

Recycle at School

NEWS TO REUSE | MAY 2010

*Trash, like beauty,
is in the eye of the
beholder.*

– Michael Thompson,
Rubbish Theory

What's inside?

- RAS transitions
- Eco-footprint: What's my size?
- Earth Day 2010 school showcase
- W.O.W. of the month
- Tips of the month

Recycle at Work program to help schools, too

Starting next fall, schools will receive waste reduction and recycling technical assistance service from their city or county Recycle at Work program, a partnership between Metro and local governments.

If your school is interested in technical assistance for waste reduction or recycling programs, you can request service online at www.recycleatwork.com/contact. For requests by phone, call the city or county Recycle at Work program that serves your area:

City of Beaverton, 503-526-2460

City of Gresham, 503-618-2203

City of Portland, 503-823-7037

Clackamas County, 503-557-6363

Washington County, 503-846-8609

Though Metro will not directly provide technical assistance to schools next year, staff will continue to offer waste reduction classroom presentations, puppet shows and assembly programs.



Metro presentation focus

Eco-footprint: What's my size?

“Eco-footprint: What's my size?” is a 50-minute presentation for grades six to eight that shows students how they can measure their effect on Earth's natural resources. Students calculate their ecological footprint and create an individual plan to reduce its size with small changes to everyday behavior.

To learn more presentations for elementary and secondary schools, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling.

Oregon Green Schools news

Congratulations to two schools that worked hard this year to establish goals and meet the criteria to become Oregon Green Schools!

Bridgeport Elementary School
Tualatin

St. Clare Elementary School
Portland



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.

School showcase: Earth Day 2010

Earth Day events and activities abound in April each year. It's a great time to initiate projects or hold events to celebrate and renew our commitment to caring for the Earth. Following are fun and creative activities that took place in two area schools.

Sweetbrier Elementary School Reynolds School District

Making less garbage is an art! Sweetbrier Elementary students enjoyed an action-packed Earth Week. Events included a contest for which students created useful or decorative items from discarded materials, a kickoff assembly for a new chip and cookie bag recycling program and the sale of reusable grocery bags with the school's "Bee Green" logo. Winning creations from the contest were featured in the Reuse It Showcase. Winner for "most creative"? Second grader Kamryn, who made her flower from used cans, planters and cereal boxes. (photo, left)



Prescott Elementary School

Parkrose School District

Earth Day weigh-in: What better way to educate students and celebrate Earth Day than competing against other classrooms to waste less? On April 23, Metro Recycle at School specialists and Prescott Green Team students teamed up to audit lunch waste during each lunch period. Each classroom had its own garbage can (pictured below) and was scored on the amount of contamination and waste. As a reward for their waste reduction efforts, winning classrooms received an extended recess. Way to go – protecting the Earth and earning more time to play!



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

RECYCLED, RE-SEEN: Folk Art from the Global Scrap Heap

This website will give you great ideas for exploring the trash-to-treasure concept with students. The creative and ingenious folk "recyclers" highlighted on this site may not think of what they do as recycling, but each of them sees potential where others see only useless junk, transforming throwaways into objects of renewed beauty, utility and meaning. Find out how and why people from around the world transform junk in different ways. You may never look at a bottle cap in quite the same way again!. Check out the folk art at <http://www.internationalfolkart.org/exhibitions/past/recycledreseen/rindex.html>.



continued

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



Tips of the month

Reusing and recycling = less trash on locker clean-out day

The end of the school year is a busy time at your school. It's also a busy time for your trash bins as staff and students clean out lockers and desks of paper and other no-longer-needed materials. If you plan ahead, much of this discarded material can be reused or recycled!

Reuse: Set up a reuse area to collect unwanted materials from staff and students. These items can be saved and reused by others next year. Consider setting up a "reuse closet" in the fall where staff and students can obtain the used school supplies for free.

Recycling: Ask your garbage and recycling hauler about extra recycling containers (roll carts are ideal) for locker clean-out day. Be sure to coordinate with your custodial staff too!

- Conduct outreach with signs and announcements for students and staff.
- Clearly label containers to explain what goes in and what stays out.
- Place recycling containers next to garbage cans, and provide volunteers to ensure materials go into the correct containers.

Summer worm bin care

While summer break can be a carefree time for students and teachers, it can be a difficult time for red wigglers. If no one is designated to care for the worms during summer, they will likely die after eating their remaining food and bedding. Dryness and heat also can make it difficult for worms to survive. Here are some tips for summer worm care:

- Keep larger worm bins in a shady area outdoors or a cool area inside a building.
- Schedule volunteers (staff, students and parents) to feed and water the worms weekly.
- Set up an adopt-a-worm-bin program for smaller bins, letting students or staff members care for the worms at home.



Students from The International School prepare bedding for their classroom worm bin.



Contact information:

Recycle at School specialists

Rob Nathan and Katie Lynd, 503-725-9022

Metro presentations

Elementary schools: Freda Sherburne, freda.sherburne@oregonmetro.gov, 503-797-1522

Secondary schools: Sara Kirby, sara.kirby@oregonmetro.gov, 503-797-1521

www.oregonmetro.gov/schoolrecycling