

# Recycle at School

NEWS TO REUSE | JANUARY 2010

*How wonderful it is  
that nobody need wait  
a single moment before  
starting to improve the  
world.*

– Anne Frank

## What's inside?

- Boost your recycling efforts
- Taming Toxics
- School showcase
- W.O.W. of the month
- Planning for Earth Day

The Recycle at School newsletter, published every other month during the school year, provides sustainability tips and updates on waste reduction education.

We value your feedback. Please send comments, topic suggestions and requests to be added or removed from the mailing list to [rasnews@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:rasnews@oregonmetro.gov).

## Boost your recycling efforts!

Your school recycles paper, plastic bottles and cans, but now what? Expand your efforts and raise a few dollars for the green team by participating in a recycling fundraising program. The following companies offer programs that pay schools to collect and mail in hard-to-recycle items including e-waste (cell phone, MP3 players, etc.), inkjet and laser printing cartridges and packaging materials such as drink pouches and snack wrappers:

- Recycling Fundraiser – [www.recyclingfundraiser.com](http://www.recyclingfundraiser.com)
- Cartridges for Kids – [www.cartridgesforkids.com](http://www.cartridgesforkids.com)
- TerraCycle – [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net)

It's easy to participate. Each company collects different materials, but all have web sites that explain how schools and green teams can get started. Generally, after a school registers with a program, it will receive directions and support materials such as signs and flyers to launch a collection drive. Once the school has collected a large quantity of items, the companies provide packing instructions and prepaid shipping labels to send in the collected materials.

Each web site also contains educational facts and information, including online videos, that can support school waste reduction efforts. You know your school and green team best – be sure to check out each fundraising company's program to determine whether it's a fit for your school.

Want to share your success? E-mail your story to [rasnews@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:rasnews@oregonmetro.gov).



## Metro presentation focus

### Taming Toxics

Metro's classroom presentations help students learn about resource conservation and personal actions that make a difference. "Taming Toxics," a 45-minute presentation for fourth and fifth grades, helps students understand how toxic products impact the environment.



Students take a "toxic tour" of common household products and realize that many can be hazardous to people, pets and wildlife. A small-group activity helps students learn about the environmental impacts of improper product use or disposal. Students also learn methods for safe disposal and discover less-toxic alternatives for their home and garden.

To schedule a presentation, call 503-797-1522 or send e-mail to [freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov).

## At your service

Metro offers resources for teachers, students and staff to help improve and protect our region's livability, including ensuring clean air and water for future generations.

Waste reduction educators work in schools and summer day camps, helping youth learn about waste reduction, resource conservation and personal choices that can make a difference.

The Recycle at School program helps schools establish or expand their current recycling systems. Metro staff also advise on preventing waste and conducting sustainable operations.

Learn more about these resources at [www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling).

## Get outside with Metro

### Raptor Road Trip Saturday, Feb. 6

The Raptor Road Trip, an annual celebration of bald eagles, hawks and other birds of prey, returns Saturday, Feb. 6, to Sauvie Island. With guided bird-viewing and more, join in the fun as experts share tips and show raptors up close. Visit [www.oregon.gov/calendar](http://www.oregon.gov/calendar) for details.

Reducing the use of toxic household and garden chemicals helps protect raptors and other wildlife. Visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/saferhome](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/saferhome) to learn about safer alternatives.

### School showcase: going above and beyond

#### Metzger Elementary Tigard-Tualatin School District

As Metzger Elementary prepared to renew the school's Oregon Green School certification, staff focused on revitalizing their current program and moving up to Merit status. Metro's Recycle at School specialists connected new green team leader Marit Baker with head custodian Blake Geilmann, who was clear in his convictions to clean up the school's waste stream: "Money was a motivating factor at first. I noticed how much trash we were throwing away and how much it was costing to have our trash picked up."

Blake responded enthusiastically when Recycle at School specialists suggested starting a composting program to help reduce the school's waste: "I already have time built into my day



Metzger staff Marit Baker and Blake Geilmann

for throwing away trash, cleaning and relining garbage cans. It will take the same amount of work in a recycling and composting program – with better benefits!"

As a team, Marit and Blake developed several goals for the schools program, including installing new recycling containers in the lunchroom, starting the composting program and using more durable dishware in the cafeteria. Also, as part of moving up to Merit status, Metzger is providing waste audit assistance to Charles F. Tigard Elementary staff and students.

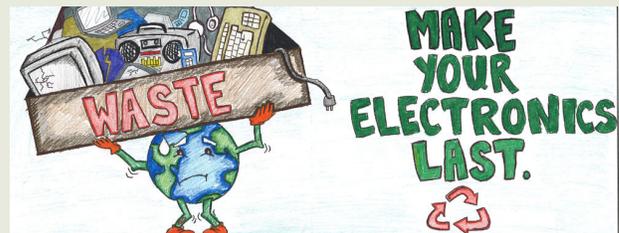
Ready to showcase your school in the Recycle at School newsletter? Send a note and photo about your achievements to [rasnews@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:rasnews@oregonmetro.gov).

W.O.W. (waste-oriented web site) of the month

### [www.freegeek.org](http://www.freegeek.org)

Free Geek, a nonprofit community organization that recycles and refurbishes used technology, also provides computers, education, and job-skills training to volunteers in exchange for their service. The group accepts computers and computer-related hardware in any condition and participates in the Oregon E-Cycles program. Visit Free Geek's web site for more information about having your school's old computers recycled or to learn whether your school is eligible for a hardware grant.

Have a waste-oriented web site to share? Send your favorite W.O.W. tip to [rasnews@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:rasnews@oregonmetro.gov).



## About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

### Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President  
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors  
Rod Park, District 1;  
Carlotta Collette,  
District 2; Carl Hosticka,  
District 3; Kathryn  
Harrington, District 4;  
Rex Burkholder, District  
5; Robert Liberty,  
District 6

Auditor  
Suzanne Flynn



## Tip of the month

### Planning ahead for Earth Day



It's never too early to start planning your events and activities for Earth Day, April 22. From community events to individual art projects, here are some resources to help you generate ideas and organize your staff and students.

**Earth Day Network:** [www.earthday.net/earthday2010](http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010)  
Participate in the Billion Acts of Green campaign and other activities.

**Envirolink:** <http://earthday.envirolink.org/guide6.html>  
Download a great list of activity and event ideas for your school or community.

**National Environmental Education Week:** <http://www.eeweeek.org/>  
Increase environmental literacy of your students with a full week of curriculum resources.

**Earth Day Grocery Bags Project:** <http://www.earthdaybags.org/>  
Tap into the artistic side of your students while encouraging others to protect the earth.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>  
Find tips and activities for protecting the environment on Earth Day and every day.

**SOLV IT projects:** [http://www.solv.org/programs/solv\\_it.asp](http://www.solv.org/programs/solv_it.asp)  
Sign up for a project or organize your own to help clean up litter and illegal dump sites, remove non-native invasive plants, or perform watershed maintenance and monitoring activities.

Want to inspire others with news about your Earth Day projects and events? Send a short description and photo about your school's activities by May 3rd to [rasnews@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:rasnews@oregonmetro.gov).



Designs by elementary school students for the Earth Day Grocery Bags Project.



## Need assistance?

### Recycle at School specialists

Rob Nathan and Katie Lynd, 503-725-9022

### Metro presentations

Elementary schools: Freda Sherburne, [freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov), 503-797-1522

Secondary schools: Sara Kirby, [sara.kirby@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:sara.kirby@oregonmetro.gov), 503-797-1521

[www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling)