



**Recycle at Work**  
*from Metro and Washington County  
 Solid Waste and Recycling Program*

# Recycle at Work

Spring/Summer 2011

Business Bulletin

## first 50 Recycle at Work Award Celebration



*Pictured - On the left: Representatives from the "first 50" Recycle at Work Award-winning businesses enjoy snacks and activities during the April 19, 2011 event. On the right: District # 4 Award-winners with Washington County Board Chairman Andy Duyck, during the April 19, 2011 board meeting.*

At its April 19th board meeting, the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized and celebrated 50 county businesses and organizations for their sustainable practices in the workplace.

Bestowed the honor of being the Washington County Recycle at Work program's "first 50," awardees represented the full spectrum of the county's business sector, including manufacturing, retail, accounting, insurance, landscaping, restaurants, medical and dental, construction, engineering, architecture, information technology businesses, as well as public agencies and non-profits.

Businesses were awarded for their innovative recycling and waste prevention practices, and for going above and beyond with their efforts to conserve natural resources through energy and water conservation, as well as alternative transportation programs.

For example, Pacific Natural Foods composts its tea waste

from the manufacturing process and annually converts millions of pounds of soy by-product into a high-protein cattle feed; the Tualatin Valley Water District reuses and recycles uniforms, shoes, electronics, old meter registers, cell phones, Styrofoam and lawn mowers; and the City of Hillsboro's Parks Maintenance Department uses a water reclamation system that allows it to capture and clean water run-off, so the water can be reused to wash maintenance equipment.

Other examples common among organizations include systems to donate unwanted items such as office supplies, computer equipment and furniture, and surplus food through the *Fork it Over!* program. In addition, several organizations provide bus passes for employees, use hybrid cards and make bicycles available for staff that work on large campuses for travel between buildings without driving a car.

"The award winners exemplify a commitment to our community that

extends beyond the valuable services they provide to include stewardship of our natural resources," says Theresa Koppang, Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling supervisor. "They are to be commended for their leadership and advancements in recycling and waste prevention practices."

The county's Recycle at Work program is a partnership with Metro and is provided to each of the county's respective jurisdictions, with critical support provided by recycling collection companies and recycling processors. The program helps businesses and organizations meet their goals to reduce waste and recycle, as well as meet the local Business Recycling Requirements adopted by their jurisdiction.

To find out more about the [Washington County Recycle at Work](http://www.washingtoncountyrecycleatwork.org) program, or to schedule a visit from a recycling specialist, please call (503) 846-8609 or send an e-mail to [recycle@co.washington.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.washington.or.us).

*What's inside...*

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- 2 Recycle at Work Award-winning Businesses
- 3 What's the Problem with Paper?
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# Recycle at Work Businesses

## Current Washington County Recycle at Work Award-winners

The Washington County Recycle at Work program is pleased to recognize the following businesses for their accomplishments.

Support local businesses that are working to make Washington County a more sustainable place to live, work and play. These **Recycle at Work** Businesses have been recognized by the **Recycle at Work** program for their achievements in the areas of recycling, waste prevention, and environmentally preferable purchasing.

*If your business is located in Washington County and is working to recycle, prevent waste and purchase recycled-content products, contact the **Recycle at Work** program for more information about the **Recycle at Work Business Award**.*

[Click here to view Business Spotlight articles.](#)

Spotlight on Business

### Banks

Banks Trail Cafe  
Montes Management & Consulting  
Pre-Paid Legal Services  
Swatco Sanitary Service

### Cornelius

City of Cornelius

### Forest Grove

Woodfold Manufacturing  
WSC Insurance

### Hillsboro

City of Hillsboro - Parks Maintenance  
City of Hillsboro - Senior Center  
Clean Copy  
Clean Water Services  
Click Commerce  
Epson Portland Inc.  
Genentech  
Greenspace  
Insomnia Coffee  
Jones & Roth CPA  
New Seasons Market - Orenco Station  
Norm Thompson Outfitters  
Pacific Landscape Management  
RFM Preferred Seating  
Security Title  
SolarWorld  
SOLV  
Ticor-Title  
Washington County  
Whole Foods Market - Tanasbourne

