

# Facilities Services Sustainability Work Group



University of Oregon  
Campus Operations, Growing Sustainability

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## Feedback- keep it coming!

We'd like to keep receiving feedback from all of you about what your zone is doing, your thoughts, ideas for stories and anything you'd like added to the newsletter. Forward all comments to: [recycle@uoregon.edu](mailto:recycle@uoregon.edu)

## Special Earth Day Issue

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"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."  
-Native American Proverb

Make everyday Earth Day!

## Earth Day

Earth Day began as an environmental teach-in on April 22, 1970, organized by Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and coordinated by Denis Hayes, a Harvard graduate student. It was celebrated in 1970 by an estimated 20 million Americans and many more around the world. Today, it is observed in 175 countries and more than half a billion people every year. The original Earth Day contributed to the passing of the Clean Air Act and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Events celebrating Earth Day will take place on-campus on Wednesday, April 22 at the EMU. The City of Eugene is also having a celebration at the EWEB plaza Saturday, April 18. Bring the family! Earthday is for everyone!

## Stay Tuned...

More info on Local Earthday activities:

<http://www.earthdayoregon.com/events.html>

April is recycle your electronics month:

<http://www.nextsteprecycling.org/>



## Earth Hour

March 28, 2009, across the world, people shut off their lights for one hour to make a statement on wasted energy. To truly make such a statement, we must turn off and unplug unnecessary electrical appliances as often as possible. According to Blue Sky Model, turning off your lights, AC, and computer overnight saves 28 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>. To see photos of Earth Hour at world landmarks, click on photos for black outs:

[http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/03/earth\\_hour\\_2009.html](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/03/earth_hour_2009.html).

## In Memory: Collin Partridge



Collin was instrumental in making sure the Campus Recycling Program could exist and his hard work got us and kept us on the road for 19 years. We miss you Collin and thanks always for everything you did- the world is a lot better because of you.

## Green Purchasing

The Facilities Services Purchasing team has been busy pursuing sustainable purchasing options. Susan Osterman stresses the use of local vendors whenever possible. She also prefers to buy American-made products and encourages others to consider the source of products they buy.

Buying local and American-made not only helps the local economy, but cuts down on transportation costs. Products made in the U.S. are also generally subjected to more environmental and labor restrictions than those made in countries like China. Susan believes this practice is important because of the large, unseen impact behind products we purchase. She stresses the power of your purchases to express your support for certain practices over others. If you disagree with what your supplier is doing, rather than just telling them, you should consider switching suppliers.

The Purchasing team uses the highest post-consumer recycled content paper for printing, post-it notes, paper towels and toilet paper. The team also considers the packaging purchases come in, and even where the products go after use. Ink cartridges used to be sent back to HP, but now go to Step Forward Activities, a private non-profit in Baker City, Oregon, that provides treatment, vocational training and employment to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Outside of the office, the impact of product content is also considered. F.S. Purchasing switched to mercury-free batteries before this became standard. Paint purchased contains zero VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds), which the EPA cites as one of the worst indoor air contaminants. Cleaning products used by crews around campus all come from Sustainable Earth, a company whose products have all received green certificates from sustainability groups.

Campus and Grounds is shifting to using more natural fertilizers. These products are all healthier for the employees who use them than products high in toxins and chemicals. By purchasing products that are high in recycled content, low in packaging and harmful content, and from local suppliers, everyone gets a healthier workplace, community and planet!

## Want to Buy Green?

You can practice green purchasing inside and outside of work!

At work, use paper products with the highest level of recycled content. This includes paper towels and tissue. Paper Calculator can help you figure out which paper choices are best for your office needs and why:

<http://www.edf.org/papercalculator/>

The University provides a sustainability guide for purchasing managers:

<http://baowww.uoregon.edu/ProcurementContracting/procurementenvironmenttips.htm>

At home, buy products that improve efficiency and decrease waste. This includes **CFL bulbs** – the 37,626,543 bulbs sold in the US since 1997 have saved 3,917,028,621 lbs of coal and prevented the release of 16,764,882,499 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>. When buying food, try to buy **local products**- reducing the cost of transportation, those with **less packaging**, and **fewer animal products**- 1/3 of the fossil fuels used in the US go to raising animals and a meat-intensive diet requires 20 times the land and 14 times the water of a diet without animal products.

It's the small things that add up- each meal without animal products, each CFL bulb, and one less piece of wasted packaging all make a difference! Don't forget your reusable shopping bag!

## Sustainability at the Bookstore

The UO Bookstore has implemented sustainability practices in all areas that model a sustainable office and retail outlet.

The bookstore has numerous recycling receptacles for customers and employees, in break rooms and offices, to encourage recycling. The bookstore also provides bottle-less filtered water, metal spoons for coffee, and encourages reusable dishes. Lighting is done with energy efficient bulbs and motion sensors to reduce unused lighting. Many bookstore products are made from recycled, organic, fair-trade or low-toxicity materials which includes sourcing from local companies.

Donating dated merchandise and text books to charities and 3<sup>rd</sup> world education programs reduces waste, and helps those in need. If you need to get rid of furniture or office supplies, check out "Reusing and Exchanging," or consider donating them.

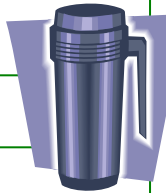


## Sustainability Tips

### How to **green** your meetings:

#### Try to go as “zero-waste” as possible!

- Order reusable dishes if you're going to serve food and bring your own refillable container, rather than using a disposable cup.
- Order water in reusable pitchers, rather than disposable bottles.
- Use only napkins made with recycled content and compost them afterwards.
- Use double-sided handouts or provide an electronic version online to avoid using paper altogether.
- If providing snacks, keep in mind where they came from, how much packaging they come in, and what went into their production. Buy local!
- Turn off your computer and electronics while at the meeting.



