

RECYCLING WORKS

It's Good Business

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teamwork + fun =

Successful Recycling Program for Large Distribution Center

What do you get when you combine a 500,600 sq. foot warehouse, 250 employees and an ambitious recycling program? Ask Annette Gomez, the Bon Marche distribution center's research coordinator and the answer would be a great opportunity to educate and encourage good recycling practices. Located in Tukwila, the distribution center is operated by Federated Logistics & Operations and serves 45 Bon Marche stores in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Nearly the size of nine football fields, the center sees its share of packaging materials and office waste.



The Bon Marche recycling committee embraces the big task of recycling with a smile

things around. With help from the facility's recycling committee, Gomez ran contests and games to educate staff about recycling and awarded prizes – including recycled-content stationery – to increase employee participation. The events were very successful, and the committee saw results – less contamination and more recycling.

A Distinguished Green Works member since 1998, the Bon Marche strives to promote their recycling ethic to employees and beyond. During this spring's Take Your Child to Work Day, children received recycling information in their welcome packets and toured the "Baling Room" to see first hand how recyclable materials like cardboard are packed into bales for recycling. The recycling committee is also busy planning for the annual Environmental Awareness Day – complete with a presentation on composting with worm bins!

For more information on organizing a recycling program for your workplace, contact Annette Gomez or Daryl Meadows at (206) 575-2060. Or contact the Green Works program at (206) 296-8800 for free assistance in setting up your company's recycling program. ●






According to Gomez, the key to a successful company recycling program is to incorporate positive teamwork with fun and interactive activities to foster a company culture that encourages employees to think of recycling as a natural habit. When Gomez noticed staff putting non-recyclable materials in the recycling bins and tossing out items that could be recycled, she used the company's Recycling Awareness Week to turn

Plastic Recycling

Stretching the Life of Plastic Wrap

In recent years, plastic film has gained popularity for commercial and transport packaging because it is lightweight, strong and inexpensive compared to more traditional packaging materials such as cardboard. Many industries including dry cleaners, construction companies, farms and hospitals, receive or deliver goods wrapped in plastic film.

The most common recyclable resin types of plastic film are  (HDPE),  (LDPE / LLDPE) and  (PP). These are the plastic resins used to make items such as plastic grocery bags, industrial pallet wrap, drycleaning bags, bubble wrap, and some types of foam. Some plastic film resins not easily recyclable are laminated plastic films (those which come in contact with food) and polyvinyl chloride (Saran Wrap™).

Hospitals Find a Cure for Plastic Blue-Wrap Disposal

Marathon Recovery, a plastic film collection unit of Boise Cascade Corporation, is working with Oregon-based distributor Owens-Minor to be the “end market” for a small pilot program in King County to recycle “blue wrap”, a foamy polypropylene (PP) material used by hospitals and medical clinics to wrap surgical equipment. The King County program, slated to start in Fall 2000, will replicate a similar pilot recently launched in Portland, Oregon.



Medical equipment is wrapped for sterility

The blue wrap in the Portland pilot program is collected daily from local hospitals and clinics by Owens-Minor, a major distributor of blue wrap, and hauled to a collection facility. Kimberly-Clark, a national manufacturer of personal health-care products, paid three cents per pound for the recovered blue wrap in the Portland project.

Larger hospitals can save up to \$1,500 per year in disposal costs and potentially

benefit from a per-pound rebate offered by Marathon Recovery. An estimated 80 percent of all blue wrap is being recovered in the Oregon program and project managers hope to achieve similar recovery rates in Washington.

For information on the King County blue wrap recovery program, contact Kinley Deller at (206) 296-4434 or email kinley.deller@metrokc.gov.

Plastic Film Becomes Building Products

In the Pacific Northwest, a number of companies, including Associated Grocers, The Bon Marche, and Kenworth Truck Company are also recycling their plastic film through Marathon Recovery. Marathon Recovery is run by Re-Sourcing Associates, Inc., a Seattle-based company that provides market development and commodities management services to businesses seeking to turn recycled materials into profits.

Marathon Recovery has developed a system of recovering used plastic film for Boise Cascade. The recovered plastic film will be used to make new products such as siding, decking and building trim. Most plastic films are recovered from commercial uses, such as shrink wrap used with pallets or plastic packaging for furniture, mattresses or lumber wrap, though grocery sacks collected from consumers at local grocery stores are also recovered by Marathon Recovery.

