



The

# Earth WISE Bulletin

The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County

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### Important dates:

- Sept. 21 Pringle Creek Community event
- Sept. 22 Autumnal equinox
- Oct. 11 Cart to Art event
- Oct. 20 Green Award nominations available
- Oct. 24-26 Home & Remodeling Show at Oregon State Fairgrounds
- Nov. 2 Daylight savings time ends
- Nov. 4 Election day
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving



## 10 great green/environmental/sustainable things about Marion County

By Alan Pennington

Enjoying a brief pause from the unseasonably hot, dry weather, I had a chance to ponder a question I received the other day. A buddy of mine from down south wanted to know how we manage to recycle so much.



Wrong guy to ask.

Pretty soon my mouth was running faster than California Chrome. I launched into curbside recycling and organics collection, which then led to battery and Styrofoam recycling, and so on. But before I could get to mining metal from ash or the number of tons of baling twine that are discarded every year, his eyes began to glaze like a Voodoo donut. I had hit information overload.

So, savoring a more leisurely pace, I have ciphered a list of the top ten things that make Marion County a great place for waste reduction and sustainability efforts. To eschew partisanship, I've placed them in alphabetical order. They are:

- **Agri-Plas** - A plastics recovery giant in our midst who provides an outlet for collecting many agricultural, commercial, and residential plastics. The Jongsma Family is well known amongst hard-core recyclers who make the pilgrimage to Brooks to give them their recyclable, but non-curbside, plastics.



- **Biodiesel** - The SeSequential Pacific Biodiesel plant in Salem produced its 20 millionth gallon of biodiesel less than a year ago. Much of the material for that fuel comes from used cooking oil collected locally, some of it is even picked-up curbside! The fuel is sold locally as well.
- **Composting** - Whether it be yard debris or food waste (organics!), yards and yards of the stuff are made everyday from two commercial sites—Pacific Region Compost (PRC) near Corvallis and NW Greenlands-Aumsville—and one Marion County site on Brown's Island.



- **EarthWISE** - Question: Which county assists businesses in reducing waste, encourages sustainable efforts, AND promotes them in print, on-line, radio, and TV? Hint: rhymes with “carrion” and “mouny.”
- **Garten Services** - Besides providing employment and support for people with disabilities, Garten has been quietly expanding its recycling operations over the past 30 years. This includes hand sorting comingled materials from curbside bins, electronics and battery recycling, and providing zero-waste event assistance. They’re also handlers of recyclable “odds and ends” like CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and non-curbside film plastic.

*Garten*

Serving people with disabilities since 1970.

- **Garbage Haulers** - Yes... garbage haulers. Our county is a bit of an Oregon oddball in the way it operates its garbage franchising, but suffice it to say it works really well...and part of the reason for that is that the eight companies that operate in our fair county take their waste reduction duties seriously. The fact that we have one of the most eclectic curbside collection menus in America speaks volumes—paint, batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, glass, and used cooking oil. Who else does this???



- **Green Awards** - Five years of celebrating mighty deeds by great individuals, organizations, and efforts shows that our Mid-Valley community—be it business, non-profit, or individual—has a leading role in all things verdant and positive.



- **Hazardous Waste Disposal** - While there is a frightening amount of powerfully toxic chemicals lurking in every garage or janitorial closet in this country, Marion County offers residents a free way to rid themselves of unwanted or expired products. And while this service is not free to businesses, advice and services are readily available. One would have to go 50 miles to find another such service.

- **Master Recyclers** - If I told you that they are *legion*, I wouldn’t be exaggerating; over 600 strong have gone through the Master Recycler program in the past 20 years. This 3R army of goodness has used their training to expand waste reduction efforts wherever they go—their job, school, club, or church. Marion County’s incredible recycling rate for the past decade is in no small part due to these champions.



- **Pringle Creek Community** - This grand experiment in sustainable living is “walking the walk” like no other in the entire state. From streets that drain rain without storm drains to community gardens to net-zero energy homes and community center, this place has it all.

- **Waste-to-energy (Covanta)** - How did this thing ever get built?? Nearly 30 years ago a group of community activists and politicians advocated the make-electricity-from-waste concept and somehow navigated it through the firestorm of political process to ultimate fruition. Proving doomsayers wrong, the incinerator at Brooks has provided the county with a safer alternative to traditional landfilling of wastes while creating an alternative energy source.



Was that ten? I think that I could include a slew of other items that make MC cool, but that’ll have to wait for another day. The main thing is this: we live in an amazing place with some terrific systems/institutions in place that keep it ticking like a shiny Timex. And while not everyone in the Valley is “on board,” we’re set to keep making progress through example and practice that others—and we—can learn from.

# Turning Plastics To Oil In Portland? Maybe Later

Waste Management shuts down operation that converts plastic back into oil

By Cassandra Profita, OPB EarthFix

A **Portland facility** that turns hard-to-recycle plastics into crude oil will be shuttered while owner Waste Management explores newer technology options.

It's only been operating for 16 months, but perhaps not as well as the company had hoped.

