

# Association of Oregon Recyclers

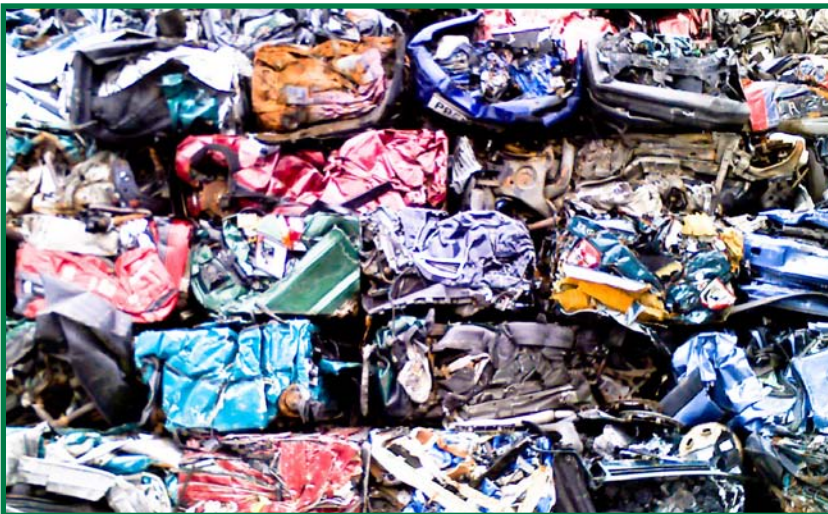
March 2011

## Taking Recycling to the Next Level

By Janet Unruh,

*Founder of the Institute for Material Sustainability*

Thanks to the ingenuity of the recycling industry, more used products are being recycled than ever. Everything from cars to electronic circuit boards can now be shredded, spun, precipitated, and sorted to produce plastics, metals, and minerals with high degrees of purity. This means that the amount of material that can be recovered and returned to production is growing.



*Crushed cars waiting to be recycled.*

*Photo by [johnrobertshepherd](#) via Flickr Creative Commons.*

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And yet, there's still a very substantial amount of material that is discarded or downcycled, meaning it is put to another lower-grade use, such as filler or fuel. Eventually downcycled materials are landfilled or incinerated. Is there anything we can do about that?

### **The Vision for Recycling**

First, let's stop and ask ourselves this: do we dare to have a vision of being able to reuse materials to make the same or similar products countless times into the future? Isn't that the ultimate purpose of recycling? Let's say that it is. What is holding us back from accomplishing it?

There are three main obstacles: materials are not engineered to be recyclable, products are not designed to be disassembled, and we don't have an adequate system for recovery of used products. Not yet, that is.

### **Material Reprocessing Plans**

Let's take materials first. When a material is created, a plan for reprocessing it should be developed in parallel. Any difficulties with reprocessing should be worked out by adjusting the method and the chemical formula of the material itself.

The goal of reprocessing the material is to return it to stock and thence to production. Further, the material should be capable of reuse for the same or similar purpose many times into the future.

If held to that standard, many of the plastics, alloys, and composite materials used to make products today would not qualify as recyclable materials. And yet, these materials are filling a need of some sort. Can materials such as these be reformulated to become recyclable materials?



*Can we engineer materials to be easily recycled?  
Photo by [Horia Varlan](#) via Flickr Creative Commons.*

### **Materials Science Innovation**

Materials science is advancing rapidly with amazing innovations. You may have seen [NOVA's series on Making Materials](#) on PBS. If not, check [MIT's Technology Review](#) journal, which reports on developments such as plastics that mend themselves, materials in atom-thick (two-dimensional) sheets, and artificial diamonds. There are even scientists working on developing the theoretical missing elements in the Periodic Table of Elements.

### **Creating Recyclable Materials**

So the question is this: if science is engineering materials such as these, why couldn't they create recyclable materials? The requisite knowledge probably exists. We may only need to stimulate interest.

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### Next Level *continued from previous page*

The challenge for the materials engineer will be to design materials that not only can be reprocessed, but done so in ways that are cost-effective and reliable—more so than buying raw materials. If the availability of materials becomes sporadic, the need to recapture and reuse materials becomes more urgent. We've already seen shortages of tantalum, gallium, indium—and more recently, China's rare earths, all of which impact high-tech industries, including aerospace and medicine.

