



The Closed-Loop Scoop

Washington State Department of Ecology, Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

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Over 300 Cities Join Fight Against Global Warming

Milestone reflects growing demand for action to stem climate crisis

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels recently announced that 307 cities across the country have now joined Seattle in pledging to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help stem the growing threat of climate change.

The milestone came in late September, as Nickels prepared to release the Seattle Climate Action Plan. The plan, the most ambitious effort in the city's history to cut climate-disrupting emissions, details the steps necessary to cut 680,000 metric tons of greenhouse gasses and bring Seattle in compliance with the Kyoto Protocols.

The latest cities to formally join the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement include Milwaukee, Chattanooga, Tenn., Fargo, N.D., and Pasadena Calif. Their commitment means nearly 51 million Americans in 46 states and the District of Columbia now live in communities that are taking action to address the climate-change crisis.

"This is an effort where numbers matter," Nickels said. "Every day, people across this country are waking up to the threat of global warming and making a commitment to cut emissions at home, at work and in their communities. Together we are making a difference for the future of our planet."

"Seattle's leadership on climate protection has moved people to action in blue states and red states, big cities and



small towns," said Mayor Dan Coody of Fayetteville, Ark. "Mayor Nickels and those of us who have joined with him believe local leadership will both cut emissions and move our federal government to take climate protection seriously."

On February 16, 2005, the day the Kyoto Protocol became law in 141 countries, Nickels challenged his mayoral colleagues to commit each of their cities to achieving the treaty's target of bringing carbon emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

For a complete list of cities participating in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and for more information about the city of Seattle's climate change work, visit the Mayor's Web site: www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/.

Washington cities that have joined Seattle so far include Auburn, Bainbridge Island, Bellingham, Burien, Edmonds, Everett, Issaquah, Kirkland, Lacey, Lake Forest Park, Olympia, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Shoreline, Tacoma, and Vancouver.

The Seattle Climate Action Plan is based on the recommendations of the mayor's Green Ribbon Commission. Co-chaired by Earth Day founder Denis Hayes and former Starbucks Chairman and CEO Orin Smith, the group of business, labor, environmental and government leaders outlined 18 broad recommendations, ranging from improving transit to boosting Seattle's use of clean fuels, such as biodiesel.

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Regional Natural Yard Care Method Goes National

Local writers publish in the east



Natural Yard Care's five steps are:

1. Build healthy soil.
2. Plant right for your site.
3. Practice smart watering.
4. Think twice before using pesticides.
5. Practice natural lawn care.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has adopted a popular local guide to natural yard care as a model for their GreenScapes program, and a new nationally distributed brochure for homeowners.

Over the past four years, Seattle Public Utilities, the King County Solid Waste Division, and other local public agencies have used their collaboratively developed guide, *Natural Yard Care: Five Steps to Make Your Piece of The Planet A Healthier Place To Live*, to promote healthy, environmentally friendly gardening practices.

The 16-page manual has started thousands of Puget Sound households on building healthy soil, composting, smart watering, natural lawn care and pest control, and other practices that save water, reduce waste, and reduce the need for chemicals.

Now, working with King County and City of Seattle governments, the federal EPA adapted the text of Natural Yard Care for its new brochure GreenScaping.

Sharon Aller, of King County's Solid Waste Division said, "It is truly a compliment to see the five steps [see sidebar] that our regional team worked on four years ago culminate in a new national publication."

"Natural Yard Care is constantly in demand," said Seattle Public Utilities' David McDonald. Co-author of the locally produced yard care guide, McDonald assisted the EPA in developing the brochure for national distribution.

"Other cities around Puget Sound often ask to copy it, but we're very excited to see the EPA getting behind these ideas on a national level," McDonald said.

EPA's GreenScapes program manager Jean Schwab said the response and requests for the agency's new brochure have been overwhelmingly positive.

"By keeping the EPA brochure similar to your local Natural Yard Care guide, we hope to both support your efforts and also to deliver a message that holds true for the rest of the nation," Schwab wrote in a letter thanking McDonald and Aller.

"I believe we have succeeded given the overwhelmingly positive response we have received from academia, industry, and private citizens," Schwab said.

View the new EPA brochure at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/owners.htm>. It is available in English or Spanish.

Calendar of Events

November 10-12, 2006, Tilth Producers Conference, "The Future of Food," Vancouver, Wash. To learn more, call 206-442-7620, or visit the conference Web site at <http://www.tilthproducers.org/conference.htm>.