The plant takes hard-to-recycle plastics and turns them into crude oil, using technology developed by the Beaverton company Agilyx. The process uses pyrolysis — an oxygen-free heating process — to purify the material and condense it into crude oil.

It's an alternative, eco-friendly path for dirty and mixed-material plastics that are rejected by traditional recycling facilities because they contaminate the recycled plastic. The resulting crude oil produced can be refined into gasoline, low-sulfur diesel, inks and new plastics.

Waste Management invested some of the \$22 million in new venture capital raised by Agilyx in 2011.

The Portland facility has been utilizing things like the film plastic used to wrap pallets for transportation, tarps used to cover farm crops, pots from plant nurseries and greasy containers from industrial sites.



Plastic pellets heading for conversion into oil.  
Source: [www.agilyx.com](http://www.agilyx.com)

According to Waste Management spokeswoman Jackie Lang, the plant has been successful in turning that material into crude oil. But the company is holding out for a more efficient version of the technology. The plant is currently using what Agilyx calls Generation 5, but now there's a Generation 6 that looks better.

"We've decided to discontinue plant operations while Agilyx advances the next generation of its process," Lang said. "We will be exploring retrofitting the plant with the Generation 6 technology."

In the meantime, 22 people who work at the plant will be laid off.

Lang said the older technology requires technicians to move materials through a multi-step process that "involved significant manual labor and high energy input." In contrast, she said, "Generation 6 is a continuous system designed to be more automated and more cost effective."

Lang said the things her company learned from its first go-round with plastic-to-crude recycling are helping shape the newer technology it plans to use when it resumes the effort.

The Portland plant was designed to process 50 tons of plastic a day and produce 3.5 million gallons of crude oil annually. According to Waste Management, it takes about nine pounds of plastic to make one gallon of crude oil.

Source: <http://earthfix.opb.org/energy/article/turning-plastics-to-oil-in-portland-maybe-later>



# Time to recertify already?

These EarthWISE businesses did



**Kerr Concentrates  
2009-2014**



**SELCO Community Credit Union  
2012-2014**



**City of Salem Urban Development Director's Office  
2009-2014**



**Designer Cut  
2012-2014**



**Green Acres Landscape  
2008-2014**



*More recertifications*



**City of Salem-Information Technology  
2009-2014**



**Phiz Spa  
2012-2014**



**Spring Valley Dairy  
2009-2014**



**Arbuckle Costic  
2012-2014**



**Advantage Precast  
2007-2014**

## Ask Mister Sustainability

**Question: Our business is moving to a “paperless” format where most of our documents are electronic, but we’re still using a ton of paper. Any suggestions on how we might do better?**

**It seems** like the whole world is consciously trying to use less paper—which is a good thing. However, there’s still a lot of printing, both necessary and not-so-much, that takes place in any office setting. Here’s a few things your business could do to help:

- 1) Change your default settings to always print double sided.
- 2) Change your default settings in Word to use 0.5" margins all around.
- 3) Establish a one-sided collection box located next to the printers. When you have paper that has been printed on one side (with non-confidential information or staples) and it’s outlived its usefulness, lay it face down in one of the collection boxes. You can now use that paper for other one-sided printings. It’s pretty easy to do if your printer has additional paper trays that allow one tray to be dedicated for such.

And remember: color is 6 times more expensive to print. Default to B/W anyone?

## Factoid Department

The latest stats on electric car sales tell us that Washington leads the U.S. in market share—1.60 % of vehicle sales.

Oregon? Takes fifth place with a respectable 1.10% share. Ties with Georgia.

Huh?

Thinking of Thanksgiving. 581 million pounds of turkey meat was purchased in 2012. The USDA tells us that 35% of all turkey meat goes uneaten. And that’s not counting bones.

Thinking of not wasting. The Marion County Jail’s green team reports that garbage amounts have dropped from 9.75 tons per month in 2012 to the current 3.23 tons a month.

Waste not, pay not.

Thinking of cost. The MC Jail is now avoiding 6.5 tons of garbage costs per month/ 78 tons per year and stand to save at least \$5200, plus hauling, this year.

Here’s a mind blowing stat—Americans throw away 60 million plastic bottles EVERY DAY. That’s about 2.5 million an hour.

Are plastics the future? The US EPA tells us that 32 million tons of plastic waste was generated nationwide in 2012. That’s waste that will most likely be buried in landfills across the North American continent.

It will still be there in the future. Waiting.



can apply Energy Trust incentives to the final cost of your LED lamps—resulting in instant savings. Just go to: [www.energytrust.org/commercial/equipment-upgrades-remodels/promotions](http://www.energytrust.org/commercial/equipment-upgrades-remodels/promotions)

## Energy Trust offers businesses LED upgrade incentives

**LEDs** are ideal for retail settings because they provide energy savings, long life, cooler temperature and better color rendering. For a limited time this year, Energy Trust’s Lighten Up with LEDs promotion is offering cash incentives from \$10 to \$30 per LED lamp. When you purchase from distributors participating in the Lighten Up with LEDs promotion, your distributor

## Oregon Dept. of Energy offers energy conservation tax credits

**For projects** less than \$20,000, DOE is offering tax credits under their **Small Premium Projects** program. For all the nitty gritty, visit: [www.oregon.gov/energy/BUSINESS/Incentives/Pages/EIP-SPP.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/BUSINESS/Incentives/Pages/EIP-SPP.aspx) .