### Design for Disassembly

Assuming that we have recyclable materials available, the next challenge is to design products so they can be disassembled. Disassembly is a new field and most of the research has been done with products that were not designed for disassembly or material recovery.

In theory, products designed for disassembly could carry their own disassembly instructions in the form of RFID or barcode. These instructions would pass by a reader at the disassembly plant and the product would be routed to robots that carry out the instructions. Disassembly plants need to be capable of disassembling a wide variety of products and the equipment and robots must be flexible and programmable.

Disassembly should result in three categories of used parts and subassemblies: reuse as-is, repair, and reprocess. The reusable items can be fed back into the manufacturing process, at a substantial cost savings.

### Owning v. Leasing

And finally, how do we get used products back from consumers? We'll need their cooperation, which will involve a big change of mindset. They will have to relinquish the notion of ownership as we know it today.

Instead of buying products, consumers will lease them. This ensures the return of materials back into production. It will be a tough challenge to convince everyone to cooperate. However, we can surmount this issue by designing a system for collection that no longer offers the option to "throw things away."

### Up for the Challenge

These are big, seemingly impossible challenges. But we can start with small-scale tests, learn as we go, and scale up. As our world begins to bump into restrictions to our consumption, we must seize the opportunity to offer new ideas and promote new ways of living. With enough human ingenuity, we can make them work.

### For More Info

For more information, please visit Janet Unruh's Recycle Everything website at [www.rebk.org](http://www.rebk.org) and slideshow at [www.slideshare.com/i4ms](http://www.slideshare.com/i4ms), or contact her at [janet@recycleeverythingbook.org](mailto:janet@recycleeverythingbook.org).

*Janet Unruh is the founder of the Institute for Material Sustainability and the author of the book "Recycle Everything—Why We Must, How We Can."*

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## Support the Modernization of Oregon's Bottle Bill

A hearing is scheduled for the legislation designed to modernize the Bottle Bill. HB 3145 will be heard on Thursday April 7 at 3pm in Hearing Room D of the capitol by the House Committee on Energy, Environment, and Water. The committee members are:

- Co-Chairs: Ben Cannon, Dist. 46, 503-986-1446, [rep.bencannon@state.or.us](mailto:rep.bencannon@state.or.us) and Vic Gilliam, Dist. 18, 503-986-1418, [rep.vicgilliam@state.or.us](mailto:rep.vicgilliam@state.or.us)
- Co-Vice-Chairs: Deborah Boone, Dist. 32, 503-986-1432, [rep.deborahboone@state.or.us](mailto:rep.deborahboone@state.or.us) and Wayne Krieger, Dist. 01, 503-986-1401, [rep.waynekrieger@state.or.us](mailto:rep.waynekrieger@state.or.us)
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- Jim Thompson, Dist. 23, 503-986-1423, [rep.jimthompson@state.or.us](mailto:rep.jimthompson@state.or.us)
- Brad Witt, Dist. 31, 503-986-1431, [rep.bradwitt@state.or.us](mailto:rep.bradwitt@state.or.us)

Now is the time to let *your* representative know the bill needs to pass. If you are a constituent of one of the committee members, your call for support is extremely important. Regardless, let your friends know this is the time to call or email their support for modernizing the Bottle Bill. If you need to know your legislator's contact information, you can get it [here](#).

Adding water bottles in 2007—*the first major change in the Bottle Bill in 35 years*—was a great first step. AOR supports *further improvements* to our bottle bill. Container deposit legislation saves energy and natural resources and keeps litter from roadways. Container deposit legislation complements other recycling programs already operating in the state. This [DEQ fact sheet](#) provides great information on how the current system works and

### **HB 3145 preserves the best elements of the current industry-run system while modernizing important items by:**

- **Increasing recycling rates and resource savings by including sports drinks, juice, and similar beverages. This will also reduce consumer confusion about what containers are covered.**
- **Increase the public's incentive to recycle beverage containers by changing the container refund value from 5 to 10 cents. If the nickel set in 1972 had kept pace with inflation, it would currently be around 26 cents.**
- **Promote convenient container return experiences.**

**Bottle Bill** *continued from previous page*

important facts such as how non-deposit containers are recycled at a far lower rate than those covered by the deposit system (83% versus 37% in 2005).

