



The Sustainable Business Bulletin

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

Norcal comes to Marion County

Aumsville Compost Operation Now Part of Norcal Family

While many Marion County residents may be familiar with their green yard debris bin, most don't know where that debris ends up and who takes care of it.

Until recently, that service was provided by Aumsville's Wood Waste LLC, also known as "Compost Oregon". Compost Oregon has been in operation for over five years and specializes in the production of soil amendments, compost, and wood waste recycling for residents and businesses of Aumsville and Marion County.

In December, a subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. purchased Compost Oregon and has continued providing the same composting services for the County. Norcal, based in San Francisco, has been in the collection and recycling business for many years.

"We are excited to be a part of the Aumsville community and are committed to implementing programs that will preserve our environment

and create long-term sustainability," said General Manager Phil Graham.

Neither Compost Oregon nor Norcal contemplates any changes in the local management and staffing of the Aumsville operation, which has a workforce of eight employees.

Expertise could lead to local food waste composting

For over 11 years, Norcal has developed and refined the processing method used to convert yard debris and food waste into nutrient-rich compost while taking preventative measures to control odors.

"In San Francisco, food scraps that used to go to the landfill are collected from thousands of residential, commercial, and multifamily customers and taken to one of our composting operations in Vacaville, California for processing and custom blending," says Graham.

Norcal hopes to bring its expertise in recycling and composting to enhance the Compost Oregon facility and its product offerings. With the introduction of new processing technologies, the com-

pany plans to reduce open compost piles within the first year.

But is food waste composting in the cards for Marion County any time soon?

"The sooner the better," quipped Jeff Bickford, Division Manager for Marion County's Environmental Services. "Food accounts for about 20% of our waste stream, which amounts to about 50,000 tons a year. Wouldn't it be great to turn that back into a soil product?"

Norcal has had a lot of success finding takers for its soil amendments and compost in the past. In San Francisco, agricultural and horticultural interests are joined by armies of residents who use their food waste compost as a planting mix in their gardens.

"Many Napa Valley vineyards use our compost as an organic soil amendment," said Graham. "As it improves the soil naturally it increases soil quality, improves vine health, and helps produce better grape harvests."

If and when NorCal enters the food waste composting business in Marion County, they're sure to find plenty of material.



Food Composting 101

1. Pickup– Residents place food waste in yard debris bin for curbside pickup. Businesses put food waste in designated container.
2. Prep– At the composting facility, magnets and grinders remove metals and other wastes.
3. Compost– Material is compressed and decomposed by bacteria.
4. Maturation– Compost goes through an aeration process.
5. Delivery– The finished product is now ready for use on nearby farms or gardens as an alternative to fertilizer.

Plastic art



Diane Kurzya uses a variety of “trash” items to create visual art. For more info visit: www.rubyreusable.com



So how do we recycle plastic bags and film?

-Plastic bags can be dropped off at most major grocery stores (Fred Meyer, Safeway, Roth's) in the County.

-Clean plastic film and bags can be take to the Salem-Keizer Transfer Station (503-588- 5169) or the North Marion Recycling & Transfer Station (Woodburn, 503-981-4117)

U.S. plastic bag, film recycling hits record high in 2007

Recycling of plastic bag and film hit a record high in 2007, as Americans recycled an estimated 830.2 million pounds of post-consumer material, according to a report released this month.

The 2007 figures represent a 27% increase over the 652.5 million pounds recovered in 2005, according to the National Post-Consumer Recycled Plastic Bags and Film Report. The boost is driven by greater con-

sumer access to recycling programs, mostly at large grocery and retail stores, the report concluded.

Moore Recycling Associates Inc. conducted the report, available at the American Chemistry Council's Web site, www.americanchemistry.com. The information is based on recovery data from 18 domestic processors and end-users of recovered film and 45 companies that export the material to overseas markets.

Why is bag and film plastic such a problem?