November 15, 2006, Washington Recycles Every Day – even on America Recycles Day. Wash. St. Recycling Assn. hosts a tour & presentations in Tacoma focusing on plastics. Info: call 206-244-0311 or visit www.wsra.net.

November 15-17, 2006, GreenBuild International Conference & Expo, Denver. For more information, call 330-425-9330 or visit the conference Web site at <http://www.greenbuildexpo.com>.

November 18, 2006, Beyond Oil Conference will take place at Portland State University. For details, call 503-274-2720 or visit the Web site at <http://www.oregonpsr.org/programs/BeyondOilConference.htm>.

November 29-30, 2006, Byproducts Beneficial Use Summit finds its peak in San Francisco. For details, visit the Web site at <http://www.byproductsummit.com/2006/index.html>.

December 1, 2006, Turning Waste into Profits (from Airplanes to Widgets), Seattle. For details, visit the Network for Business Innovation and Sustainability Web site at <http://www.nbis.org/>.

December 7-8, 2006, Northwest Environmental Conference, Portland. To learn more, visit <http://www.nwec.org/>.

Recycling Numbers Are Up

But so is the amount of garbage going to landfills

While Washingtonians are recycling more than ever, we're also generating more waste.

Recycling by businesses and residents in Washington rose to 44 percent in 2005, up from 42 percent the year before. That accounts for nearly 4 million tons of recycled material and brings the state the closest it has ever been to achieving a recycling goal of 50 percent.

At the same time, Washington sent 1.8 million dump trucks of waste to landfills last year.

From 2004 to 2005, Washington's population grew an estimated 1.4 percent, according to the state Office of Financial Management. However, the amount of garbage produced by each person in the state increased by 5.3 percent in 2005.

"These numbers tell us we're still doing a good job of putting stuff in recycle bins and buying recycled products," said Cullen Stephenson, who manages Ecology's solid waste program. "But we still have some work to do to prevent waste from being created in the first place. That will take a shift in the way we think about products—how they are manufactured and packaged."

While the state made gains in recycling across the board, the greatest increases came in metals and paper. This is due to good recycling practices and better markets for the materials. State law requires Ecology to track recycling rates for certain types of wastes, including most glass, plastic, paper and metals, and some recycling of yard debris, tires and used oil.

Other types of reuse and recycling also help to ease pressure on landfill space. They include land-clearing debris, concrete, carpet, furniture, construction and demolition debris, mattresses, batteries, paint, and clothing. Coupled with the officially counted recycled items, the statewide rate of materials diverted from landfills stayed at 48 percent, the same as in 2004.

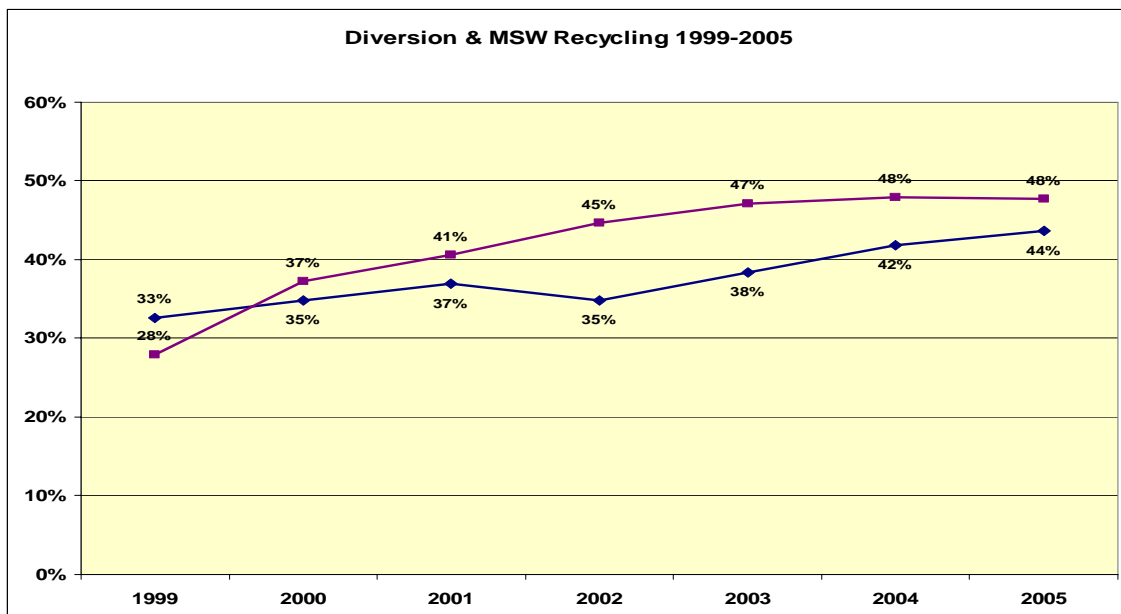
The total volume of unrecycled waste generated in the state increased from a total of 4.9 million tons in 2004 to nearly 5.1 million tons in 2005. (Washington residents produced an average of 7.9 pounds of waste per person each day in 2005, compared to 7.5 pounds a day in 2004.)