**Updating the bottle bill will benefit Oregon by:**

- **Expanding the “clean” stream of recycled material.** Oregon businesses using recycled materials place a higher value on materials coming from deposit containers. The Bottle Bill gets containers sorted into clean streams of glass, aluminum, and PET suitable for recycling into new products.
- **Moving more containers into the deposit system.** This will reduce containers in curbside programs where they end up mixed with paper, causing problems at our local mills and usually ending up disposed of as garbage by the mills.
- **Providing feedstock to facilities.** Adding more containers provides important new feedstock to the soon-to-be completed plastics recovery and processing plant (ORPet) in St. Helens—a facility that will create jobs.
- **Reducing litter and the amount of waste going into landfills.** Beverage containers with a deposit are recycled at twice the rate of those without a deposit.
- **Ensuring an “industry-run” system.** The Bottle Bill is operated by those best able to do so: Oregon’s beverage distributors and retailers.

To see the bill text, follow its progress, and check the hearing schedule, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Scott Klag, AOR Legislative Chair, at 503-797-1665; Rick Winterhalter, AOR Chair, at 503-742-4466; or Jesse Engum, AOR Secretary, at 503-618-2656.

**CONTINUE OREGON’S LEGACY AS A LEADER  
IN RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY BY  
MODERNIZING THE BOTTLE BILL**

## Get Involved With the AOR Newsletter!

The AOR Newsletter wants to hear from you! We’re always looking for story ideas as well as new voices. Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- **Send a news tip or story idea.** If you come across a great news story or have an idea for an article, please drop us a line.
- **Write a one-time article.** Have a great idea for an article and want to write it? Send us a short pitch and we’ll talk!
- **Volunteer to be on our regular writers list.** Sign up for our writers list and we’ll send you a list of article topics from time to time. Then you can let us know what articles you’d like to cover.

Stories should be Oregon-based and cover topics related to the three “Rs”: reduce, reuse, recycle.

For more info, contact us at [news@aorr.org](mailto:news@aorr.org).

## International Attorneys Visit NextStep Recycling



*ELAW and NextStep staff pose outside NextStep's Eugene facility.*

ELAW is Eugene-based nonprofit that works with hundreds of grassroots advocates in 70 countries to protect communities and the environment. The purpose of the tour with NextStep was to educate attorneys around the world about what can be done to stem the tide of toxic e-waste from North America and European countries to developing countries.

It was an eye-opening visit for Rockson Akugre, a Ghana attorney with the Center for Public Interest Law, an NGO focused on human rights and environmental issues. "In Ghana, we would throw broken computers away," Akugre said. "This is very new to me and good to be exposed to."

Olena Kravchenko, Executive Director of Environment-People-Law in Ukraine, was also impressed. "Your job is incredible," Kravchenko said to Kerwood. "A lot of countries have no idea what you should do with this stuff."

"I hope they will take what they see back to their communities and say, 'We can do this here,'" Kerwood said.

For more info, read the full story in the [Register Guard](#).

Earlier this month, leading environmental attorneys from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Central and Eastern Europe visited NextStep Recycling's facility in Eugene, Oregon.

Collaborating with Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW), NextStep's Executive Director Lorraine Kerwood gave the attorneys a tour of the warehouse where NextStep repairs broken electronics, then donates or sells them in their secondhand store.

ECONOMIC GAIN THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

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## Blue Heron Closes Its Doors

**B**lue Heron Paper Co. closed its Oregon City paper mill on Feb. 25. Blue Heron, an AOR member, specialized in producing newsprint, printing paper, bags, and paper towels from curbside recycled waste paper.

The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in Dec. 2009, and attempted to reorganize. However, according to Company president Mike Siebers, although “the initial plan was successful in restoring profitability,...lately those profits began to erode due to escalating waste paper prices and limited availability of that raw material.”

Siebers cited overseas competition as a major factor in the shutdown, “China and other far-East countries have developed an insatiable appetite for recycled fiber to support their own paper plants which are then subsidized by their parent countries... This allows them to drive up the price for waste paper.”

He added, “In [Feb.] alone, our delivered cost for recycled paper has increased by \$24 per ton, adding around \$240,000 to our monthly cost of production and basically wiping out any potential for profit in the near-term future... This has left the company with no choice other than to curtail operations and announce the closure.”

