

September  
2010



Meet Sophie! Pg. 3

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Master Recycler Newsletter

## Thought about Plastic Bags Lately?

The United States goes through 380 billion bags annually, 100 billion of these are thrown away every year, and only 1% are recycled.

Plastic bags are made of polyethylene, a petroleum product, and a recent nationwide online survey showed that 7 in 10 Americans are not aware that fact. The public's ignorance of the harm the use of plastic bags can cause is illustrated by the fact that four out of every five shopping bags used in this country are single-use plastic.



How can we educate the public about these negative side effects of plastic bag use? Some audiences will be swayed by learning that approximately 1 billion seabirds and mammals die per year by ingesting plastic bags. Other citizens may be convinced to reduce plastic bag use by learning that plastic bags never completely break down. Instead, they photo degrade. This means that over time they break into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic. These bits of plastic escape from landfills and enter the environment and the food web. In 2002 a whale that washed up on a beach at Normandy was found to have 800 grams of plastic and other packaging in its stomach.

Some people are realizing these horrifying effects and it is thanks to these enlightened citizens that several states are attempting to pass plastic bag bans or tax them. These pieces of legislature would hopefully decrease the number of plastic bags produced and thrown away every year. A plastic bag tax implemented in the Republic of Ireland in 2002 reduced plastic bag use by 90% in just five months.


Andy Keller, the founder of ChicoBag, came up with another way to raise awareness of the plastic bag issue. Keller calls his creation the Bag Monster and he encourages us not to "feed it" by continuing to utilize single-use plastic bags.

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*"You cannot solve current problems with current thinking. Current problems are the RESULT of current thinking" -Albert Einstein*



This original Bag Monster is the inspiration for the plastic coated suit I created out of 500 plastic bags. The significance of 500? That is how many bags the average American uses in one year.

Marion County's bag monster was created using a pair of coveralls, a tagging gun and 475 plastic bags. Each plastic bag was hand selected and attached to the suit using a plastic tag. The headpiece was made using the wire of a coat hanger and 25 more plastic bags, making a total of 500 bags used on the costume. The plastic bags were collected from the collection bins around the office building and AgriPlas generously donated two huge bags of plastic bags they had collected.

The Bag Monster is meant to be the ultimate educational aid. How better to get people's attention than by wearing 500 plastic bags and walking around at the Oregon State Fair? Perhaps people will be motivated to use plastic less when they learn that the amount of petroleum used to make 1 plastic bag would drive a car about 11 meters. So, the bag monster could drive a car 5500 meters or about 3.4 miles. Hopefully people will ask questions and I will be able to answer them. One popular question so far has been "Is that thing hot?" Yes. It is.

~Sophie Tomczyk, Environmental Services Intern



Plastic bags tangled in machinery at a mixed recycling sorting facility. Sorting lines have to be shut down as often as once an hour to remove plastic bags and other contaminants.

## Bag Monster Spotted at the Oregon State Fair!



Don't let the sly grin and sparkly eyes fool you, this monster is fierce and all-consuming! Its bulbous and bloated exterior is comprised of 500 single-use plastic bags, the average amount used by each American every year .

Ok, it is really our mild-mannered and ultra-creative Environmental Services Intern Sophie Tomczyk in this clever disguise that she created from that representative pile of bags and an orange jump suit.

The bag monster will be making appearances throughout the run of the fair, and may be able to help you educate Marion County residents about the importance of using reusable bags at YOUR event. Check with Bailey for details—[bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us) or 503-588-5169 x5991.

*Editor's Note:*

*Single-use paper bags are no better a choice than plastic—even if they tend to get reused more. The extra energy required to ship the weightier bags contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change—an even bigger threat to animals through habitat loss than the direct effects of plastic bags.*

*When it comes to protecting the environment a durable, reusable bag is always the best choice!*

# Introducing.....Sophie!



Sophie Tomczyk, Environmental Services' 2010 intern extraordinaire, arrived in early July to help us out with a myriad of summer projects.

Sophie comes to us from South Salem High School where she finished the International Baccalaureate Program - an achievement she is particularly proud of. To complete the program she had to take a rigorous suite of advanced coursework and complete 150 hours of volunteer service hours among other requirements. In addition to the honor of being accepted into the program, this earned her 45 college credit hours and sophomore standing at U of O where she will be starting a pre-med program this fall.

