

Facilities Services Sustainability Work Group



University of Oregon
Campus Operations, Growing Sustainability

Volume 1, Issue 5

Winter 2010

Environmental Law Conference

recover*renew*reimagine

When: February 25-28th, 2010

Where: UO School of Law

Cost: Free for students, faculty and staff (\$25 suggested donation)

Highlights: The four-day Conference includes over 125 panels, workshops, and multi-media presentations...

Topics include: forest protection and ecological restoration, grazing and mining reform, labor and human rights, air and water pollution, Native American treaty rights, globalization and "free" trade, environmental justice, corporate responsibility, marine wilderness, international environmental law, water rights and dam removal, oil and gas litigation, genetic engineering, and urban growth.

Register at: <http://www.pielc.org/>



RecycleMania 2010:

607 Colleges and Universities
compete!

Starting in February 2001, colleges and universities have spent 10 weeks every year participating in a friendly competition to see who recycles the most. Participating schools report weekly data about their recycling and trash. These schools are then ranked according to most recycled per capita, total amount recycled, and least trash per capita. The school that has the highest recycling rate (determined by the formula in the picture below) is

$$\frac{\text{Weight of Recyclables}}{\text{Weight of Recyclables} + \text{Weight of Trash}} \times 100$$

will be the grand champion. There is also a benchmarking division, for schools that do not wish to compete for the Grand Champion title.

The Goals of RecycleMania are:

- Have a fair and friendly recycling competition.
- Increase recycling participation by students and staff.
- Heighten awareness of schools' waste management and recycling programs.
- Expand economic opportunities while addressing environmental issues in a positive way.
- Lower waste generated on-campus by reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Have the competition act as a catalyst for colleges and universities to build and expand waste reduction programs on campus.



In This Issue

1. **Recycle Mania**
2. **RecycleMania Facts**
3. **Styrofoam Facts**
4. **Styrofoam Collection Notice**
5. **Electronics Disposal Law**
6. **Reusing Trees**
7. **Sustainability Superstars**
9. **Survivor: Toxic Island**

RecycleMania Facts

- In 2009, almost 70 million pounds of materials were recycled during the competition, this does not include electronics, construction and demolition recycling, or composted waste.
- Its first year, only 2 schools competed for the RecycleMania title, in 2009 over 200 competed for the Grand Champion title, while over 450 schools participated in total compared to 607 in 2010.
- In 2003 and 2005, University of Oregon ranked 2nd in pounds recycled per capita with 51.5 lbs (2003) and 65.1 lbs (2005).
- 2009's per capita champion was McNeese State University, with 76.19 lbs per person.
- In 2010 the competition now includes Canada and Qatar!

BLOCK STYROFOAM RECYCLING RESUMES

Campus Recycling has access to a new processor for block Styrofoam recycling, and we are once again able to collect for recycling. To recycle Styrofoam through Campus Recycling, please note the following:

1. Material Type - This service applies to hard, white, block Styrofoam and packing peanuts only. Open-cell (soft) materials are not recyclable..
2. Charge - Although Campus Recycling incurs labor costs and processing fees to recycle Styrofoam, we are currently offering this service at no charge for routine amounts of material (up to a few bags' worth). Large shipments may, however, necessitate alternative arrangements to cover these costs. Call us in advance if you have large shipments.
3. Prep - Please bag all materials in clear plastic, trash-type bags and tie up securely. Your building custodial staff should be able to provide bags. If not, call us.

4. Pick-up - Amounts totaling 1 or 2 bags can be marked "Please Recycle" and placed next to any recycling site for pick-up. For larger quantities, call us.

Thanks for recycling...Styrofoam.

Campus Recycling 541-346-5275.



Styrofoam Facts

- Although Styrofoam breaks into pieces easily, it will take 500 years for one cup to dissolve. My unanswered question is: dissolve into what? (Does it ever go away?)
- Styrofoam waste takes up 25-30% of our nation's land fill space.
- Each year Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam cups, enough every year to circle the earth 436 times.
- Collected polystyrene cups are not remanufactured into cups, but into other products, such as packing filler and cafeteria trays. This means that more resources will have to be used, and more pollution created, to produce more polystyrene cups.
- GO REFILLABLE!