### Tigard

Ash Creek Forest Management  
City of Tigard  
Clean Water Services  
Club Sport Oregon  
DeAngelo's Catering  
GeoDesign Inc.  
ID Experts  
IKON Office Solutions  
Marco Ideas Unlimited  
Portland Catering Company  
Ticor-Title

### Tualatin

City of Tualatin  
Oregon Scientific  
Pacific Natural Foods  
VWR International

### Unincorporated Washington County

Consumer Cellular  
In Line Commercial Construction  
New Seasons Market - Raleigh Hills  
Nike Inc. World Headquarters  
Scholls Valley Native Nursery  
Ticor-Title  
Tualatin Valley Water District  
Vangelisti Kocher LLP  
WHPacific  
Winzler & Kelly  
World of Smiles Pediatric Dentistry

### Eco-Logical Landscape Services

The Eco-Logical Business Program (Eco-Biz) recognizes organizations that minimize the negative environmental impact of their operations.

Congratulations to the following Eco-Biz Landscape Service providers located in Washington County!

Baseline Landscapes  
Pacific Landscape Management  
Willamette Landscape Services  
Winterbloom, Inc.



# What's the Problem with Paper?

Paper is an essential tool for any organization to function properly, as its uses are imbedded into virtually every task we do. For example, since the introduction of e-mail, paper consumption in the U.S. working world has increased by roughly 40 percent. Nationally, it is estimated that the average number of paper documents generated annually is growing at a rate of at least 22 percent, and that only 15 percent of all U.S.-based businesses actually incorporate duplex, or double-sided, printing into their printing practices.

The constant influx of digital devices designed to reduce our paper consumption have, for the most part, failed to move the commercial, institutional and industrial sectors into a more paperless direction. Fortunately, 87 percent of all American residents and businesses (roughly 268 million people) have access to some form of curbside or drop-off paper recycling program and a record 64 percent of all paper and paperboard was recovered in 2010.

So, it would appear that these strong recycling programs have alleviated the U.S. paper problem, right? Not exactly. Paper and paperboard still make up the largest chunk of the nation's annual waste generation pie, at more than 28 percent. Additionally, one-third of all the paper and cardboard used nationwide is still being sent to the landfill, roughly 30 million tons each year.

But this is Oregon, so are things better here? We still have a paper problem in Oregon. Area businesses toss an estimated 23 tons of paper every 30 minutes of the workday and that is only what we do not recycle. That amount of paper would fill Pioneer Courthouse Square with a five-foot pile of paper every day, and requires the harvesting of many acres of trees needed to produce new paper.

## Be Part of the Solution

- Recycle paper and cardboard.
- Think before you print.
- When printing is necessary, print double-sided.
- Adjust document, form and application margins and use print preview.
- Circulate documents electronically.
- Reuse single-sided scrap paper.

Start a paper reduction campaign at your business today! For free on-site assistance and resources, contact the [Recycle at Work](#) program at (503) 846-8609 or [recycle@co.washington.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.washington.or.us).

# Consider *the Impact ...*

Area businesses throw away **23 tons of paper and cardboard every 30 minutes**. That would cover Pioneer Courthouse Square with a five foot pile of paper every day!



## Be Part of the Solution

- Recycle paper and cardboard
- Think before you print
- When printing is necessary, print double-sided
- Adjust your margins and use print preview
- Circulate documents electronically



Recycle at Work  
from Metro and Washington County

503-846-8609 | [www.RecycleWise.org](http://www.RecycleWise.org)

# Be Recognized for Your Accomplishments

Washington County businesses qualify for the [Recycle at Work Business Award](#) by implementing simple steps. Create less waste, recycle, and buy recycled content products, all actions that make Washington County a healthier place to live, work and conduct business.

Your organization could be considered for the newsletter's "Spotlight on Business" article and listed as a [Recycle at Work Business](#) on Washington County's business recognition web page.