Blue Heron, a 100% employee-owned company that had been in business since 2000, employed 175 union and non-union workers. “I would like to thank our employees for their dedication to the job, the suppliers who have stayed with us through this entire process, and our customers for their support of our products,” said Siebers.

To read the full announcement from Blue Heron, visit [www.blueheronpaper.com](http://www.blueheronpaper.com).

## DISCOUNT FOR AOR MEMBERS!

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## Chair's Corner

### Thank You for Making AOR's Winter Forum a Success!



*Rick Winterhalter  
AOR Chair*

I wanted to thank everyone who presented at AOR's forum, "Film Plastics: Looking at Solutions" on March 16.

Vinod Singh of Far West Fibers reminded us of the challenges facing MRFs when the public inadvertently puts plastic film in their curbside carts.

DEQ's Peter Spendelow shared the findings from a [recent report](#) discussing the journey of recyclables from curb to end market.

Patty Moore of Moore Recycling Associates discussed the benefits and values of film plastics if recovered for recycling. Ms. Moore also described the differences between bio-resins and degradable plastics and emphatically decried the use of the latter.

Ashley Carlson from the American Chemistry Council shared information from several projects designed to aid consumers in proper recycling of film plastics. One promising project is the Sustainable Packaging Coalition's Recycling Label project, designed to provide consumers with more detailed information than the simple number/arrow system.

Kristan Mitchell, with the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, shared the association's newly created product stewardship principles.

I also wanted to thank those participating in the afternoon's open discussion, particularly Mark Daniels of Hilex Poly and his team, for clarifying technical and marketing issues facing manufacturers using recovered film.

The notes from the afternoon session are being compiled and will be used when a work group is formed to continue the discussions. Any work group will not begin meeting until after the conference, but if you are interested in participating, please email Amy Roth at [amy@aorr.org](mailto:amy@aorr.org).

A big thanks to Jeff Murray for pulling together an informative forum and, of course, thanks to our resource and communication directors, Amy and Kelly, for putting all the pieces together to wind up with a seamless production.

Stay tuned to next month's newsletter for a full recap of the forum's highlights.

## Getting to Know the Recycler of the Year Awardees: Kristin Wildensee, Alice Soderwall Reuse and Waste Prevention Award

*Each year, AOR selects individuals and organizations that have made exceptional contributions to recycling and waste prevention efforts to receive Recycler of the Year awards.*

The Alice Soderwall Reuse and Waste Prevention Award honors an individual or nonprofit organization whose efforts to reuse materials and prevent waste has made a significant impact on the community. This year's deserving recipient Kristin Wildensee pioneered the Durable Dish Project at the Montavilla Farmers Market.

The projec—the first of its kind in Portland—replaced thousands of disposable paper, plastic, and compostable food serveware with durable alternatives. But it didn't happen overnight. Read on to learn more about Kristin's story and the evolution of the Montavilla Farmers Market's waste reduction efforts.

### In the Beginning

When the Montavilla Farmers Market began in 2007, Kristin had just finished Portland's Master Recycler course and was looking for ways to complete her volunteer payback hours. Managing the market's waste and recycling seemed like the perfect opportunity to put her training to good use.

Kristin started by setting up trash and recycling cans with signage on lids throughout the small gravel lot of the farmers market. The system seemed to work: she successfully captured the usual suspects—plastic bottles and aluminum cans—in the recycling bin.

Merely establishing a simple trash and recycling program, however, was not enough for Kristin. The piles of clamshells and plastic cups in the trash weighed on her recycling conscience. Was there something she could do about these hard-to-recycle plastics?



*Kristin Wildensee shows off the Montavilla Farmers Market's waste collection station.*

### Tackling Plastic Packaging

While volunteering at the 2008 Bite of Oregon, Kristin was inspired to look at the market's waste stream with a more critical eye. Lindsey Newkirk of Elysium Events, who organized the Bite of Oregon's waste and recycling efforts, employed a system in which cups were dipped into five-gallon buckets of water, rinsed, stacked, and delivered to a plastics recycler.

"I had thought that volunteers wouldn't like rinsing cups because it was too messy and took too much time," said Kristin, "Through this process, I realized that there's only a barrier if I think there is."

