

Facilities Services Sustainability Work Group

RecycleMania
(Jan 22- Mar 31)
BE A Recycling MANIAC
help us **BEAT OSU!**



University of Oregon

Campus Operations, Growing Sustainability

Winter 2012

Volume 12, Issue #

Message From F.S. Sustainability Work Group

Feedback, Please

The Sustainability Work Group needs your help. Keep us informed of your thoughts, ideas, and feedback as you read these newsletters. And feel free to send in ideas for stories. Forward all comments to:

knowaste@uoregon.edu

In This Issue ...

1. **RecycleMania**
2. **Sustainability Facts**
3. **Sustainability Tips**
4. **Campus Operations Electric Fleet**
5. **Sustainability Superstar**
6. **Bike to Work!**
7. **Ban the Bag**
8. **Green Cleaning on Campus**
9. **Student Sustainability Fair Brings Student Groups Together**
10. **The Most Dangerous Species in the Mediterranean**
11. **Reuse Materials to Create Something New**

RecycleMania



The UO is currently participating in RecycleMania for yet another winter term. The competition began in 2001 as a recycling competition between 2 Ohio universities, has grown to over 600 colleges across the country, and expanded to Canada. The competition is a test to see which school can collect the most recyclables per person from the entire campus and facilities. The competition also serves as an educational and promotional opportunity to engage students and try to decrease the overall waste generated on campus.

The 2012 RecycleMania competition will also mark the third annual RecycleMania Civil War between the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. OSU currently holds the title of RecycleMania Civil War champion as they diverted 5.5 pounds more per person than UO after 10 weeks in the 2011 competition. All faculty, students and staff are encouraged to recycle cardboard, bottles, cans and paper and compost food waste organics (where available) for the victory.

Recyclables collected from recycling/waste stations at Spencer View, Moss Street Apartments, Agate Street Apartments, Columbia Terrace and Moon Lee Court are included in the UO's total recycling. Family Housing residents can show their Duck pride and do their part to beat OSU in the Civil War!

The RecycleMania competition will run from January 22-March 31, 2012. For information about RecycleMania, please check out the national website, <http://www.recyclemaniacs.org>. Weekly national and Civil War standings and will be updated on the UO Campus Recycling website, <http://recycle.uoregon.edu>.

Sustainability Facts

RECYCLING 1 Ton Paper...

SAVES

- 17 TREES
- 380 GALLONS OF OIL
- 6953 GALLONS OF WATER
- 587 POUNDS OF AIR POLLUTION
- 4,077 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY
- 3.06 CUBIC YARDS OF LANDFILL SPACE

Visit: <http://www.greentax2290.com/greenfacts.aspx>

Sustainability Tips

1. **Turn Down the Thermostat.** Most households shell out 50 to 70% of their energy budgets on heating and cooling. For every degree you lower the thermostat, you'll save between 1 and 3% of your heating bill. Do the same thing in reverse with air conditioning.
2. **Wash Your Laundry in Cold Water.** Turn the dial on your washing machine to cold. Most loads don't need hot water, and 90% of the energy used by washing machines goes into heating.
3. **Stop Idling.** Idling for more than 10 seconds wastes more gas than is needed for startup. Overall, Americans idle away 2.9 billion gallons of gas a year, worth around \$78.2 billion.
4. **Turn Off Your Computer.** You'll save an average of \$90 of electricity a year.
5. **Read books on going green.** Check out *Clean House Clean Planet* a great book on Green Cleaning.

Source: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/going-green/latest/green-tips-10-easiest>

Campus Operations Electric Fleet

Campus Operations replaced their old gas guzzling vans for a more efficient electric fleet. To replace the vans Campus Operations added three new golf carts. The golf carts are manufactured by Club Car and then retailed by Foursom Inc. Foursom Inc is a company that services mostly in Oregon and Washington a variety of low speed, used, and new vehicles. The electric Club Cars offer a smaller transportation vehicle for facility and maintenance crews, yet still allow the capabilities needed to function as a utility vehicle. Club Car also promotes sustainability during the process of manufacturing the vehicles. Club Car strives to operate their company as efficiently as possible, as well as delivering a product that is zero emissions.

