Computer Reuse and Recycling Center, an electronic refurbisher AND recycling center occupying 10,000 sq. ft. in a just a few months. CRRC has grown so fast and is meeting the electronic recycling needs of Lane County so well, that we have again outgrown our present warehouse. CRRC passed the 5000 mark in computers donated, and the 1,000,000 pounds of electronic waste recycled responsibly (that's over 500 tons)!

Because of Lane County's dedication to reuse and recycling, CRRC has grown into an organization with a 16 member staff and a group of 100 volunteers and is now moving into a 15,500 square foot building. The new building will be divided into three spaces housing refurbishers, recyclers, and a used electronics thrift store. We are changing our

name to encourage community members to "take that next step" with their electronic waste and consider the reuse stream first and the recycling stream second as viable options for electronic items no longer needed.

As we have for the last three years, NextStep is looking to capture the end of the year electronics dumping that happens due to new purchases, so, if you know someone who is receiving a new electronic toy, please encourage them to take the next step and give their old toy a new life in our community and donate it to NextStep Recycling. If it has reached the end of it's useful life, NextStep volunteers will dismantle it and recycle it with northwest processors chosen for their environmental stewardship standards.

NextStep Recycling's grand opening ribbon cutting will be February 16th, 2007. Mayor Kitty Piercy and Lane County recycling gurus will be on hand to launch the next fabulous

adventure for our organization. Look for your invitation and come out and support the most rockin' electronics refurbisher and recycling nonprofit in the whole USA!

Help our community take the next step in protecting our environment and empowering those who do not have access to technology and make your donation of obsolete electronics or volunteer at our new location, 2101 W. 10th (10th and Garfield) Eugene, OR 97402 541-686-2366! Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. <http://www.nextsteprecycling.org>

For more information or to volunteer to help with the move you can contact me directly at, 541-731-9642. Lorraine Kerwood

COMPUTER REUSE AND RECYCLING CENTER
 We're growing. We're moving. We're changing our name.



Transforming e-waste for the next generation.
 2101 West 10th Ave. | Eugene, OR 97402

Polylactic Acid (PLA) - song by Nina Whitney

How much corn will we have to grow
 For this container for my salad to go
 And when the greens are gone where does the container go
 There's no recycling option yet and my compost pile's too cold

Polylactic Acid or PLA
 Compostable plastic, yeah it biodegrades
 Uses less energy, than other plastics, to make
 And it's made from corn, not oil, isn't that great!

Compostable is a bit of a misnomer
 It doesn't make any humus when it's life is over
 It degrades into carbon dioxide and water
 Not anything of use to a gardener

Polylactic Acid or PLA
 Compostable plastic, yeah it biodegrades
 Uses less energy, than other plastics, to make
 And it's made from corn, not oil, isn't that great!



It will degrade in a commercial compost heap
 Cause they get up to 130 degrees
 For an event Jack Hoek will sell you PLA beer cups
 Collect them with the food scraps and take it all to Rexius

Polylactic acid or PLA
 Compostable plastic, yeah it biodegrades
 Uses less energy, than other plastics, to make
 And it's made from corn, not oil, isn't that great!

Price Chopper even Wal-Mart use PLA containers
 This is great news for eco-conscious consumers
 For recycling we'll have to look to the future
 And support Nature Works in being good product stewards.

Polylactic acid or PLA
 Compostable plastic, yeah it biodegrades
 Uses less energy, than other plastics, to make
 And it's made from corn, not oil, isn't that great!

Recognition for Completion of 30 Master Recycler hours!

Have you completed your 30 volunteer hours to “payback” the Master Recycler program? Sarah Grimm, Lane County Waste Reduction Specialist, has instituted a way to honor those of you who have. Come to our next potluck and receive your green enamel chasing arrows pin, or earn a few hours toward your 30!

The following Master Recyclers have completed 30 hours of volunteering - *Thank you and Congratulations!*

Cliff Fountain	Jennifer Fogerty-Gibson	hayne Recknagal	Liz Gimenez	Craig Nielsen	Wende Hitchcock
Kent Calvin	Zachary Zakon	Pat Sweeney	Joshua Welch	Mark Zentner	Bill Surber
Karen Carlson	Michael Golden	Annie Donahue	Janet Dahlgren	Jill Curran	Sharon Mulford
Nancy Zimmerman	Alexandra Gerrard	Ward Ricker	Barbara Edmonds	Heidi Knight-Meigs	Jamie Hoerter
Tim Foelker	Judy Potter	Jill Devine	Jeff Lander	Anita Pierce	Erika Seiferling
Suzanne Shannon	Laoni Davis	Dave Franzen	Dwan Rae	Robin Irish	Claire Dross
Christopher Horton	Mike Pecue	Donald Gerard	Marilyn Sass	Sylvia Shaw	Susan Ogawa
Gary Cornelius	Rosella McGuffin	Kristina Measells	Diane Warnock	Risa Dotson	Jennifer White Hilary
Nancy Stark	Laura Ohanian Cheri	Chris Veloon	Peggy Coffman Alan	Robert Jacobucci	Fisher Amanda
Aruna Aleem	Smith	Ernie Marsuka	Hamel	Alex Kelly	Poston
Trudy Lyne	Jeff Simons	Connie French	Alice Burch	Helen Buzenberg	BJ Hurwich
Rex Fox	Reed Slater S	Holly Garrow	Betty Weaver	Mary Elizabeth Glenn	

If you think your name should be on this list please call Nina Whitney, 682-2059, and make sure I have all or your volunteer work reported correctly. The hours are calculated based on quarterly reports submitted by you.