While recyclers encourage everyone to recycle plastics, usually items labeled 1-7, many folks are confused by the myriad rules regarding what goes into the blue bin and end up tossing plastic bags into their recycling containers. Once they enter the “waste stream,” film and bag plastics create sorting problems at the recovery facilities by clogging belts or contaminating other recyclables.

Source: Waste and Recycling News

Time is money (and maybe energy)

Google™ announced its entry into the small but growing business of “smart grid,” digital technologies that seek to both keep the electrical system on an even keel and reduce electrical energy consumption.

Google is one of a number of companies devising ways to control the demand for electric power as an alternative to building more power plants. The company has developed a free Web service called PowerMeter that consumers can use to track energy use in their house or business as it is consumed.

Google is counting on others to build devices to feed data into PowerMeter technology. While it hopes to begin introducing the service in the next few months, it has not yet

lined up hardware manufacturers.

“Smart grid” is the new buzz phrase in the electrical business, encompassing a variety of approaches that involve more communication between utility operators and components of the grid, including transformers, power lines, customer meters and even home appliances like dishwashers.

“They’ve been putting a chip in your dishwasher for a long time that would allow you to run it any time you want,” said Rick Sergel, chief executive of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, an industry group that sets operating standards for the grid.

If the utility could “talk” to the dishwasher, it might tell the machine to run at 2 a.m. and not 2 p.m., or it

might tell the homeowner how much money would be saved by running the dishwasher at a different hour.

It also might be useful for plug-in hybrid cars, which will draw significant amounts of energy, perhaps doubling the electric demand of a small household. A smart grid would recognize the car wherever it was plugged in, the way a cell phone network recognizes a mobile phone when it is turned on.

The stimulus bill now going to a House-Senate conference committee has allocated \$4.4 billion for “smart” technologies, including four million of these next-generation monitors, called smart meters. Proponents say that could result in more effective use of existing power lines and generate employment.

Source: New York Times

EarthWISE recycler converts agricultural plastic to oil

Agri-Plas, an EarthWISE business located in Brooks, Oregon is the first company to convert agricultural plastics into high value crude oil and ship the fuel to a refinery for commercial processing.

The company shipped a tanker of 8,200 gallons of oil to a refinery in Tacoma, Washington, in December. Another 4,000 gallons were shipped in mid-March.

Agri-Plas recycles materials such as agricultural films, greenhouse cover, nursery and jug material and prepackaged food containers and lids.

“The fact that Agri-Plas has been able to take plastic that would otherwise go directly into the waste stream and convert it into a commercial product that can be used again is truly groundbreaking,” said Tim McCabe, director of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

Agri-Plas is operating its plastic-to-oil converting unit in Brooks, with plans to expand the site to a 20 vessel system capable of producing 10,000 gallons of high value synthetic crude oil every day.

Source: Waste & Recycling News

Agri-Plas facts:

5016 Waconda Rd. NE
Brooks, OR 97305
503-390-2381
info@agriplasinc.com
www.agriplasinc.com

In 2006, Agri-Plas accepted and recycled approximately 15,600,000 pounds of plastic that otherwise would have gone to the incinerator, into landfills, or been stored at agricultural sites. In addition to keeping this material out of the waste-stream, Agri-Plas provides steady, year around work for more than 50 employees.



What's in a symbol?

If it's like the one above it's a marker to identify the resin type that the plastic container is made of. This knowledge prevents resin contamination during processing of new plastic products. However, even similar numbers don't guarantee that different packaging types (think bottles and tubs) can be processed together due to different additives or processing temperatures by the manufacturers.



Earth Day 2009

HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY EARTH

10 years of Earth Day at the Garden

Saturday, April 18, 2009 | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services and Moonstone Hotel Properties are hosting an Earth Day Fair at the beautiful Oregon Garden in Silverton featuring over 30 exhibitors and a full day of activities to help you live a healthy, low-impact lifestyle.