When the farmers market opened later that year, Kristin made some changes. She moved to one centralized waste collection station with three categories of waste: 1) trash, 2) bottles and cans, and 3) clear cups. Using a system similar to the Bite of Oregon's, she was able to rinse and recycle about 100 cups a week.

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**Kristin Wildensee** *continued from previous page*



*Plates, silverware, and cups from the Montavilla Farmers Market's Durable Dish program.*

## The Final Frontier: Durables

The market's third season in 2009 brought even more changes—and more waste reduction! The vast majority of the market's trash was disposable serveware. To reduce this waste, Kristin needed to learn more about the waste stream.

Armed with helpful tips on waste stream evaluation from the knowledgeable folks at Portland State University Community Environmental Services (CES), Kristin embarked on some serious research. She collected an example of every piece of waste that might end up in the trash from each vendor and studied them, trying to identify any patterns in the products.

A significant finding emerged: every paper item was compostable. After conducting a more formal waste audit, Kristin concluded that the market generated about two full 45-gallon containers of compostables each week. The market agreed to cover the costs of adding organics diversion—\$25 for hauling plus about \$75 in compostable bags per month.

“It made me feel good that there was so little landfill waste, but there were still all the plastic clamshells,

plastic forks, and plastic cups.” Kristin said. She expanded the plastic cup rinsing method to other plastics, but it wasn't very successful. “It's one thing to rinse and stack plastic cups. It's quite another thing to get plastic forks and greasy clamshells clean...with a bucket of cold water.”

There had to be a better way. Kristin considered compostable serveware but was concerned about the cost, cross-contamination with recyclables, and how they would be processed. Instead, Kristin decided durables was a smarter choice. She applied—and won—a grant from Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to pursue the project.

## How It Works

With the grant money, Montavilla Farmers Market purchased 108 plates, 48 cups, and 150 forks. Volunteers distribute serveware to food vendors at the beginning of the market. When customers are finished, they return the durables to the trash station. After the market closes, volunteers bring the dishes to Thatcher's, a local restaurant that allows the market to use their commercial dishwasher. After they are clean, volunteers bring the dishes back to the market and store them to use for the next week. The whole process takes 20 minutes.

Feedback from food vendors and market-goers alike has been positive. Food vendors like that they are able to cut costs by forgoing the need to buy disposable serveware and customers like that they are able to enjoy food at the market in a more sustainable way.

## The Numbers Say It All

During 15 market weeks of 2009 when the program was first piloted, the market eliminated 1,796 paper plates, *continued on next page >>>*

**Kristin Wildensee** *continued from previous page*

paper boats, and plastic clamshells; 393 plastic cups and lids; and 2,101 plastic forks from its wastestream. In 2010, they eliminated an impressive 4,012 plates, 4,695 forks, and 483 cups.

A big thank you and congratulations to Kristin Wildensee for all her great work. Let's hope other farmers markets take note and follow the Montavilla's example!

### For More Info

For more information about the Montavilla Farmers Market and its Durable Dish program, visit [www.montavillamarket.org](http://www.montavillamarket.org). Interested in helping make this sustainability happen each week? Check out how you can get involved at [www.montavillamarket.org/support/volunteer/](http://www.montavillamarket.org/support/volunteer/).



*Vendors like Micro Mercantes enjoy the cost savings of not having to purchase disposable serviceware.*

*Editor's note: Kristin and her husband are traveling for the foreseeable future. However, Quinn Taylor has stepped in to continue Kristin's good work. You can reach Quinn at [durabledish@montavillamarket.org](mailto:durabledish@montavillamarket.org). Pictures courtesy of [Meredith Sorenson](#).*



## SUSTAINABLE OREGON 2011

presented by the

*Association of Oregon Recyclers*

### SAVE THE DATE!

Sustainable Oregon 2011

AOR's 33rd Annual Conference and Trade Show

June 16-18

Seaside, OR

Stay tuned for more details in the coming months at <http://aorr.org/conference.html>.

## Board Briefs

AOR's annual conference, Sustainable Oregon 2011, is really taking shape. This year's conference will be in Seaside on June 16–18 with a broad array of session topics, multiple networking opportunities, and—as always—a terrific trade show. Stay tuned to AOR's website for more details in the coming weeks.