Sustainable transportation has multiple benefits for the environment and the customer. The new golf carts are battery powered thus eliminating the need for gasoline. The switch to electric transport decreases the emissions of air pollutants on campus, including CO2 while also supplying efficient travel. Economic benefits provide an incentive for other schools to make the switch as well. With the reduction of gasoline, expenses for transportation decrease significantly. Also customers may be eligible for tax credit deductions.

William Kasper from campus operations has been a strong supporter and initiator in bringing the new electric Club Cars to the UO. Kasper has been in contact with other PAC-12 schools to generate conversation around using electric vehicles on campus. He hopes to get more schools to make the switch to an electric fleet but also hopes to drive the market for electric utility transport, to accommodate the needs of Universities. Kasper plans to eventually bring all the interested schools together to discuss specifications on the needs for campus operation vehicles, and then relay his information to the manufactures.

For more information on Club Cars visit:
<http://www.clubcar.com/>

Sustainability Superstar

George Hecht

George Hecht, Associate Vice President for Campus Operations, is awarded the Sustainability Superstar this issue for his efforts to advance bicycle infrastructure on the UO campus. George has supported multiple sustainable projects in the past and this year he has helped fund the bike programs' new bicycle network. George also funded \$25,000 for new bicycle racks and recently installed 300 racks just over winter break. The bicycle racks were installed all over campus, and one car parking spot behind the EMU was replaced with bike parking allowing 20 new bike racks. These bicycle improvements have helped meet the demands of students on campus, and have made cycling a more convenient option over driving. George also leads by example, as he is an avid bike rider himself, and usually bikes to work. Congrats George, and thank you for your dedication to sustainability!

Bike to Work!

This year the University of Oregon Outdoor Program implemented a bike network to provide safety for bicycling on campus. The Outdoor Program applied for student funding last year and received it from the ASUO Over-Realized fund, and received funds from Campus Operations. Campus Operations helped install the bike network by laying out the shared road arrows (sharrows), and route signage. The new installations are along 13th avenue and other streets around campus. The sharrows are intended to replace the need for bike lanes, and make the campus streets shared between drivers and cyclists. Additional signage has also been installed around campus to direct cyclist onto the bike route. The city has also improved bicycle infrastructure; along Alder Street a new cycle track was installed, and recently priority traffic signals for bicyclists were put in. The Priority traffic signals for bicycles allow cyclists that approach the signal to have a priority for the next green light. The new improvements on and around campus have made it more convenient and safe for bicycles to get around.

Biking to work is a win-win solution. Bicycling is more sustainable than driving your car, it produces zero emissions. Bicycling to work can give you the daily exercise you need which will help improve your fitness and health. Cycling can also reduce stress and provide riders with improved self-esteem. Biking to work also saves you money, so why not try it out?

Join the growing community of bike commuters and discover the excitement and freedom of bicycling to work!

Installation of the sharrows on 13th Street.
Photos by: UO Outdoors Program.

Remember to bike SAFELY!

Ban the Bag

Right now billions of plastic bags that were sitting in our landfills have swept into the ocean. The Pacific Garbage Patch, is known as the toxic collection of garbage and plastic that has accumulated in our ocean right off the coast of California. The Pacific Garbage Patch consists of roughly 60% plastic bags, and is three times the size of Texas. This accumulated plastic is endangering the ocean's wildlife. Millions of animals die a year from suffocation, and ingestion of these disposable plastics. In the last 30 years the amount of plastic in the ocean has tripled. Oregonians checkout 1.7 billion plastic bags every year and yet only 5% are recycled.