DOE also has dollars to offer tax credit incentives for renewable thermal energy projects. If that’s up your alley, go to:

[www.oregon.gov/energy/BUSINESS/Incentives/Pages/EIP-Conservation.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/BUSINESS/Incentives/Pages/EIP-Conservation.aspx)

# EarthWISE Member Directory

## Automotive

AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.  
Brooks Automotive  
Capitol Auto Group  
Hillyer's Mid-City Ford  
Sanford Automotive

## Construction

Advantage Precast, Inc.  
Arbuckle Costic Architects, Inc.  
Barnwood Naturals, LLC  
Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.  
CB|Two Architects  
Cherry City Heating  
dalke Construction  
Day Heating & Cooling  
Fluent Engineering, Inc.  
Jet Industries  
LCG Pence Construction, LLC  
Modern Building Systems, Inc.  
Pence Northwest Construction, LLC  
Studio 3 Architecture, Inc.  
White Oak Construction

## Education

Chemeketa Community College  
Chemeketa Center for Business & Industry  
Straub Environmental Center

## Financial

FPS, Inc.  
SELCO Community Credit Union

## Food

Bentley's Grill  
BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants  
Cascade Baking  
Kerr Concentrates, Inc.  
LifeSource Natural Foods  
NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, & Salem Plants  
Spring Valley Dairy  
Truitt Brothers, Inc.  
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

## Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area  
Marion County Dog Shelter  
Marion County Public Works—Silverton Road Campus  
OR Department of Administrative Services- 20 Buildings  
OR Dept. of Corrections (DOC) CDC/Warehouse  
OR DOC Gath Road Range  
OR DOC Mill Creek Correctional Facility  
OR Santiam Correctional Facility  
OR State Corrections Institution  
OR DOC State Penitentiary  
OR Department of Energy  
OR Exposition Center  
OR Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training  
OR Lottery  
OR DAS - Salem Motor Pool  
OR State Capitol  
Salem Center 50+  
Salem Civic Center  
Salem Fire Department  
Salem Housing Authority  
Salem - Information Technology  
Salem - Public Works Willow Lake WPCF  
Salem Shops  
Salem - Urban Development's Airport Division  
Salem - Urban Development's Director's Office  
Salem Public Library

## Landscaping

DeSantis Landscapes, Inc.  
The Garden Angels  
Green Acres Landscape, Inc.

## Medical

Holly Chamberlain D.D.S., L.L.C.  
Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.  
Rural Metro Ambulance  
Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

## Not For Profit

Assistance League of Salem - Daue House  
Assistance League of Salem - Encore Furniture  
Family Building Blocks  
Garten Services, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
Marion-Polk Food Share



## **Not For Profit (Continued)**

SAIF Corporation  
Temple Beth Sholom  
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Home

### **Personal Services**

Designer Cut  
Phiz Spa

### **Professional/Services**

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.  
ABC Window Cleaners & Building Maintenance  
Allied Video Productions  
Cascade Employer's Association  
Collier Law  
Compex Two Computers  
Lancaster Mall Operations  
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

### **Real Estate & Commercial Properties**

The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Center  
Pringle Creek Community  
Wildwood | Mahonia

### **Recycling/Solid Waste**

Agri-Plas, Inc.  
Covanta Energy, Marion Facility  
D & O Garbage Service Inc.  
Loren's Sanitation & Recycling Services  
Marion Recycling Center  
North Marion Recycling & Disposal  
Pacific Sanitation

### **Retail/Wholesale**

Cooke Stationery Co.  
Habitat for Humanity ReStore  
One Fair World

### **Tourism**

Grand Hotel in Salem  
Salem Convention Center  
Travel Salem

### **Transportation**

South Salem Cycleworks  
Salem Keizer Transit



## **From Cart to Art**

**Turning recycling cart junk into recycled art funk**

**Are you ready for the Cart to Art challenge?**

**Now is the time to get your team ready for Marion County's first foray into a large piece recycled art contest.**



### **The bedeviling details:**

- Your team is tasked with turning any item that is recyclable into an art object of your choice.
- The final project should be able to be moved and lifted by 1 to 2 people.
- It must fit through a standard sized door, can be carried in a truck, and not break anyone's back when setting it up for display.

Artwork construction will conclude by noon on Saturday, October 11, at a surprise locale near downtown Salem. Entries will be open for viewing to the general public that Saturday and will accompany a fund raising event that evening for the Straub Environmental Center.

Interested? For more details contact EarthWISE or the Straub Environmental Center at [michelle@straubenvironmentalcenter.org](mailto:michelle@straubenvironmentalcenter.org)

### **Contact:**

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