Time is Ripe for a Better Bottle Bill - Sarah Grimm



Oregon’s Bottle Bill, now over the hill at 35 years old, is sorely in need of an upgrade. Representative, Vicki Berger, is determined to present a Better Bottle Bill to the Legislature as the new year begins. Vicki is confident that the “stars are aligned” and the time is ripe. At a recent statewide forum about the Bottle Bill, Vicki strongly suggested that citizens wanting to see an improved Bottle Bill should contact their law makers right away.

This is a call to action for Master Recyclers. Please respond by contacting your representatives and senators, let them know that a better Bottle Bill would be good for Oregon. Then get your friends and family across the state to contact their representatives. Your first words should be “as a constituent.....”, or “I am your constituent” and respectfully request they attend to the issues most important to you.

Currently, the bottle deposit system, as enacted by the legislature in 1971, covers only carbonated beverages, i.e. beer and soda because that’s all there was littering the highways three decades ago. Today the beverage industry has exploded and we see every kind of

beverage imaginable, served in bottles, cans, plastic and glass, even pouches.

While the recycling rate for Bottle Bill containers remains quite high (over 80%) and provides a much higher quality material to mills and manufacturing plants than curbside collection, this new flood of nondeposit containers is more than twice as likely to be littered or trashed.

In addition to the need to expand the types of beverages included, many suggest that raising the deposit amount will be an important step to reinvigorating the positive affects of a Bottle Bill. That nickel of 1971 is now worth twenty-five cents. While it is unlikely the public would be willing to pay an extra \$1.50 for the 6 pack of soda they bought for \$2.00, a 10 cent increase would go a long way to encourage more returns for deposit.

The last big issue regarding the Bottle Bill is where the money goes. In the current system, beverage distributors and bottlers initiate the deposit charge, and it is to them the bottles return. If a bottle or can is tossed in the trash, recycled curbside or otherwise not returned to the

store, they get to keep that nickel. Researchers estimate that this adds up to possibly 10 million dollars worth of nickels annually. There is no way to know for sure, since the law never contained reporting requirements.

Besides significant foot traffic with loose change, grocery stores get no compensation for the hard work and inconvenience of bottle collection, counting and storing. While it is quite obvious why the beverage distributors have no interest in changing the system, it is less understood why the grocery industry has consistently stood so strong against changes that could potentially result in moving the sticky mess out of their stores.

Changing the system of cash flow, or instituting redemption centers are details still to be worked out. The important thing is to make sure law makers hear from us NOW. When Vicki Berger’s Bill comes before them, we want each of them to remember all the cards and emails they received on this issue and be motivated to make it happen.

Please help make it happen, contact your representatives today!

Lane County Public Works
Waste Management Division

Master Recycler Program
3100 E. 17th Ave.
Eugene OR 97403

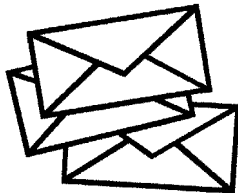
Phone: 541-682-2059
Fax: 541-682-2353
Email: nina.whitney@co.lane.or.us



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

Changes in Junk Mail registry.

It now costs \$1 to take your name off of commercial mailing lists. For more information go to the Direct Marketing Association's website at www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailing



And remember, you will need to do this every five years.

- Printed on Recycled Paper -

*If you prefer to receive this newsletter without the paper, send an email to nina.whitney@co.lane.or.us
If you do not wish to receive this newsletter at all, please let us know & we will remove your name from our list*

Events and volunteer opportunities for the Winter!

January 26th - 28

Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show

Lane County Fair Grounds

Master Recyclers are needed to help Lane County Waste Management staff at our Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Waste and Master Recycler Program booth. Join us in informing our community about safe disposal of HHW and E-waste. Come tell others about the Master Recycler program and help recruit the next class! Get folks to spin the wheel of waste and give away e-waste coupons, safe home cleaning kits and recycling bumper stickers. Call Nina to sign up for one of the following shifts:

- Friday, Jan. 26th, 6 - 8 pm
- Saturday, Jan. 27th: 3-5 pm or 5-8 pm
- Sunday, Jan. 28th: 11am - 1pm, 1-3 pm or 3-5 pm

January 2nd - 16th, (Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 6pm)

Third annual Zachary Zakon Block Foam Round Up

NextStep Recycling - 2101 W. 10th (10th and Garfield)

Held right after the holidays, kicks off a permanent Styrofoam recycling program, available year-round, at NextStep Recycling. The free Round Up will take place for two full weeks after the holidays. Drop off during business hours only.

During the roundup recycling is free. \$2 per cubic foot throughout the year. Call NextStep for information or to volunteer, 686-2366.

February 16th, 1-4 pm, Grand Reopening of NextStep Recycling, 2101 W. 10th

March 1-4, Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, call Land Air Water for more info. 346-3828

Tuesday, March 20th, 6-9 pm

Spring Master Recycler Potluck

Goodson Training Room - 3040 N. Delta Highway

March 8-11, Home and Garden Show, call BRING Recycling to volunteer in their booth 746-3023