

Facilities Services Sustainability Work Group



University of Oregon
Campus Operations, Growing Sustainability

Volume 1, Issue 8

Fall 2010

This newsletter is sponsored by the Campus Operations Sustainability Work Group.

Please send interesting news stories and nominations for Campus Operations Sustainability Heroes to: knowaste@uoregon.edu

Recycling is Patriotic!



In This Issue

1. **America Recycles Day**
2. **Sustainability Tips**
3. **Monthly Facts**
4. **Power Plant**
5. **Fortis Alumni Building Construction**
6. **Sustainability Superhero**
7. **Construction Waste Recovery**
8. **Pakistan Flood/Parkas for Pakistan**

America Recycles Day

11.15.10

It's that time of year again! In addition to rain, autumn colors, and leaves piling up on the ground, every year November 15, millions of people learn about the importance of daily recycling and buying recycled products. "America Recycles Day", celebrating its 13th year (www.americarecyclesday.org). A day dedicated to promoting and teaching people about recycling, its importance as well as how and where to recycle. It also focuses on "closing the loop" (<http://www.recyclespot.org/ard.asp>), by purchasing recycled products, which creates and sustains a market for them.

Initiated in 1997 by the National Recycling Coalition and organized by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the national day of action helps and encourages people to find out what and where things can be recycled, and how to properly dispose of electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, etc.). They also encourage people to contact their elected officials and ask them to increase support for community recycling programs. Their website provides links to contact information for this purpose, as well as a list of events in each state.

Landfilling generates Methane, a greenhouse gas 23x more powerful than CO₂. Recycling is just one simple thing that you can do to reduce your carbon footprint.

America Recycles Day 2009 featured 750 registered organizations conducting 2,375 events that involved 7,700 participating groups.

Sustainability Tips

GREEN TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

1. Send holiday greetings to family and friends via e-mail.
2. For holiday parties, use reusable glass or plastic ware, and cloth napkins.
3. When shopping for gifts and holiday food, use cloth shopping bags
4. If you buy gifts, look for durable and re-usable items and resist the latest "fad". Purchase gifts from local vendors, or that were made locally.
5. Wrap gifts in fabric, comics or your own decorated, reused paper.
6. Consider alternatives to a cut tree, such as a live tree, decorated house plant, or artificial tree.
7. Give an experience as a gift; make life about quality time and not needless stuff.
8. Don't forget to recycle and compost all waste!

Find more tips at:

http://www.uoregon.edu/~recycle/green_holiday_text.htm

Holiday Recycling Facts

- Americans throw away 25% more trash - an additional 5 million tons – between Thanksgiving and New Year's eve
- In the U.S., annual trash from gift-wrap and shopping bags totals 4 million tons.
- The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.
- If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.
- At least 28 billion pounds of edible food are wasted during the holidays - or over 100 pounds per person.
- Half of the paper America consumes is used to wrap and decorate consumer products.
- Each year, 50 million Christmas trees are purchased in the U.S. Of those, about 30 million go to the landfill.
- If each family reduced holiday gasoline consumption by one gallon, we'd reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons.

http://www.recycleworks.org/resident/holiday_facts.html

Power Plant

The electrical engineering effort at the University of Oregon is comprised of several components: the Central Power Station with a new central chilled water plant; upgrade of the steam generation capability; expanded standby-power generation and control; and a new Central Power Station Substation along with provisions for up to 20 MW (Megawatts) of co-generation inter-tie to EWEB.

The new Central Power Station Substation serves the entire campus as well as the new Central Power Station expansion. The substation is divided into the Utility Transformation section and the University Distribution section.

These changes will replace all of the existing medium voltage power generation and distribution systems currently in place at the Central Power Station.