Although she is planned career is not directly related to her work in this internship, she was attracted to it because it was aligned with values and activities that have been a part of her life since she was very young and is giving her the chance to experience working in field that has still always held her interest.

Sophie dove right in and tackled updating our online recycling database, creating a display of composters we sell at Fresh Start Market and designing signs for it, archiving old grant files, helping with the Marion County & State Fairs and, her self-proclaimed favorite - maintaining the composters at our Silverton Road

campus (although I have a feeling bag monster has to come in a close second!). She has been a joy to work with and, for very selfish reasons, we will be sorry to see her go in the middle of September!

Thanks Sophie!

## Need Help with A Project?

As part of the Introductory Environmental Science class at Willamette University this fall, students must complete 6-8 hours of community service/service learning with an environmental focus. In the past students have stenciled storm drains, helped at native plant sales, removed invasive species, planted native species, etc. etc. If you have any projects that you need help with, please send the info ASAP to Karen Arabas at [karabas@willamette.edu](mailto:karabas@willamette.edu). What I needs is:

- 1) Name/very short description of the project
- 2) Dates/Times
- 3) Contact information (name, phone, e-mail, agency/organization name)

Karen will post everything she hears about and the students will be responsible for contacting you.

Thank you in advance for your help - many have provided great opportunities in the past to introduce Willamette students to environmental service learning in Salem and the surrounding communities.



# An Open Letter to Reuse Retailers— Please Share!

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Hello,

Please let me introduce myself...my name is Alan Pennington and I'm a Waste Reduction Coordinator for Marion County Public Works. Like the title says, my job is to find ways to reduce the amount of waste that is generated in our community and one of the ways that we do that is by encouraging people to reuse items instead of throwing them away.

That's where you come in.

While a lot of money and attention has been given to recycling, the folks "in the business" know that the real key to waste reduction lies in creating less waste in the first place and reusing what we have—clothes, tools, machines, toys, books, etc..

A successful "second hand" or "thrift" or "consignment" store means that those materials have an avenue to multiple lives, thus keeping them from ending up in the trash prematurely. As you can see, your success is our success as well.

That's where we come in.

We would like to know how we can assist you. You've probably seen or heard our print and radio ads that advertise our various recycling programs. What we want to do now is find ways to promote your Marion County reuse business in whatever way you think is most effective...and the cool thing is...it's entirely free to you.

Here's what we propose:

On Wednesday, September 22, at 10 a.m., we are hosting a Promote Your Reuse Business coffee hour at the Fresh Start Market Community Room (3020 Center St. NE) for all the Marion County reuse businesses like yours. During that time we can all kick around ideas and come up with ways Marion County can promote what you sell and, again, it's all free to your company or non-profit.

So, all we need from you is an RSVP and an interested representative from your organization to come to our coffee hour to share a cup of java (or tea), a scone or two, and some insights on who your market is and how we can help you reach them.

Please, confirm via email or phone by September 10th so that we can order enough foodstuffs and what-not.

Together, we can find a way to help your business grow while Marion County's "waste-line" shrinks.

Thanks,

Alan Pennington





## TASTY TIDBITS



### New Brochures Available

Marion County Environmental Services has just finished producing 4 new brochures to help promote waste reduction programs in the County.

They are available to pass out at events that you may be involved in; give us a call or email us today!



### Drug Take-back Event



In partnership with the Community Action Drug Prevention Network, Drug Enforcement Agency, Marion County Health Department, Marion County Public Works, Marion County Commission on Children and Families, Marion County Sherriff's Office, and the Marion Polk Food Share, the Salem, Keizer, Stayton, Turner and Silverton police departments are hosting a prescription drug take back event on Saturday, September 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at several locations throughout Marion County.

Visit [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net) for all the details!



### Fall Master Recycler Class

Our Fall Master Recycler class still has a spot or two available! If you know someone who is interested have them complete the online application and have it turned in by Tuesday morning, September 7th. Find details at [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net)



### Recycling Resources

Two online recycling websites have teamed up to increase their recycling location offerings for consumers.

The agreement was announced between 1-800-Recycling.com and GenGreenLife.com.