What is the solution? Many countries and United States cities have begun to ban plastic bags. Portland recently banned plastic bags from major grocery and shopping stores. By banning disposable bags it is a small step to ensuring future plastics won't pollute our ocean. Eugene city council is currently considering to follow Portland's lead in creating an ordinance to ban the bags, but nothing has been finalized. For now switching habits by bringing a reusable bag when shopping is a simple and sustainable solution. Also if you end up with a plastic bag, remember to recycle it!



Next time you go shopping remember to **bring your reusable bag!**

For more information visit: <http://environmentoregoncenter.org/programs/keep-plastic-out-pacific-0>



Green Cleaning on Campus

Since 2003 Campus Operations Custodial Services have used green cleaning products. They have chosen green products to ensure a safe and healthy cleaning environment for their employees and those who use the buildings on campus. Green cleaning is effective cleaning that protects health while preventing negative consequences on the environment. Campus Operations has partnered with the UO Green Product Design Network (GPDN) to create a Green Cleaning Policy for campus, under the LEED rating for existing buildings. GPDN is a group of leaders from the University of Oregon with expertise in green chemistry and other studies, with a goal to create truly sustainable products and market them for the general public to endorse.

Two chemistry graduate students Rick Glover and Ed Elliot have been instrumental in determining if custodial services products qualify as green. These two students have been working with Jerry Dominy to test the levels of toxicity in the green cleaning products currently used by custodial services. Campus Operations contacted these two students seeking to test the products to ensure they meet certified LEED standards. Multiple credits can be granted for buildings under LEED certification for green cleaning. Testing the green products will provide credit for "purchase of sustainable cleaning products and materials". This certification requires the purchase of 30% of all products used to be green certified. Campus Operations is going beyond this requirement to ensure all products labeled green, test as green and meet basic safety measures. Thanks to the students and campus operations efforts the university will be closer to achieving the goal for all new construction projects on campus to be LEED-gold certified.

Student Sustainability Fair Brings Student Groups Together

The Student Sustainability Coalition put on the Sustainability Fair which lasted four hours on January 25th in the EMU concourse. The fair encompassed a diverse range of UO student clubs whom all share a goal to enhance environmental consciousness on campus and around the Eugene community.