How to qualify:

- use paper made with at least 30 percent recycled-content;
- use at least three other recycled-content products;
- have an established "green" team or recycling coordinator;
- collect paper, cardboard, plastic bottles and tubs, aluminum, tin and glass for recycling;
- engage in at least five waste prevention activities; and
- implement other sustainable practices throughout your workplace.

Our team will guide you through the application process and assist you in achieving your sustainability goals.

To apply for the award, or for more information, contact the [Washington County Recycle at Work](#) program at [www.RecycleWise.org](http://www.RecycleWise.org) or call (503) 846-8609.

Every business can make a difference.

*Does not apply to home based businesses*

## Upcoming Events

### Portland General Electric Class Lighting Upgrades - The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

2 World Trade Center, Portland

7:30a.m. - Noon

[www.portlandgeneral.com/business/news\\_classes/classes](http://www.portlandgeneral.com/business/news_classes/classes)

### Association of Oregon Recyclers "Sustainable Oregon" Annual Conference

June 16 - 18, 2011

Seaside Convention Center, Seaside,

[www.aorr.org/conference.html](http://www.aorr.org/conference.html)

### Business Recycling Workshop

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Pacific University, Health Professions

Campus - Hillsboro, OR

6:00 - 7:30p.m.

[www.tinyurl.com/bizrecycle](http://www.tinyurl.com/bizrecycle)

### Beaverton / Hillsboro Green Drinks

Last Wednesday of every month

Location varies.

5:45 - 8:00p.m.

[www.greendrinks.org/OR/Beaverton%20Hillsboro](http://www.greendrinks.org/OR/Beaverton%20Hillsboro)

## Free Energy Resources and Assistance



Portland General Electric

A focus on energy efficiency can help you control your energy use, boost your bottom line and reduce your carbon footprint. You can save money in your operations and help the environment at the same time. PGE offers free energy-efficiency consultations for its business customers.



During the consultation, a PGE representative will help you identify energy-saving opportunities and prioritize your efforts based on your budget and goals. PGE will also connect you with Energy Trust of Oregon incentives, State of Oregon Business Energy Tax Credits and trusted contractors. To request your free consultation, visit [www.PortlandGeneral.com/SaveEnergy](http://www.PortlandGeneral.com/SaveEnergy) or call Paula Conway at (503) 464-7970.

Visit [www.PortlandGeneral.com/Business](http://www.PortlandGeneral.com/Business) if you're interested in renewable power, registering your account for mobile communications with PGE, or for industry-specific energy-saving tips. The specially-trained business team is also available at (503) 228-6322 or by e-mail, at [Business.Services@pge.com](mailto:Business.Services@pge.com).

# BUSINESS RECYCLING GUIDE



## PAPER NEWSPAPERS MAGAZINES

Include paper of all colors (tape, staples, glue, paper clips okay), envelopes (windows and labels okay), spiral-bound notebooks, file folders, phone books and milk cartons (empty and rinsed).

Do not include coffee cups, label-backing sheets, frozen food boxes, bath tissue, paper towels, or waxed cardboard boxes.



## SHREDDED PAPER

Call your garbage and recycling company for preparation instructions.

Do not place loose in recycling container.



## CARDBOARD

Flatten cardboard boxes.

Do not include wax-coated cardboard, take-out food containers or pizza boxes.



## PLASTIC TUBS AND BOTTLES

Include yogurt-type containers (6 ounces or larger), rigid plant pots (4 inches or larger) and buckets (5 gallons or smaller). Rinse containers.

Do not include plastic bags, lids or take-out food containers.



## METAL CANS

Include rinsed aluminum, tin and steel food cans, empty aerosol cans and empty, dry, metal paint cans.

Do not flatten. Do not include lids (unless they are attached to cans).



## FOIL

Remove food from foil. Crumple into loosely-packed balls.



## SCRAP METAL

Include scrap metal that is smaller than 30 inches in any direction and less than 40 pounds.

Do not include metal that has plastic, food, or other non-metal materials attached.



## GLASS

### RECYCLE GLASS SEPARATELY

Recycle glass bottles and jars in a separate container.