"Generating more waste is not a new trend, but our agency is putting more thought into how we can bring those numbers down," Stephenson said. "Some practical things people can do are buying durable products that will last and that use less packaging, composting yard and food waste, and finding opportunities to reuse materials whenever possible."

Food waste makes up more than 15 percent of household garbage, and paper makes up more than 20 percent of household garbage.

In addition to composting food scraps, other ways to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills include avoiding products with unnecessary packaging and recycling or donating the purchased item when finished using it.

A 1989 Washington state law established a statewide recycling goal of 50 percent. By contrast, the latest reported national average is 29 percent.



Washington Businesses and a Nonprofit Group Receive Awards

2006 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Practices

Washington State Ecology Director Jay Manning awarded five Washington businesses and a not-for-profit organization Washington's top award for protecting the environment by changing practices and promoting sustainability.

Winners of the 15th annual Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices reduced or even eliminated their use of toxic materials, applied key principles of sustainability, and conserved resources that they otherwise would have consumed.

"These organizations are not only achieving outstanding bottom-line results through their pollution prevention efforts, but they are helping to move Washington forward in a competitive global economy," said Manning. "To compete successfully, Washington needs clean water, air, and soil; and healthy people, communities and workplaces. When the President of China visited our state in the spring of 2006, he specifically noted the natural beauty and amenities of our state. He was genuinely impressed that we have achieved the economic prosperity that we have and yet maintained a very high-quality environment. Indeed, one of our most important competitive advantages in the global economy is that we are recognized as the clean, green corner of the United States. Business practices that this year's award winners are using are helping to secure our place in the world economy."

The 2006 winners are:

Dentistry Northwest, Port Hadlock, for eliminating its use of mercury and other toxics, protecting water quality, and conserving water.

Frito-Lay, Inc., Vancouver, for reducing its use of toxics, conserving 50 million gallons of water each year, promoting sustainable practices throughout its workforce, and supporting environmental protection in their community.

Korry Electronics, Seattle, for reducing its use of toxics, eliminating the use of brominated flame retardants, conserving water and energy, and promoting resource conservation in its sister companies.

Panasonic Shikoku Electronics Corporation of America - Consumer Electronics, Vancouver, for eliminating the use of brominated flame retardants and heavy metals, aggressively recycling over 90



percent of its waste, and conserving energy and water.

Seattle Tilth Association, Seattle, for its 28-year history of promoting organic gardening and urban sustainability, teaching 15,000 people each year through 300 diverse programs.

Sleeping Lady Mountain Retreat, Leavenworth, the Continuing Excellence award, for promoting sustainable practices in the hospitality industry, conserving water, energy and materials, and protecting the biodiversity of its location.

A panel of judges from state and federal government, higher education, labor, environmental groups, and past winners selected the winners. They join 93 past winners that changed their operations, found alternative materials, and committed to sustainable practices. It's a movement that the state Department of Ecology wants to foster.

Darin Rice, manager of the Department of Ecology's hazardous substance program, said, "This year's winners of the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices are living proof that green practices make good business sense. In Washington today, we have the technical assistance and engineering know-how to help businesses reduce their toxic threats."

Rice added, "Some of the materials they addressed, like mercury and the problem flame retardants, can linger in the environment and cause human health problems years later."

Businesses that want to know more about this technical assistance can go to Ecology's Toxics Web site, at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics.html>. They can also call their local Ecology office, or Ecology's headquarters at 360-407-6700.