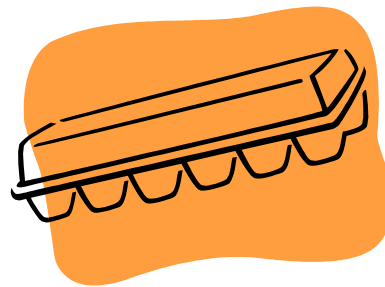
The two organizations have agreed to pool their resources and exchange recycling location listings from their respective databases.

As part of the agreement, 1-800-Recycling.com will now also recommend GenGreen approved recyclers as responsible locations for the deposit of recycling materials.

For more information visit [1800recycling.com](http://1800recycling.com) and [GenGreenLife.com](http://GenGreenLife.com)



### 6 Uses for an Egg Carton



- ☾ Makeshift piggy bank
- ☾ Seed starters
- ☾ Shipping material
- ☾ Desk & jewelry organizer
- ☾ Storage helping hand
- ☾ Bead/craft organizer

### Good Listenin'

Got an hour for a good conversation?

OPB's radio talk show *Think Out Loud* recently took on the subject of garbage. Catch a recording of it online at:

[www.opb.org/thinkoutloud/shows/garbage-business/](http://www.opb.org/thinkoutloud/shows/garbage-business/)



# Call to Serve

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**Saturdays Sept. 4—October 31**

**Salem Saturday Market**

**Fun at the Zero Waste Station!**

Have you been to the Salem Saturday Market lately? If not, you should come check us out. The Zero Waste Stations are in full swing and we have received many positive comments. The vendors are purchasing items that are either recyclable or compostable and we are educating people on how to sort their waste. Folks marketgoers are excited to be a part of this project whether they are volunteering or bringing their waste to our sorting station to learn what is recyclable, compostable, and garbage. It is making a significant impact on reducing the amount of garbage from the Market that heads to the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Marion County.

We have been fortunate to have some wonderful volunteers come out and help make this happen! All our volunteers say that it's fun and easy! However, we need your help!

The market is open through October and in order to keep this project going we need to fill all of our **shifts** which are from **9am to 11pm, 11am to 1pm, and 1pm to 3pm**. Ideally, we need 4 people per shift so we really need YOU! Bring your friends, bring your family and come have fun! If you are interested in volunteering please contact [zerowaste@friendsofsalemsaturdaymarket.org](mailto:zerowaste@friendsofsalemsaturdaymarket.org) or call 503-877-FSSM.

**Friday, September 10**

**Oregon Garden Home School Day**

Help with the worm bin demonstrations and lab tray observations. Always popular! Contact Cindy Quam at 503-584-7256 or [cquam1@chemeketa.edu](mailto:cquam1@chemeketa.edu) for details, and don't forget to report your hours to Bailey if you volunteer!

**Saturday, September 11**

**City of Jefferson's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Services Expo**

**Shifts: 10 am – 3 pm**

The goal of this event is to promote safety and services that local governments have to offer. MR's needed to staff a booth to spin the fabulous wheel of waste with attendees and inform the public about our programs. If you can help with this event please contact Alan at 503-365-3188 or [apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us).

**Saturday, Sept. 25**

**HouseHold Hazardous Waste Event - Stayton Roth's/Bi-Mart Parking Lot, 1770 Shaff Rd.**

**Shift: 9 am to 3 pm**

2 MR Volunteers needed to help with traffic control and distributing information at Silverton's first HHW event in three years. Two shifts; one person needed per shift- 9 to noon; noon to 3. Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or [apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us).

# Call to Serve



**Saturday, Sept. 25**

**Lowe's of Keizer's Safety Day—Keizer Station Parking Lot**

**Shifts: 10 am to 2 pm**

Lowe's is holding their very first Safety Day event and have asked for two MRs to staff a hazardous household waste booth on that day. Are there two volunteers out there that would like to work part or all of the event? Contact Alan Pennington at 503-365-3188 or [apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us) to chat about the possibilities.

**Wednesday, October 6**

**Job, Safety, Health and Wellness Event at the Salem Armory**

**Shifts: Noon – 3 and 3 – 6 pm**

Free job information, health & medical testing, prizes, and freebies. Flu shots! Marion County will join over 40 other vendors and promote household hazardous waste information. Wanna come? If you can cut class or take the afternoon off we could use a hand. If interested, please contact Alan at 503-365-3188 or [apennington@co.marion.or.us](mailto:apennington@co.marion.or.us).