Do not include lightbulbs, drinking glasses, or dishware.



# GUÍA DE RECICLAJE



## PERIÓDICOS REVISTAS CATÁLOGOS

Incluya propaganda, tarjetas postales y papel misceláneo.

No incluya ligas de goma, ni bolsas de plástico.

## CARTÓN

Aplane las cajas de cartón.

No incluya cajas de cartón encerado, ni cajas para pizza.



## CARTONES DE LECHE CAJAS DE BEBIDAS

Enjuague para quitar todos los restos de comida.

No incluya los popotes.

## PAPEL SUELTO

El papel suelto incluye: propaganda postal, sobres, papel de oficina, tarjetas, tubos de papel, papel para envolver y cajas de cereal (pero no la bolsa).

No incluya papel higiénico, toallas de papel, cajas de comida congelada, tazas de café ni papel cubierto con comida, cera, aluminio o plástico.



## ENVASES Y BOTELLAS DE PLÁSTICO

Los envases incluyen: recipientes como los de yogur (6 onzas o más), macetas rígidas de 4" a 12" en diámetro, y cubetas de hasta 5 galones. Enjuague los envases.

No incluya las tapas. No incluya botellas que se hayan usado para aceite de automóvil, pesticidas o herbicidas.

## LATAS DE METAL

Las latas incluyen: latas de aluminio, estaño y acero para alimentos, y latas de metal para pintura vacías y secas. Enjuague las latas de alimentos para quitar los restos de comida. Ponga las tapas de metal dentro de las latas y pliegue para cerrarlas.

No las aplaste.



## LATAS DE AEROSOL

Las latas deben estar vacías.

No incluya las tapas de plástico. No aplaste ni perforo las latas ni quite las boquillas.



## PAPEL ALUMINIO

Quite la comida del papel aluminio. Límpielo y estrújalo formando bolas que no son apretadas.



## CHATARRA

Incluya chatarra de menos de 30 pulgadas en cualquier dirección y que pesa menos de 30 libras.

No incluya metal que tiene pegado plástico, comida u otros materiales que no son de metal.

## RECICLE EL VIDRIO POR SEPARADO



# Business Recycling Workshops

Gain a marketing advantage over your competitors - reduce the amount of waste your business sends to the landfill and save money on your bottom line. Going green is not a fad; it is a business trend with a significant economic incentive. Join the movement by attending these free, special business recycling workshops put on in collaboration with the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, City of Hillsboro, and Washington County's [Recycle at Work](#) program.

Register to attend the workshops at [www.tinyurl.com/bizrecycle](http://www.tinyurl.com/bizrecycle). The workshops are free to attend and do not require chamber membership. Light refreshments will be served.

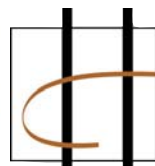
## What can you expect?

- Meet other Hillsboro business leaders.
- Share best management practices in sustainability.
- Learn more about the [Recycle at Work](#) program and its free on-site assistance.
- Get the latest information on recycling requirements for all businesses.
- Leave knowing how to improve your business' recycling performance and save natural resources and money.

## Upcoming workshops

- June 23, 2011  
Pacific University  
Health Professions Campus  
6:00 - 7:30p.m.
- September 22, 2011  
AmberGlen Business Center,  
11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.

For more information or to request free on-site technical assistance, contact the Washington County [Recycle at Work](#) program at (503) 846-8609 or [recycle@co.washington.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.washington.or.us), or the City of Hillsboro at (503) 681-5204.



## Business Recycling Workshops

brought to you by the Washington County Cooperative Recycling Program, the City of Hillsboro, and the Greater Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce.

Click here to attend the...  
[Recycling Workshops](#)

## Past Recycling Workshops, Looking Back

This year, the Washington County Recycle at Work Program, the City of Hillsboro and the Greater Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce are conducting a series of Business Recycling Workshops in Hillsboro. If you were able to attend one of the first two workshops, you experienced "a great presentation and workshop with a lot of valuable information," said Cheryl Wilhelm,

with Far West Fibers.

