

Facilities Services Sustainability Work Group

Earth Day



University of Oregon
Campus Operations, Growing Sustainability

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Enjoy the Earth Day Issue of COGS!

Feedback? Contact: knowaste@uoregon.edu

RecycleMania 2010 Results:

607 colleges, 49 states, DC and Canada
10 weeks, 84 million pounds of recyclables
collected

Civil War Final Totals:

University of Oregon: 12.22 lbs per capita
Oregon State University: 14.13 lbs per capita

UO National Rankings:

Per Capita Classic: 134th, with 12.22 lbs per capita

Paper: 54th, with 6.79 lbs per capita

Pacific Northwest Results:

Pacific Northwest Top 5 (Total pounds):

1. Oregon State University: 310,303 pounds
2. University of Oregon: 287,662
3. Washington State University: 281,152
4. Portland State University: 163,675
5. Eastern Washington University: 66,894

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The History of Earth Week



40 years ago, Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson founded "Earth Day" on April 22nd. Originally designed as a teach-in*, it is designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. Over 20 million people participated in its first year; now over a half billion participants spanning more than 175 countries meet each year to celebrate. Since 1988, the concept was expanded by many into an entire week of events. These events encourage recycling, water and energy conservation, and other environmentally-aware behaviors.



Earth Day clean-up

Nelson's idea to stage an Earth Day came into being after he visited Santa Barbara and witnessed the effects of the horrific oil spill there which killed over 10,000 coastal birds. He hoped to bring attention to this and to other forms of environmental degradation caused by human industry.

Earth Week Events

- Monday, April 19th: Waste Reduction Day- Electronics Recycling:



Recycle your personal electronics with Next Step Recycling. Collection containers will be located at the ASUO office in the EMU throughout the week.

- Tuesday, April 20th: Water Action Day: Join us at the free campus showing of "The Waterfront" at 7:30PM at 182 Lillis. Campus Recycling will be doing educational tabling prior to the event-make a pledge, go refillable.



- Wednesday, April 21st: Local Foods Day, 10AM-3PM



Buy local, think global. Support local farmer's at an on-campus Farmers Market in the EMU courtyard. Enjoy a local food dish at Buzz Cafe, Compost demonstrations

- Thursday, April 22nd: Earth Day Celebration at the EMU 11AM-3PM Solar-powered music, educational tabling and more!
**Recycle your yoga mat and do yoga on the lawn across from Lillis from Noon-3PM



- Friday, April 23rd: Come watch The Yes Men, Columbia 150 7PM
- Saturday, April 24: Eugene Earth Day celebration at EWEB Plaza, 11AM-5PM, bring the family!

Earth Day Facts

- Coincidentally, April 22nd is also the birthday of Julius Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day, which is also celebrated in April.
- Other April 22nd birthdays include those of Saint Francis of Assisi (considered by many to be the world's first environmentalist), Green Acres actor Eddie Albert, and Vladimir Lenin.
- The United Nations celebrates Earth Day on the spring equinox, usually on March 20th.
- Earth Day is the largest secular holiday in the world.
- About 20 million people across the United States celebrated the first Earth Day.

BETC



The Oregon Department of Energy provides BETC, Business Energy Tax Credit, to projects that promote sustainability.

Groups planning a project should consider applying to receive funds from BETC to help mitigate costs- BETC will provide a tax credit of 50% of costs for eligible projects. The costs covered by BETC include those covering equipment, materials and supplies, engineering and design fees, installation, and permits. Applicable projects include those that incorporate energy conservation, recycling, renewable energy and less-polluting fuels. You must apply for credits before the project begins, so think ahead and find another way to save money while helping the environment! Through 2007, more than 14,000 Oregon energy tax credits have been awarded.

To learn more visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/BUS/BETC.shtml>

Biodiesel Utility Vehicles



Facilities Services recently purchased two of these Kubota RTV 1100s. These small utility vehicles have a maximum speed of 25 mph, but they are powerful, and they can be biodiesel-fed.

Biodiesel is sulfur-free, produces 56% fewer pollutants, and can have up to 94% fewer carcinogens than traditional diesel fuel.

Biodiesel is often made from recycled cooking oils, which would normally end up in a landfill. The plants that these oils come from absorb carbon dioxide during growth, making biodiesel a nearly carbon neutral fuel source.

Your Carbon Footprint



Find out your household's carbon footprint, and how to improve it.

The Oregon Carbon Calculator calculates greenhouse gas emissions from your transportation, household energy use, and consumption of food, goods and services. Compare your household's carbon footprint to households of similar size and income.

The Oregon Carbon Calculator is made possible through Oregon DEQ's support of the CoolClimate Network, a program of the University of California, Berkeley, and through financial support by the California Air Resources Board and the CoolCalifornia.org partnership. Oregon DEQ selected this calculator for its approach and depth in calculating human impacts to climate change.

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/programs/sustainability/carboncalculator.htm>

Sustainability Superstar of the Month:



Susan Thames

In the past year, Susan Thames has been working on using alternative LED lighting when replacing incandescent lighting fixtures.

She has researched the internet and contacted vendors for information on their LED products. The LED alternatives are not always the right application but Susan makes the attempt through trial and error. She is open to new information about LED lighting and has been enthusiastic about the future of using LED lighting when possible.

One of the first fruits of Susan's efforts is a test LED light fixture mounted at bldg 125. It takes the place of one of our standard wall packs, does a good job of illumination and saves plenty of electricity. It also has the promise of long term reduced maintenance costs.

Good job Susan!! **Congratulations!!!**

Courthouse Compost

UO Exterior Team Gives Excess Compost to New Urban Garden Project!

The UO Exterior Team partnered with the City to assist in development of a new urban garden next to the U.S. Courthouse.

The project transformed a vacant lot into a vegetable garden. On Saturday, April 3rd, hundreds of community and university volunteers showed up to help prepare the garden beds for planting.



The rubble strewn lot (shown above) will soon be a productive urban garden, which will produce food for non-profit agencies serving low income and unemployed families in the community.

Phillip Carroll of the Exterior Team worked with Ann Bettman from the Landscape Architecture Department, to get the excess compost incorporated into this community project.

According to Phil, "Our compost is very good quality and it's for a great cause, so we on the Exterior Team are pleased we could help."

Thanks for composting!