If you're interested in sponsoring one of the many sessions or activities at the conference, be sure to contact Amy Roth, AOR's Resource Director, at [amy@aorr.org](mailto:amy@aorr.org). There are plenty of opportunities at just about every sponsorship level—big or small, we're grateful for your support!

If your organization would like to have a booth at this year's trade show, exhibitor forms are now available on AOR's website at <http://aorr.org/conference.html>. The conference planning committee has done an excellent job to ensure that exhibitors will get more time with their audience this year, thanks to multiple networking opportunities in the trade show throughout the conference.



*Amy Roth*  
AOR Resource Director

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To learn more, visit [thinkgreen.com](http://thinkgreen.com) or call 1-800-808-5901 (M-F 7:30am-5pm)



This year's elections and annual meeting will be held on Friday of the conference. If you're interested in running for office, there are several positions that are up for reelection this year, including:

- Education Chair
- Legislative Chair
- Markets Chair
- Membership Chair
- Treasurer

More information about these positions and what they entail are coming soon. Stay tuned to AOR's listserve and website for more info.

And don't forget the call for Recycler of the Year nominations. Do you know of an individual or organization that did something innovative, showed leadership in waste prevention and recycling, who deserves to be recognized? We'll soon solicit nominations for the 2011 Recycler of the Year Awards. This year you'll

be able to submit nominations via an easy-to-use online form on our website. Questions regarding nominations can be directed to Jesse Engum, AOR Secretary, at [jesse.engum@ci.gresham.or.us](mailto:jesse.engum@ci.gresham.or.us) or 503-618-2656.



## News From Around the State and Country



### Marion County Tackles Junk Mail

To combat unwanted mail, Marion County is launching a zero-waste initiative that will allow consumers to stop unwanted phone books, catalogs, coupons, and credit card solicitations at the source.

The free service, designed by Catalog Choice, connects 1.3 million consumers nationwide with 4,000 direct-mail companies to fine-tune mailing lists. Marion County will receive detailed reporting on local participation by zip code, solid waste diversion, and environmental benefits.

More than 100 billion pieces of unsolicited mail are received by Americans each year—and municipalities foot the bill for waste collection and disposal. With the annual collection and landfill cost of these mailings estimated at up to \$10 per household, the cost savings will be significant.

Marion County joins Chicago; Kansas City; Tompkins County (Ithaca), NY; and Berkeley, CA in partnership with Catalog Choice. The mail preference service for Marion County is sponsored by a County Public Works Environmental Services grant.

County residents and businesses can [sign up here](#).



### Researchers Track Seattle's Garbage, Most Is Recycled

To get people thinking about their waste generation, MIT researchers tracked 3,000 pieces of Seattle's trash. Most of it ended up at recycling facilities.

In 2009, a team from MIT's SENSEable City Lab affixed electronic tracking devices to pizza boxes, plastic wrap, bottles and cans, e-waste and more tossed in the trash by volunteer households. They also tagged items from a Seattle Public Library collection event.

To Brett Stav, a planning and development specialist for Seattle Public Utilities, the news that most of Seattle's trash gets recycled is not surprising. The city's requires its contracted recycler to recycle 95 percent of material received.

However, some trash did travel long distances, raising questions about the carbon emissions associated with recycling certain products. Electronics, for example, traveled more than 950 miles on average to specialized reuse and recycling facilities. Cellphones were tracked to Florida, printer cartridges to Tennessee, and batteries to Minnesota.

Stav says that there are many ways to consider the value of recycling, such as keeping some toxic materials out of landfills. "Just because there's a carbon footprint, does that mean you shouldn't recycle it?"

For more info, [click here](#).



### Materials from Portland Federal Building Gets Recycled

Thanks to money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (i.e. the federal stimulus bill), the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building in

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**News** *continued from previous page*

Portland is getting a facelift—and most of the discarded materials are being put to good use.

Russ Buffington, spokesman for the General Services Administration (GSA), says they've recycled all the doors, floors, and carpets. Concrete removed from the building's exterior will also be recycled for use in road construction.

GSA has donated many reusable items to the ReBuilding Center in Northeast Portland. So far, five solid-core doors were donated to a church and a bar purchased mahogany trim to use in their 1900s-era building.

Once the building is finished in March 2013, the GSA hopes to earn the U.S. Green Building Council's "platinum" rating for green buildings.