The January workshop highlighted Huron Consulting Group's pursuit of sustainability. In March, attendees were provided a snapshot of how SolarWorld's active green team is helping the company to improve its sustainable efforts in a green energy industry. Both companies demonstrated how their staff strengthened ongoing recycling and waste reduction efforts. They set up green teams and leveraged assistance from various sources and partnerships, including the [Recycle at Work](#) program, to expand operating efficiencies.

Jeff Murray from Far West Fibers, a local recycling processor, focused on the scourge of plastic film clogging up area recycling facilities, and Portland General Electric provided tips



Pictured - SolarWorld's Byran Trotter gives a presentation on Sustainability at Solar World during the March 23rd Business Recycling Workshop.

### Upcoming Workshop!

June 23, 2011  
Pacific University  
Health Professions Campus  
6:00 - 7:30p.m.

RSVP & Details at:

[www.tinyurl.com/bizrecycle](http://www.tinyurl.com/bizrecycle)

Sponsored by Pacific University

on how to reduce energy use in the work place. To capture it all was The Center for a Sustainable Today's "Sustainable Today TV" program. Join us on June 23rd at the Pacific University Health Professions Campus in Hillsboro, for the next Business Recycling Workshop.

# The Plastic Bag Predicament

They are common age-old debates: Coke or Pepsi? Mac or PC? Paper or plastic? For the latter, it is more than just a preference for how we want to carry the products we purchase; it has also become a global environmental debate that affects us both on land and at sea.

Worldwide, between 500 billion and one trillion plastic bags are used every year by consumers, with the U.S. responsible for approximately 100 billion of that figure. According to the California Conservation Corps, plastic waste (e.g., film, wrap, twine, etc.) accounts for between 60 percent and 80 percent of the debris in our oceans and on our beaches, and up to 90 percent of the floating debris found at sea.

From the diversion standpoint, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency statistics tell us that about 10 percent of all plastic bags, sacks and wraps used nationally in 2009 were recovered and recycled, the highest U.S. recovery rate ever recorded for such products. This recovered material, much of it collected via the nearly 12,000 film drop-off outlets located throughout the U.S., is used to manufacture new products, such as composite lumber, sewer piping, flower pots, trash bags, and even new plastic bags.

Further, the American Chemistry Council notes that nearly 65 percent of Americans reuse their bags

for such activities as trash disposal, as lunch bags or, its most notable re-use activity, to hold Fido's business. However, in the end, even when reused, most plastic bags still find their way to the landfill, where it can take anywhere from a decade to a century for the bag to break down.

You may be asking yourself, "how is this relevant to me? What can my business do to lessen plastic waste?" In your daily operations, search for alternatives to using plastic film, wrap, or bags, and use reusable bags when you shop at grocery or department stores. Your business can also work with a recycling specialist to establish on-site recycling programs for plastic bag and film products.

Many local lawmakers, environmental groups and trade organizations want thin plastic bags used by the masses to become a thing of the past.

Since 2006, legislatures in California, Delaware, New York and Rhode Island have enacted measures (many others have tried, but failed) that require specific retailers to establish in-store recycling programs for used, plastic, carry-out bags. Some states have attempted to ban the retail distribution of plastic carry-out bags, but to no avail.

Is banning the distribution of plastic bags the answer? A new debate has now surfaced with respect to



*Pictured - Shopping bag tangled in a tree, courtesy of Andrew Green.*

plastic bags: ban or recycle. Our choices as plastic consumers will help answer this question.

For plastic film, bag and wrap recycling options, contact the [Recycle at Work](http://Recycle at Work) program at (503) 846-8609 or [recycle@co.washington.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.washington.or.us).

**In Oregon, roughly 80 percent of all consumers choose plastic over paper, which equates to about 10 plastic bags distributed per one paper bag.**

## Quick Links!



## Recycle at Work

*from Metro and Washington County  
Solid Waste and Recycling Program*

To contact the [Washington County Recycle at Work](http://Washington County Recycle at Work) program visit [www.RecycleWise.org](http://www.RecycleWise.org) or call (503) 846-8609