Trash Turns into Wearable Art

Closing the clothing loop

On the evening of October 20th, amid reusable struts and other previously owned building materials, daring models were strutting their stuff—and all that stuff was spun from recycled material. That's what made it so daring. These were the high styles of the Haute Trash Fashion Show at Seattle's Re-Store, sponsored this year by Total Reclaim and 4Culture.

And the night after that, Haute Trash dared to put on its show again, this time at the Wild Buffalo House of Music (just down the street from Bellingham's Re-Store). For a peek at what these outfits look like, visit <http://www.hautetrash.org/>.

These Haute Trash Fashion Shows were highlight events in the Re-Store's 5th Annual Recycled Art and Fashion Shows. This year, the shows run from October 14th to November 14th at both stores and other venues in Seattle and Bellingham. You might be able to see



some of that art in person, but you can also see work from former art shows (and fashion shows) at virtual galleries on-line: <http://www.re-store.org/recycledartshow.htm>.

Meanwhile in Spokane, a benefit costume party hit the boards at Annie Fannie's, with proceeds going to The Recycling Foundation. Let's hope the winner used some recycled threads to take home the prize.

The Closed-Loop Scoop Editor's Prize, though, goes to Alex Martin of Seattle, who totally bucked consumerism by making her own little brown dress and wearing it every day for a year. (Yes, she took it off to wash it.) Finishing that feat this last July, she's now engaged in her "Intentional Wardrobe" project, aiming for a 100 percent recycled wardrobe. You can read her story in her own words at <http://www.littlebrowndress.com>.

Rules Under Development

Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program is currently working through the rule-making process for three rules. These rules are all at various stages of the process (Chapter 34.05 RCW). At a minimum, Ecology has filed a CR-101 form announcing its intentions and inviting participation in the process.

The links below will take you to the program's rule development pages where you can find more information about whichever rule you are interested in, including how to comment on the rule and take part in the process.

- [Biosolids Management Chapter 173-308, WAC](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/biosolids/ruleDev.html)
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/biosolids/ruleDev.html>
This rule amendment will streamline the biosolids permitting process; better address septage management requirements; create a more thorough and equitable fee structure; and address "general housekeeping" issues.
- [Electronic Products Recycling Chapter 173-900, WAC](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/rulDev.html)
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/rulDev.html>
This new rule creates a recycling program for unwanted electronic products which includes used and unwanted computers, monitors and televisions.
- [Remedial Action Grants and Loans Chapter 173-322, WAC](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/rag_ammend.html)
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/rag_ammend.html
This rule amendment creates a new Extraordinary Financial Hardship loan program.

For more information on Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program rules, please contact Kathi Scanlan at 360-407-6559 or e-mail: ksca461@ecy.wa.gov.

Richland Announces Winners of Green Recognition Program

Gearing up to transmit more recycling information

The City of Richland recognized four "green" businesses and one nonprofit organization during a September City Council Meeting. The overall winner, Richland's Green Business of the Year, was Ben Franklin Transit. The Green Project of the Year - Business Category award went to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Connell Oil for their efforts in bringing biofuel to the community. The city awarded the Green Project of the Year - Volunteer Category to Tapteal Greenway Association for its work at Amon Basin, and Energy Northwest received an honorable mention for environmental excellence for its overall efforts.

This is the second year that Richland chose to honor and recognize the environmental efforts of Richland businesses. Conservation efforts extend the life of the Richland landfill, conserve natural resources, and reduce maintenance and repair costs for municipal utility operations.

The information below highlights the success of the award winners:

Ben Franklin Transit practices excellent waste prevention and recycling activities both in the office, in outbuildings, and in the landscaping. Ben Franklin recycles everything from office waste to vehicle fluids, and even bus wash water. Fueling islands and parking lots have recycled rubber bumpers, and water conservation efforts include a metered drip system for outdoor landscaping and low-flow faucets and toilets. The transit service is completing an environmental restoration project that will remove 66,000 gallons of fuel storage and 2,000 gallons of waste oil from close proximity to the river. Ben Franklin transit is also retrofitting the exhaust system on buses to help reduce harmful air pollutants, and encouraging staff to commute by offering incentives and holding campaigns. In just over one year, transit employees shared 4,275 round trips to and from the workplace. Future projects include alternative fuels, smaller vehicles for Dial-A-Ride Services, and hybrid vanpool vehicles.

