



Waste Watcher

Fall 2001

Quarterly, electronic resource conservation newsletter for state agency resource coordinators

Sustainability Executive Order

Countless state agencies are implementing amazing work and ideas into tangible and functioning projects. There are brown bag meetings monthly where they talk about these. For more info, see the events section of the following link: www.OregonSolutions.net.

The Northwest Sustainability Forum is taking place at the Portland Hilton on September 6-8, 2001. There are an amazing list of speakers schedule to present. Among them, Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, Governor Kitzhaber and other state officials, private sector giants and other notable sustainability authors and experts. It promises to be a phenomenal event. For more information, check out www.sustainablenorthwest.org.

One more event coming within the next few months is the Sustainable Business Symposium. This is an annual, FREE, conference in Eugene that offers top-rate speakers and programs. Click onto <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~sbs> for registration and detailed session information.



Electric Power Conservation

Electric rates are on the rise. The latest figures indicate a 30-40% increase for residential, 50-60% increase for commercial (most state buildings) and industrial customers by October 2001 in most areas. Some rates have the potential to double depending on where your utility buys its power. In addition, Oregon faces the possibilities of blackouts in the next few years.

All of this news is bleak and overwhelming, but it makes conservation even more important. One kilowatt-hour we save now in our buildings means even more taxpayer money saved, which benefits us all.

For fall, please don't forget the little things we can all do to save energy. Here's a quick rundown:

- Close the blinds when the sun is shining directly on them through September, and then leave them open during the day and close them at night starting October. This keeps out heat gain during the end of summer and heat loss during winter.
- Turn off computers, speakers, radios, task lights, fans, or any other electrical equipment when you leave for more than 1 hour (includes at night).
- Dress appropriately for the weather and temperature in the building.
- Turn out lights in conference rooms, break rooms, or auxiliary rooms when no one is present.
- Report any ideas for saving to your building manager or fill out an Employee Suggestion. You might know the next great way to save tons of energy. Don't be afraid to suggest!



Interesting Facts

Here are a few facts about resource use in the United States from the Master Recycler Manual, 2000.

- 🌐 People in the U.S. make up 5% of the world's population, but use 25% of the world's resources and generate 30% of the world's garbage.
- 🌐 The average office employee discards 1.5 pounds of recyclable paper each day, or 360 pounds a year.
- 🌐 The energy saved from recycling a glass bottle will light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- 🌐 The amount of plastic waste generated has been increasing by about 10% per year for the past 20 yrs.
- 🌐 Raw aluminum production is the most energy-intensive process in the world. Aluminum made from recycled cans uses 95% less energy than virgin material.
- 🌐 The amount of tin ore left in the world will last only 31 more years if use grows at projected rates.
- 🌐 Improperly disposed motor oil contamination each year equals 24 Exxon Valdez spills.
- 🌐 Americans throw away enough tires each year to equal a stack 32,000 miles high.
- 🌐 Americans throw away 87% of goods and materials after a single use.

Electric, gas and water consumption for DAS-owned and operated buildings can be viewed on the Internet. These allow the building occupants to track their progress in meeting the Governor's mandate to reduce energy use by 10%. Click on http://www.facilities.das.state.or.us/Monthly_Engy_Rpts.html and tab down to your building & month.

Still in a moderate drought?



Was the drought this summer really as bad as everyone thought? Did it really impact our rivers and lakes? Yes. Just take a look at Detroit Lake Reservoir.

Water conservation is just as important this fall and winter as it was this summer, only it's how you use it in your home, rather than outside of your home for irrigating that matters. Everytime the faucet is on, you're using water. Everytime you do laundry or wash the dishes, you're using water. Think about what you can do in your home to decrease the amount you use for those activities.

Turn off the faucet as you brush your teeth or lather your face. If you need a new dishwasher or washing machine, choose a water (and energy) efficient model – you can even get tax rebates from the Oregon Office of Energy for a wise selection.

This fall and winter are forecasted to be very dry again. That means another potential drought next summer, as well as energy concerns for hydropower dams. Every bit we do makes a difference towards helping the whole community have the water and power we all need.

What does "ORGANIC" mean?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture just adopted new regulations for companies using the word ORGANIC on their packaging. Here's what it means.



- The product must contain 95% organically produced ingredients.
- The food must be not genetically engineered, grown in soil fertilized with sewage biosolids, or irradiated.
- The land must be free of pesticides or fertilizers for at least three years before the crop is planted.
- Farmers do not use toxic chemicals or fertilizers in growing the crop. Instead they maintain a healthy soil and control pests through plant and animal biodiversity.
- Animals are fed with 100% organic feed – no hormones or antibiotics are used on the animals.

For more information, check out the National Organic Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

New Projects

This section is dedicated to new projects going on around Oregon.

- ◆ **Master Recycler Class** – Clackamas County will host the next OSU Extension Service Master Recycler course, set to begin Tuesday, October 9, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. in the county's Sunnybrook Service Center, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd. The 8-week course, which includes two field trips, provides 30 hours of instruction (which must be repaid to the community) in topics such as waste reduction, recycling processes, alternatives to hazardous household products and composting. The \$50 course fee includes materials. Scholarships are available. Advance registration required by October 2. Call Megan Cogswell at **503-725-2035**.

Submitted through press release by Megan Cogswell, OSU Extension Master Recycler Program Coordinator.

- ◆ **Nehelem Bay State Park** – Park staff recently implemented a recycling program to better manage the increasing volume of garbage generated by visitors. Reps Cart'm Recycling worked with the staff to place six, four-bin recycling centers throughout the campground. "We've had 64 fewer yards of garbage hauled off to landfills this summer," says Park Ranger Phil Chick about the effect of the recycling effort. "That amount is like six large truckloads filled to capacity." Phil reports that visitors "appreciate and believe in the service." He adds that the savings on the park's garbage also will be "recycled" to fund future visitor services.

Submitted by Katrina Kam, Oregon State Parks & Recreation



FACTOID: One ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water & 41,000 kW of electricity.

When purchasing a compact fluorescent bulb for your home...

- ☺ Read packaging to ensure proper application for your home: outdoor or indoor and if it can get wet.
- ☺ Ensure you don't need a 3-way bulb for certain lamps, or a dimmer bulb for others.
- ☺ Ensure lighting has Energy Star symbol on the packaging; means it's been certified by the Federal government.

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