**STAYTON**  
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
**COLLECTION EVENT**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010**  
HOURS: 9 AM - 3 PM

**Stayton**  
Roth's / Bi Mart Parking Lot  
1770 Shaff Rd

CO-SPONSORED BY STAYTON FIRE DISTRICT

Many everyday household products contain hazardous chemicals. When you dispose of these products in the storm drain, sink or garbage, the chemicals can end up in local water bodies or groundwater. To download a list of alternatives to hazardous waste visit our website or call to get a FREE guide mailed to you.

100901-1c

**Public Works Environmental Services**  
503.588.5169 *Se habla español*  
[mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net)

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG TURN-IN EVENT**

**FREE COLLECTION OF UNWANTED & EXPIRED MEDICATIONS**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th**  
FROM 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Northeast Salem:**  
Roth's Fresh Market parking lot, 702 Lancaster NE

**South Salem:**  
Salem Civic Center, 555 Liberty St SE

**Keizer:**  
Roth's Fresh Market parking lot, 5013 River Rd N

**Stayton:**  
Stayton Library, 515 N. First St.

**Turner:**  
Turner Fire Station, 7605 Third St

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For more information visit [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net) or contact Denise Russell at 503-585-6232 [russelld@mwvcaa.org](mailto:russelld@mwvcaa.org)

## Events & Occasions

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**Saturday August 28– Sunday November 7**

**Critical Messages: Contemporary NW Artists on the Environment  
Hallie Ford Museum, Salem**

Co-organized with the Western Gallery at Western Washington University in Bellingham, the exhibition explores how 26 contemporary artists respond to a host of environmental issues confronting the Pacific Northwest: growth management; waste management; land and sea; mass production and consumption; transportation; preservation of wilderness and wetlands; biodiversity; climate change; and energy. Included in the exhibition are works by artists from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, and British Columbia.

**Thursday, Sept 9**

**Salem Progressive Film Series: *Beyond the Motor City***

**Grand Theatre-191 High Street NE, Salem (corner of Court and High Streets)- 7 pm**

Before being dubbed the Motor City, Detroit was once home to the nation's most extensive streetcar system. Since then, much of the world has moved on, choosing faster, cleaner transportation and leaving America - and Detroit - behind. Viewers are taken on a journey to Spain, home to one of the world's most modern and extensive transit systems; to California, where voters recently said yes to America's first high speed rail system; and to Washington, where Congress will soon decide whether to finally push America's transportation into the 21st century. 3 guest speakers to follow. **\$3/\$2 students**

**Saturday Sept 25**

**Prescription and Over-the-counter Medication Collection Event 10 am - 2 pm**

**North & South Salem, Keizer, Stayton, Turner and Silverton**

Bring your unused, expired or unwanted medications to the drop-off locations at this event to protect our health, environment and security! Visit [mcrecycles.net](http://mcrecycles.net) for all the details or call Denise Russell with Community Action Drug Prevention Network at 503-585-6232

**Saturday, October 2nd**

**Salem Green + Solar Home Tour**

**Starting at Pringle Creek Community, 9 am - 4 pm**

Salem's fourth annual Tour of Green + Solar Homes will include tours of ten homes that demonstrate energy efficient and environmentally-responsible techniques, conservation practices, renewables, and LEED and Passive House certification. Each site will be hosted by someone to inform visitors of features and their benefits/costs. Learn about energy efficiency, passive and active solar systems, daylighting, on-site energy generation, rainwater harvesting, innovative construction systems, building materials and more. Cost: \$15 per car, carpooling encouraged, Bicyclists free. More info at [www.pringlecreek.com](http://www.pringlecreek.com) or 503-315-1055.



## The Back Page

Ok, so we **MIGHT** need a little more education on this one .....



Greg Dittman from Valley Recycling & Disposal shared this photo of a compost collector pail set at the curb in the hopes that it will get emptied by the food waste fairy. We need all Master Recyclers to help spread the word that the pail is for collecting food waste in kitchens so that it can easily be transferred to the **Mixed Organics Cart** (formerly known as the Yard Waste Cart), which is then wheeled to the curb.



Marion County Public Work—Environmental Services

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### Waste Reduction Coordinators:

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