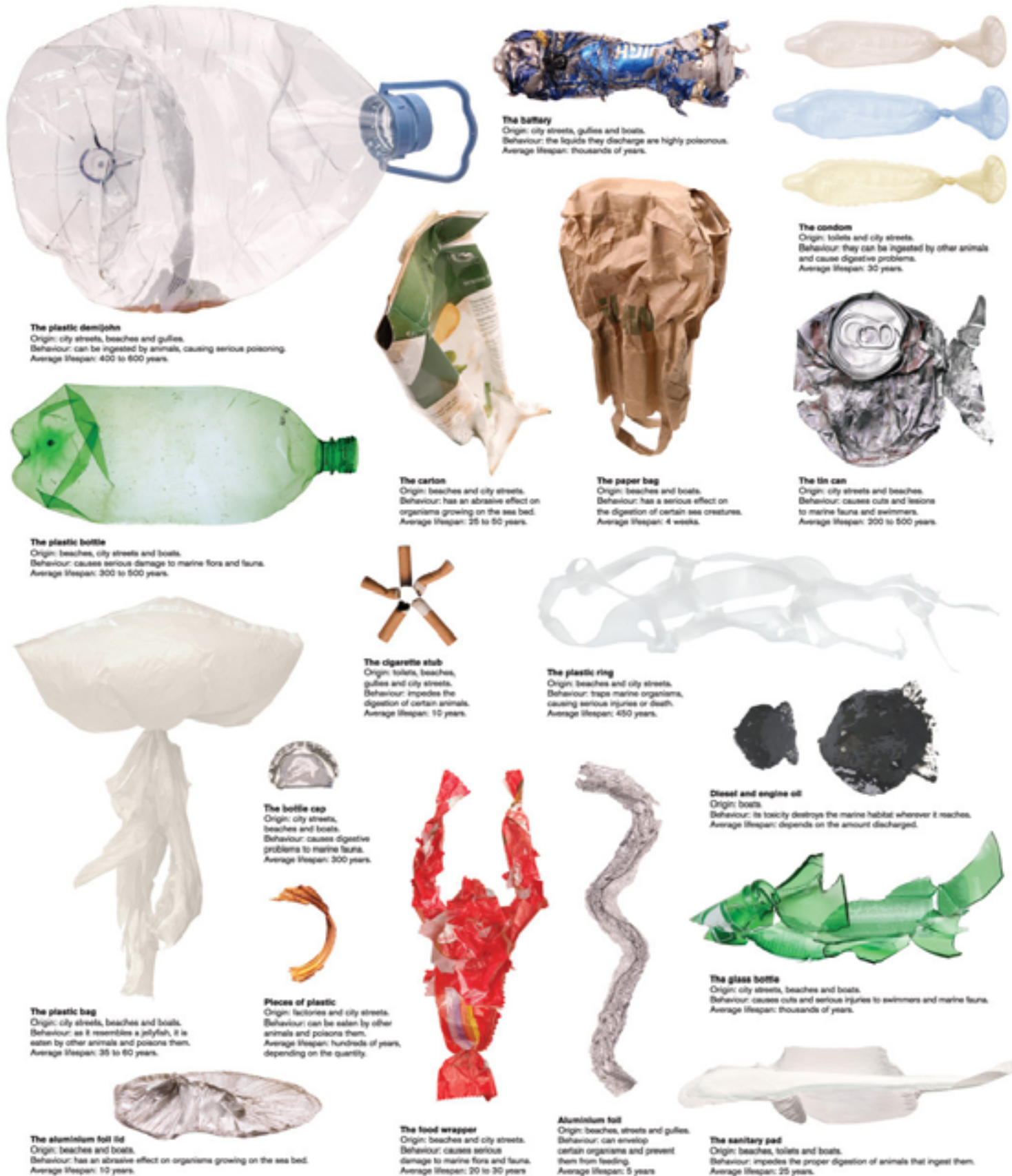
The coalition consists of 15 campus groups with focusses on green efforts. At the fair the groups set up tables with information, games, giveaways, and volunteer opportunities for students. The Recycling Program was giving away RecycleMania shirts, for those who played the sorting game and made a pledge to increase their recycling efforts. The fair allowed student groups to come together and communicate what they are working on currently, and it was a chance to showcase their sustainability efforts. Students were casually stopping by throughout the fair, especially during lunch hour, to check out what was going on. This brought a lot of awareness about sustainability to students not involved and provided them information on the direct actions students are taking to combat climate changes. Overall, the fair was a great opportunity for students to learn, network, and unify with others..



Student Recyclers hosted a recycling sorting game to teach other students how to recycle!



THE MOST DANGEROUS SPECIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



All around the world, 8 million tonnes of waste reach the sea every day. All this refuse is generated by human activity. This non-recyclable rubbish is thrown into the toilet, onto the streets, into gullies, onto the sand and into the sea, turning it into a tangible destroyer of marine life. But you can stop this from happening.

Uncontrolled waste is a threat to the seas.

REUSE MATERIALS TO CREATE SOMETHING NEW!



Turn a baby crib into a blackboard desk.
<http://blog.hannamac.com/2011/10/10/favorites-finds/>



Turn soup cans into new lighting!
<http://blog.hannamac.com/2011/10/10/favorites-finds/>



Turn old magazines into a wreath or clock!
<http://bluevelvetchair.blogspot.com/2011/07/25-repurposed-magazine-projects-diy.html>



Turn lightbulbs into flower vases!
<http://www.naturalhomeand-garden.com/green-decor-and-design/3-ways-upcycle-old-lightbulbs-creative-home-decor.aspx>