## Monthly Facts

- One box of tissue that contains no recycled paper takes 90 years to grow.
- Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year. That doesn't even include paper coffee cups!
- Most paper cups are made from 100% virgin paper (due to health regulations) and aren't recyclable, making their production and post-consumption very wasteful.
- Decomposing paper (like cups) in landfills produce methane which traps 23 times more heat than carbon dioxide.

Facts taken from:

<http://www.sustainabilityissexy.com/facts.html>

<http://www.lifegoggles.com/1474/it-takes-90-years-to-grow-a-box-of-kleenex/>

## Bottled Water

There is growing awareness of the true cost of bottled water. The cities of Seattle and San Francisco have banned city funds from being used to purchase bottled water for events. The University of Winnipeg has banned bottled water on campus, approved by three quarters of students. More people are carrying their own reusable metal, plastic or glass containers instead of purchasing plastic water bottles. Here in Oregon, bottled water is now included in the bottle bill so you pay a deposit and get it back upon return. This will help ensure those bottles get recycled. An estimated 90% of water bottles currently are not recycled!

### Why ditch bottled water?

It takes countless resources to produce bottled water- a water bottle requires a quarter of the bottles capacity worth of oil for production. It also takes about 5 liters of water to make a 1 liter bottle.

Fuels are used and greenhouse gases are produced in the transportation of plastic water bottles to the source then to the store.

Bottled water costs way more than tap water which is almost free. In 2007, Americans spent \$16 billion on bottled water- about \$53,000 per person!

Tap water here in Eugene is considered the best in the country, and bottled water actually faces LESS inspection and regulation than tap water.

Bottled water companies are also known to exploit water rights in rural areas by failing on promises to provide jobs within the community- not worthy of your monetary support.

### UO gets more refillable-friendly...

Water bottle spouts are coming soon to campus to make it easier to fill water bottles at drinking fountains!



## Recycling at Work

Whether you work in an office, a shop, or elsewhere at the UO, opportunities abound for recycling. Besides reducing consumption and buying things that can be repaired or reused, recycling is arguably the easiest and most cost-effective way to help the University reduce its carbon footprint and reverse global warming.

Most of the materials generated by UO employees are recyclable. A quick call to Campus Recycling at 6-5275 can get you on the road to recycling the following materials – and more:

- Paper
- Books
- Plastic, metal, and glass food and beverage containers
- Hard plastics
- Sheet plastics
- Media (CD's, audio and video cassettes, floppy diskettes)
- Transparencies
- Styrofoam
- Toner and inkjet cartridges
- Compostables
- Construction/remodeling scraps metals, wood, and other materials
- Reusable office supplies

Many items not listed here can also be diverted from the landfill. Call us if you have questions. We may be able to offer recycling/reuse solutions, or we may direct you to another University entity for special disposal instructions. Contact Karissa at: X65275.

Thanks for helping the University to be a good model of global citizenry – and THANKS FOR RECYCLING!

## Sustainability Superstar of the Month: Jay Sahabdeen

Jay Sahabdeen has been recycling paint by mixing it and applying it in many buildings on campus. By doing this, Jay saved money and resources, in addition to reducing waste. Before, paint was simply hardened and thrown away. Very few people take the initiative, as Jay has done, to recycle paint. Thanks for reusing materials and saving money Jay, you're a superstar! PS Happy Retirement!!



## Reusing and Exchanging

The Reusable Office Supply Exchange Program, R.O.S.E, and the Surplus Furniture Exchange help reduce waste and save money all around the University.

### REUSABLE OFFICE SUPPLY EXCHANGE

R.O.S.E. is located in 182 PLC, with the key to the room available at English department. This is a self-serve operation. Drop items in the designated area and use the log book to record any items you take. R.O.S.E. is a quick, simple, and FREE way to drop off usable items and pick up office supplies without waiting for purchase orders. The total savings in replacement value of items picked up from R.O.S.E. since 1992 is \$192,449!

### SURPLUS FURNITURE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Surplus Furniture Exchange Program gives campus departments a chance to find reusable office furniture available for free (you pay delivery). The program includes Surplus Property beyond furniture- lab equipment, computer equipment and electronics, survey tools, athletic equipment, almost anything used around campus. To stop by and check out what's available, visit the old Romania Building, located near Franklin and Orchard between 12:30 and 1, Monday-Friday. To check out what Surplus items are up for grabs, visit:

<http://surplus.uoregon.edu>

Off-campus, Eugene has other exchange opportunities: Bring Recycling offers used construction materials. For more information: <http://www.bringrecycling.org/bmex.html>

Next Step Recycling also has a ReUse store:

<http://www.nextsteprecycling.org/store.php>

## Quiz: True or False?

1. It is often more energy efficient to leave your computer on instead of turning it off.
2. Paper, including paper coffee cups, is the largest contributor to landfill waste.
3. Old computers aren't recyclable and should be thrown away.
4. Environmentally sound choices are always more expensive than others.

Answers:

1. False- if you leave your computer for more than three minutes, it saves more energy to turn it off.
2. True- according to the EPA, 35% of trash is paper.
3. False- they can be recycled by Next Step (686-2366).
4. False- many choices that are good for the environment are also good for your wallet. For example- reducing the amount of paper, electricity or water you use means paying. Buying items in bulk is also cheaper than buying individual items with lots of packaging.