Earlier this year, **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory** worked with Connell Oil to provide Richland the first alternative fuel station that serves both the government and public in Washington State. The fueling station at the Pacific Pride Mart near the Richland airport offers ethanol-85 and biodiesel-5 fuels that contain less sulfur, toxins, and carcinogens. When burned, these fuels produce lower levels of nitrogen oxide and toxic hydrocarbons, reducing smog-forming tailpipe and greenhouse emissions. The public can purchase the fuel by using any Pacific Pride card or any major credit card.

The 2006 Green Project of the Year honors an environmental effort, inspired by a local group of volunteers. The **Tapteal Greenway Association's** Amon Basin Project is a great example of concerned citizens working to protect a natural area. The wetlands on the West Fork of Amon Creek, perhaps the highest value wetlands in southeastern Washington, are the only natural connection between the basalt ridges that border the Tri-Cities and the three rivers that join in the immediate area. These wetlands provide a crucial wildlife corridor that allows for movement of mammals as well as hundreds of birds throughout the increasingly developed area. Because of the endangered state of this urban wilderness, the Tapteal Greenway is working to protect it. The group is in the process of raising 1.8 million from public and private sources to purchase approximately 100 acres.

Energy Northwest recycles 66 percent of its waste stream, averaging 57 tons a month. The International Standards Organization presented Energy Northwest with a certificate for its Environmental Management System. Energy Northwest also reduced its energy consumption by 15 percent, recycles vehicle wash water as well as photo chemical waste water, and plants native drought-resistant plants in its landscape.

To learn more, call 509-942-7730, or visit http://www.ci.richland.wa.us/RICHLAND/en_viro/index.cfm?PageNum=120.



Ecology Revamps 1800recycle Web Site

Gearing up to transmit more recycling information



"... check to see if Ecology's information about your service is correct."



Back in 1998, Ecology launched a Web page allowing people to search the recycling hotline's database. Users found it innovative and very useful at the time, but even then Ecology staff saw room for improvement. Unfortunately, all the other Ecology Web pages had room for improvement, too. So, 1800recycle.wa.gov got in line.

While it was waiting, some of the original functions of the on-line database began to break down, to fall away like parts of an old 10-speed bike that became a 5-speed when the front derailleur fell off, and then a 1-speed when the rear derailleur cable snapped.

Current Web development staff looked at the antique 1800recycle site, scratched their heads, and decided to rebuild the Web site from the ground up. On August 16, 2006, they rolled out the new machine, and it works like a new, smooth 18-speed bike.

The old site allowed users to find recycling services for a category of materials within one county. So, in *one* search you could find all recyclers of metal in, say, Pierce County. You would get a list of places that took one kind of metal or another. But if you just wanted to find a place that took insulated electrical wire you would have to read through that whole list to find what you needed.

The new site allows users to search for a more specific material in a category. Now you can get a list that just has places that take electrical wire. Or, you could pick two or more specific materials to search for, and search more than one county, all at

once. Now in *one* search, for instance, you can get a list of all recyclers of tin cans or aluminum foil or insulated wire in Pierce, Whatcom, and Walla Walla counties.

But wait! Those aren't the only improvements. The old site was limited to services available to households. The new site lists commercial services as well. The new site also allows searches for mobile services (as in mobile chipping services that leave the chips with you) or "you-ship" services, where you ship material to a recycler. On the old website, such services had been lumped together with pickup services that come to you and haul away your recyclable material.

Finally, the new site provides more information about each service. On the old site, the amount of explanation offered about each service was limited to 255 characters. (Originally, that had been 510 characters—that's one function that broke down!) The new site allows for 1000 characters.

To get a full picture of what the new Web site can do, visit <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/recycle/>. Let us know how it works for you. And, if you operate a recycling service, you might check to see if Ecology's information about your service is correct. If you find a mistake, or you want to add your service to the list, send an e-mail to jbil461@ecy.wa.gov. Or, just call 1-800-RECYCLE, and leave your name and phone number for a call back.

New Litter Reports Online


People who see someone littering now have another way to report it. They can file a report on the Internet. A new online report form is ready on the state's Litter Homepage at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/litter/>. Witnesses can still call the litter hotline, 866-LITTER-1 (866-548-8371). Whether you call in or go online, you will need to report the license plate number and describe the vehicle. You will also need to describe the incident, including the time, date, and location.



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