For more info, [click here](#).



### **New Owner Plans to Reopen Kalama Glass Plant**

Bennu Glass, LLC plans to reopen the former Cameron Glass plant in the Port of Kalama, WA in early 2012. The plant will produce 100 million bottles a year and bring 100 jobs to the area.

Bennu purchased most of the plant's assets through foreclosure after Cameron filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in 2009.

Bennu's CEO, Jerry Lemieux, said, "To restart the factory, Bennu will make a significant investment in the existing facility. This will include removal of the inoperable electric glass furnace that was blamed in large part for Cameron's failure. In its place, a new, state-of-the-art oxygen-fuel furnace will be installed."

Bennu will serve the vibrant wine industry in California, Oregon, Washington, and Western Canada.

Kalama officials are pleased with the reopening, and believe the Bennu plant will boost the local economy. Lanny Cawley, director of the Port of Kalama, said "We're thrilled to see this happen."

For more info, [click here](#).



### **Teens Start Recycling Business in Wallowa County**

Five students at Enterprise High School in Wallowa County have created a new business, Blue Mountain Boys Recycling, that offers households an eco-friendly alternative to simply throwing away their garbage.

Sean Dean, Erich Roepke, Matt Perren, Trent Martin, and Marcus Lynn's new business will pick up recyclables from clients and deliver them to the recycling center in Enterprise. Their tagline says it all: "they do it, so you don't have to."

Matt Perren, a senior at Enterprise High and the chief executive officer of Blue Mountain Boys Recycling, was inspired to found the company after making money returning soda cans for his family.

"Every week, I'd get \$5, \$10," Perren said. "At first, we were gonna just do cans but then we decided to take everything."

Blue Mountain Boys Recycling is one of several businesses started this year by teenagers with the help of Mentor Match, an entrepreneur group for teens in Wallowa County.

For more info, [click here](#) or e-mail [bluemountainboysrecycling@gmail.com](mailto:bluemountainboysrecycling@gmail.com).

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**News** *continued from previous page*



## U.S. EPA Releases Municipal Solid Waste Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its biannual municipal solid waste characterization report, “Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2009 Facts and Figures.”

The full report contains data and trends on municipal solid waste (MSW) management from 1960 to 2009, including source reduction, recycling, composting, and disposal.

According to the report, the U.S. generated 243 million tons of trash in 2009, down from 251 million tons in 2008. Of this material, about 61 million tons were recycled and an additional 21 million tons were composted. Together, this represents a 33.8 percent recycling rate.

Paper/paperboard was recycled at the highest rate (62.1 percent), followed by yard trimmings (59.9 percent), metals (34.5 percent), glass (25.5 percent), and plastics (7.1 percent).

To read the full report, [click here](#).



## ACC Reports Increase in Recycling of Non-Bottle Rigid Plastics

According to a report by the American Chemistry Council (ACC), nearly 480 million pounds of postconsumer non-bottle rigid plastics were collected for recycling nationwide in 2009, an increase of nearly 33 percent from 2008.

The category “non-bottle rigid plastics” includes nondurable items (or packaging) such as high-density polyethylene (HDPE) tubs; polypropylene (PP) cups and similar food containers; and durable items like

pallets, crates, carts, five-gallon buckets, and electronic housings.

Additionally, the report found that a growing number of reclaimers have begun processing non-bottle HDPE and PP containers to produce resin for new end products. The number of communities collecting mixed rigid plastics has also grown in response to demand.

The report was prepared by Moore Recycling Associates, Inc. and is based on data supplied by 60 postconsumer plastic processors, end-users, and exporters across the United States.

For the full report, “2009 National Post Consumer Report on Non-Bottle Rigid Plastics Recycling,” [click here](#).



## England Reaches 40 Percent Recycling Rate

For the first time, England has achieved a 40 percent recycling rate.

Furthermore, the amount of household waste generated per person fell for the fourth year in a row to about 1,003 pounds, a 0.3 percent decrease from last year. The tonnage of waste being sent to landfills by local authorities also decreased by 2.3 percent.

The numbers, released by the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), are based on data submitted by local authorities from July 2009 through June 2010.

For more info, [click here](#).