Free admission and shuttle busses from Salem and Silverton.
On-site parking is \$2⁰⁰

Visit www.oregongarden.org for more details

EarthWISE Program to complete 2nd year

The Marion County EarthWISE program will soon turn 2 years old. Willamette Ear, Nose, Throat, and Facial Surgery, LLP, the first business to be EarthWISE certified, has since been joined by another 43 Marion County businesses and organizations who have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.



EarthWISE Member Directory

We welcome our nine new members*!



Marion County
OREGON

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services EarthWISE Business Program

5155 Silverton Road NE
Salem, OR 97305

Phone: 503-365-3188

Fax: 503-588-3565

E-mail:

earthwise@co.marion.or.us

Workplace Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://

WWW.CO.MARION.OR.US/

PW/ES/EARTHWISE

Advantage Precast Inc.— Keizer
www.advantageprecast.com

Agri-Plas, Inc.— Brooks
www.agriplasinc.com

AJ's Auto Repair— Salem
www.ajsautorepair.com

Bentley's Grill— Salem
www.bentleysgrill.com

Carlson Veit Architects— Salem
www.carlsonveit.com

Cascade Baking— Salem
www.cascadebaking.com

CB|2 Architects— Salem
www.cb2architects.com

Champog State Heritage Area— St. Paul
www.oregonstateparks.org

Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.— Salem
503-378-0068

Coldwell Banker Commercial Mountain West Real Estate— Salem
www.cbcre.com

Compex Two Computers— Silverton
www.compex2.com

dalke construction, Inc.— Salem
www.dalkeconstruction.com

DeSantis Landscapes Inc.— Salem
www.desantislandscapes.com

D & O Garbage Service, Inc. — Salem
www.mrtrashrecycles.com

Dr. Holly Chamberlain D.D.S.— Salem
www.hollychamberlaindentist.com

Garten Services, Inc.— Salem and Keizer
www.garten.org

Green Acres Landscape, Inc.— Salem
www.greenacreslandscapeinc.com

Hillyer's Mid-City Ford— Woodburn*
www.hillyers.com

Kristin LaMont, Attorney at Law— Salem
www.lamont-law.com

Lancaster Mall Operations— Salem
www.LancasterMall.com

Laura's Room by Room Renovation— Salem*
503-999-4416

Mahalo Air Conditioning Co.— Salem*
www.mahaloairco.com

Marion County Public Works – Environmental Services
www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES

Marion Recycling Center— Salem
www.mrtrashrecycles.com

NORPAC Foods— Stayton, Salem, Brooks
www.norpac.com

Oregon Center of Cosmetic and Family Dentistry—
Salem
www.ItTakesAnArtist.com

Oregon Community Credit Union— Salem*
www.oregoncommunitycu.org

Oregon Department of Energy— Salem
www.oregon.gov/ENERGY

Oregon State Capitol— Salem*
www.leg.state.or.us

Salem Public Library— Salem*
www.salemlibrary.org

State of Oregon Salem Motor Pool— Salem*
www.oregon.gov/DAS/SSD/FLEET

Performance Health Technology— Salem
www.phtech.com

Phoenix Grand Hotel— Salem
www.phoenixgrandhotel.com

Sabroso Company— Woodburn
www.sabroso.com

SAIF Corporation— Salem
www.saif.com

Saint Edward Catholic Church — Salem
www.sainteds.com

Salem Conference Center— Salem
www.salemconferencecenter.org

T-Mobile — Salem*
www.t-mobile.com

Truitt Bros., Inc.— Salem
www.truittbros.com

United Way — Salem
www.unitedwaymwv.com

Willamette Ear, Nose, Throat and Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP— Salem
www.entsalem.com

Willamette Valley Fruit Company— Salem
www.wvfc.com

Wilshire Credit Corporation— Salem*

Woodburn School District Offices— Woodburn
www.woodburn.k12.or.us

To learn more about the EarthWISE business assistance program, visit our website or give us a call. We're excited to work with you. If you would like to be added to the Sustainable Business Bulletin email list send an email to earthwise@co.marion.or.us with "add Sustainable Business Bulletin" in the subject box. To be removed from the list, put "remove" in the subject box.