The Central Power Station is the distribution point for campus utilities, including electricity, heat, cooling, 60-pound steam, compressed air, and natural gas. It has co-generation capability which allows it to produce up to 30% of the campus electrical demand as a by-product of steam production.*

Costing around \$101 million to build**, the new power plant is expected to reduce carbon emissions by at least 25%*** by using bio-fuels and by using more efficient heating/cooling systems across campus. The effort was also a way to increase capacity to accommodate the new basketball arena while maximizing energy efficiency****.

* <http://facilities.uoregon.edu/?q=node/7>

**Capital Construction Summer Projects '09 PowerPoint

*** <http://sustainability.uoregon.edu/office->

The Ford Alumni Center

Managing large campus construction projects amass large costs. To that end, anything that can be done to reduce those costs is greatly appreciated. Construction projects across campus use sustainable practices in order to help achieve lower expenses and the Ford Alumni Center is no different. The construction costs have been lowered, as of Oct. 11th figures*, by more than 6000* dollars. These savings are the results of diverting about 231* tons of construction waste, which would normally be landfilled, to be reused and recycled. With approximately 19.5* tons still tossed, the diverting efforts managed to save an astounding 92%* of the materials that would otherwise be trash. Materials that were diverted as resources instead of waste, include: concrete, metal, wood, and paper and cardboard products.

*These numbers were provided by Janet Lobue

Parkas for Pakistan

The 2010 Pakistan floods began in July 2010 following heavy monsoon rains in 4 regions of Pakistan. At one point, approximately one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area was underwater. According to Pakistani government data the floods directly affected about 20 million people, with a death toll of close to 2,000. This exceeds the combined total affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. ([Wikipedia](#))

Campus Recycling has teamed up with St. Vincent de Paul to collect outerwear donations on Nov. 15-19 for people affected by the recent horrific flooding there. This drive is in honor of America Recycles Day. This drive will take place throughout campus and is part of the Parka's for Pakistan drive. See the poster (to the right of this column) for a list of items to donate.

Sustainability Superstar of the Month:

Janet Lobue



Janet Lobue is a star in bringing sustainable practices into the UO's Capital Construction. Sustainable construction is important to her because "reclaiming construction materials keeps them out of landfills and preserves natural resources through reuse and recycling."

Janet was involved in the construction of Lillis during which 4,491 tons of assorted construction materials were recycled. This amounts to 96% of all construction waste being recycled instead of put into landfills. She continues to work hard and to save as many natural resources as possible. Recycling construction waste also saves money. During the construction of the HEDCO building (2007-2009), around 20,000 dollars worth of disposal fees were avoided by recycling.

Congratulations!!! Keep up the good work, Janet!

Parkas for Pakistan

This year, Pakistan was devastated by flooding, resulting in millions of people being displaced.

Campus Recycling and St. Vincent de Paul are seeking donations of warm outerwear to support recovery efforts in Pakistan.



Clean, good condition items needed.

{ Parkas, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, warm pants, blankets, and sleeping bags }

November 15th - 19th

Construction Waste Recovery

Reusing and recycling construction waste is an important part of sustainable building practices. This practice can not only save valuable resources and landfill space but it can also save money.

Recent construction projects (including HEDCO, Ford Alumni, and the Matthew Knight Arena) have diverted over 3,500 tons (over 7 million pounds) of material from the waste stream. These numbers will continue to grow, as the Ford Alumni Center and Matthew Knight Arena are not yet complete.

Construction companies and manufacturers in the industry have made tremendous headway in the last decade to become more environmentally friendly. However, the design field of construction still seems to lack a commitment to true sustainability. While specifying some "green" materials to meet LEED requirements, quite often other materials for a project are imported--made in manufacturing facilities without regulated emission standards and that require extensive shipping, thus increasing both emissions and cost. Specifying domestic materials, when possible, would help create truly sustainable construction projects.

Information provided by Janet Lobue and Charlene Lindsay



*Matthew Knight Arena construction photo. If you see the 3 big blue bins in the top right corner of the photo, those are construction material receptacles used to collect construction waste for reuse, recycling, or disposal.

*COGS newsletter created by Sarah Elwonger