Electronics Free Landfills

AS of January 1, 2010, it is ILLEGAL to dispose of Televisions, Laptops, Computers, (CPU's and Monitors) in ANY landfill in Oregon. The law passed by House Bill 2626 in 2007, initiated a landfill ban on the above items.

For UO Property, contact Sheree Johnson:

sheree@uoregon.edu or 541-346-3190

For Home electronics, items can be donated for reuse and recycling through Next Step Recycling:

www.nextsteprecycling.org

For free recycling locations: www.oregonecycles.org

or call 1-888-5-ECYCLE (1-888-532-9253).





Reusing Trees

In the past, trees that fell on Campus were cut up and delivered to the

ceramics department, where it would fuel kilns. But in recent years, air pollution controls have grown stricter and a new solution had to be found.

Adding them to yard waste as compost seemed like a loss to Roger Kerrigan, the Exterior Maintenance Team Supervisor. With this in mind, he began to take the fallen trees and mill them into lumber that could be used for future projects. The trees are processed with a portable mill and then placed into a storage trailer to dry.

To date, nothing has been used, but there are commitments in upcoming projects. An incense cedar that was near Deady is going to be used in the Alumni Center. An oak that fell over on the Provost's car last spring is going to be made into a desk and chairs by a class on campus that teaches how to make furniture. The desk and chairs is supposed to go to the President and Provost. Contact Roger Kerrigan if you have a project that could use some beautiful campus lumber: 541-346-2373.



Sustainability Superstar: Roger Kerrigan

As Exterior Maintenance Team Supervisor, Roger Kerrigan has spearheaded a project to mill fallen trees into usable lumber for campus projects. This not only saves the University money, not having to buy this material, it makes use of a waste product and saves water.

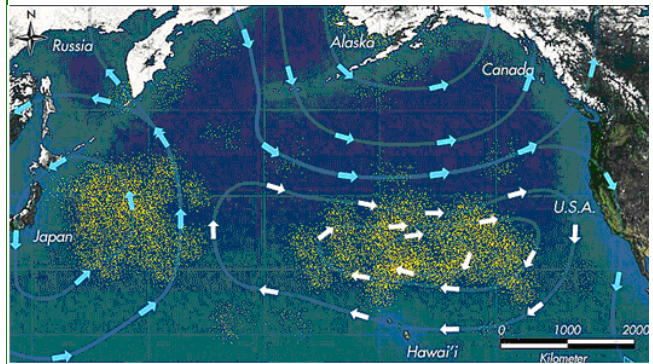
Roger is always thinking sustainability and stresses to crews to minimize use of chemicals and maximize use of natural materials. He has pushed to reuse all the organic materials that come off the campus. They are all brought back to the plant and put in the "hot pile" which is ground into compost twice a year. This then sits and gets turned periodically until it is broken down enough to use back on campus as mulch.

Good job Roger! **Congratulations!!!**



Survivor: Toxic Island

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch was predicted to occur in 1988, using data from Alaskan based research from 1985. Given the nature of Ocean currents, the North Pacific Gyre (a large clockwise rotating vortex comprising 4 other ocean currents in the area) is a natural resting place for debris. Historically, this has been the center of a huge mass of nutrient-dense bio-matter, which feeds the ocean life.



However, what was discovered in 1997, by Charles J. Moore, was that the 1988 predictions had come true. This former mass of healthy bio-matter, had been replaced by trash, a large portion of which is plastic.

In August 2009, the Scripps Institute / Project Kaisei SEAPLEX survey mission of the Gyre, found that plastic debris was present in 100 consecutive samples taken at varying depths and net sizes along a 1,700 miles (2,700 km) path through the patch. The survey also confirmed that while the debris field does contain large pieces, it is on the whole made up of smaller items which increase in concentration towards the Gyre's centre, and these 'confetti-like' pieces are clearly visible just beneath the surface. An estimated 80% of the garbage comes from land-based sources.

Please help stop this environmental blight.

Use less plastic!

For More Information:

<http://envacapstone.wiki.usfca.edu/Great+Pacific+Garbage+Patch>

Art from Tires