## Calendar

### **SWANA Landfill Gas Symposium – Dallas, TX**

March 21-24

[www.lfg.swana.org](http://www.lfg.swana.org)

The Landfill Gas Symposium is the leading authority on innovative landfill gas control, management, and utilization practices.

### **Business Recycling Workshop – Hillsboro, OR**

March 24

[www.recyclewise.org](http://www.recyclewise.org)

The Washington County Recycle at Work program, with the City of Hillsboro and the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, is hosting free business recycling workshops. Gain a marketing advantage over your competitors—learn how to reduce the amount of waste your business sends to the landfill and save money on your bottom line.

### **Residential Recycling Conference – Nashville, TN**

March 29-31

[www.residentialrecyclingconference.com](http://www.residentialrecyclingconference.com)

The Residential Recycling Conference is the premier executive business and technology event that focuses solely on residential recycling. Waste & Recycling News and Republic Services Inc. are co-organizers of the event.

### **SWANA 2011 Northwest Symposium – Everett, WA**

April 13-15

[www.swananw.org/nwsymposium.html](http://www.swananw.org/nwsymposium.html)

Each year the Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia chapters hold a joint Northwest Symposium, where members come to exchange information, socialize, and learn from each other and technical experts. The symposium offers a lineup of technical sessions for one or more days, classes in topics of interest to solid waste managers, and often tours of nearby solid waste management facilities.

### **SWANA Oregon Road-E-O – Eugene, OR**

May 14

[www.swanaoregon.org](http://www.swanaoregon.org)

The second annual SWANA Oregon Road-E-O will be held at the Lane County Fairground. Once again, front-line employees in the solid waste management field will be given the chance to demonstrate their skills in a friendly, competitive event. The competition includes a behind-the-wheel test that requires each driver to maneuver industry-standard roll-off, front-end loading, and automated side-loading vehicles through a preset course.

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**Calendar** *continued from previous page*

### **North American Waste-To-Energy Conference – Lancaster, PA**

May 16-18

<http://nawtec.swana.org>

The North American Waste-To-Energy Conference (NAWTEC) is widely recognized as the leading industry technical conference and trade show focusing on municipal waste-to-energy operational issues and policy, technology, and research initiatives. NAWTEC is co-sponsored by the Energy Recovery Council, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and SWANA in partnership with the Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council at Columbia University.

### **ResourceFull Use Workshop – Portland, OR**

May 19

[www.zerowaste.org/ResourceFull](http://www.zerowaste.org/ResourceFull)

ResourceFull Use is an innovative resource exchange program being developed in the Portland metro region. Meet others in organizations whose outputs may become your inputs and hear about others' successful exchanges and financial savings. Sponsored by Zero Waste Alliance, the Columbia Corridor Association, Pollution Prevention Resource Center, and the Boeing Company.

### **2011 WSRA Conference: "WSRA: Better Together!" – Pasco, WA**

May 22-25

[www.wsra.net](http://www.wsra.net)

The Washington State Recycling Association's (WSRA) 31st annual conference and trade show should be another not-to-miss event! The conference will explore current recycling trends and challenges, as well as include networking and collaborating with colleagues from across Washington.

### **Green Drinks – various dates/locations in OR**

[www.greendrinks.org/OR/list](http://www.greendrinks.org/OR/list)

Every month people who work in the environmental field meet up at informal networking sessions known as Green Drinks. In Oregon, Green Drinks get-togethers are held in the following cities: Ashland, Bend, Eugene, Hood River, Lincoln City, Medford, Newport, Portland, and the Dalles.

#### **Have an Event to Submit?**

Send an email to [calendar@aorr.org](mailto:calendar@aorr.org) with the name of the event, a web link to the event, date and time, location, and a brief description.

For an updated listing of events, see AOR's calendar at [www.aorr.org/calendar.html](http://www.aorr.org/calendar.html).

## Announcements

### Next Board Meeting

#### Open to All Members

**Date:** Monday, March 28

**Time:** 3pm-5:30pm

**Place:** Metro  
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland  
Rm 370A

**RSVP:** Please RSVP at [amy@aorr.org](mailto:amy@aorr.org)

### Welcome New AOR Members!

Call2Recycle  
Atlanta, GA

Matt Spencer  
Portland, OR

Janet Unruh  
Portland, OR



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TEL 503-233-3056 • FAX 503-232-0272  
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