For more information on Marathon Recovery's film recycling programs, please call Phil Coughlan at (253) 872-0779 or email Marathonrecovery@aol.com. To contact Re-Sourcing Associates, Inc., call (206) 246-9821 or visit www.rsarecycle.com.

For in-depth information on recycling plastics, check out the American Plastics Council's Plastic Film Recovery Guide at www.plasticsresource.com/recycling/film_recovery_guide/Guide_index.html or call 1-800-243-5790 to request a printed copy. •

Flexcar.com
Shift Your Thinking

Flexcar May Beat the Fleet!

King County Launches Car-Sharing Program

How would you like a company car—without having to buy it, park it, insure it, or fix it? If that revs your engines, then this new car-sharing program could steer you toward cash savings and round-the-clock mobility.

King County's Flexcar program introduces businesses and residents to the relatively new concept of car-sharing — though it's been a hit for years in Europe and Canada.

Here's how it works: Businesses (or households) pay a one-time membership fee and a per-usage rate based on time and miles driven per trip. When you want a car, just phone Flexcar and reserve it. Reservations will soon be available online, too. Walk, bus, or bike to a convenient Flexcar location in your neighborhood and drive off in a new forest-green Honda Civic LX four-door sedan. There's also a pick-up truck available for large loads. Need gas? Just use Flexcar's gas charge card. Return the car when you're done and forget it! At the end of each month, you'll get a bill, just like any utility.

Currently, Flexcars serve Capitol Hill, Queen Anne, Belltown and downtown Seattle. For businesses in these busy areas, paying for a car on a per-use basis cuts costs, multiplies transportation options and eliminates parking hassles. Some companies find they're able to sell off cars from their own fleets; others, like internet software company Real Networks in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood, offer Flexcar memberships along with Metro Bus FlexPasses as an employee benefit.

Other businesses are crafting their own Flexcar arrangements, says Ref Lindmark, King County Outreach Coordinator for the program. “Because Flexcar is a public/private partnership with the County, the program can create special programs to fit a company's needs. It has great business potential.”

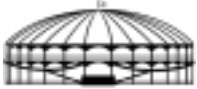
For more information on Flexcar, visit www.flexcar.com or call (206) 323-3539.



The Kingdome Lives On

Bottles and cans are easy enough to recycle, but what about an entire sports arena? The 25-year-old sports arena made national news on March 26 as the Kingdome imploded and collapsed in a matter of seconds. But there's another story in all that rubble – an example of recycling on a king-sized scale.

Going Once, Going Twice...Sold!



Thanks to forethought, auctions and donations, the Kingdome's equipment is alive and well, pursuing their second lives in different venues and cities throughout the country. BC Place in Vancouver bought the biggest ticket item, the Diamond Vision Screen for \$200,000. Businesses, schools, and sports organizations across the nation and in Canada bid on everything from seats to scoreboards. Baseball equipment found new homes at the Tacoma Dome and Tacoma Community College. King County agencies now log on to the Kingdome's computers, while local soup kitchens are serving up their own burgers with the donated kitchen equipment.

Two Astroturf fields were sold for \$25,000 each – Astroturf bought back one for reuse, while University of Washington athletes are now trotting on the other. Sales of Kingdome property and equipment totaled over \$650,000, which will be used for constructing and maintaining local youth play fields, as designated by the King County Council.

Sorting and More Sorting

Once the dust settled, implosion engineers Aman Environmental and Turner Construction, general contractor for the new facility, got busy recycling the rubble. They sorted and set up bins for each of

five categories of materials: concrete, wood, metal (which included tin, aluminum and steel), waste (which could not be reused due to contamination by glue or adhesives), and an "other" category which included drywall and asphalt.

What About All That Concrete?

Concrete, of course, was what made the Kingdome – lots and lots of concrete. Machines sorted and picked through the rubble to remove all the rebar and metals. Hand-pickers further sort through the concrete to get rid of any other materials. The concrete is then crushed on-site into a gravel size rock (2" or smaller) which will be spread across the base of the construction site to raise the level of the new stadium's playing field. Approximately 55 percent of the Kingdome's concrete is slated for reuse on-site, and the remainder will be sold for use on other construction projects. Nearly 100,000 tons of concrete will be crushed and reused as part of a growing trend to reduce and reuse construction waste.

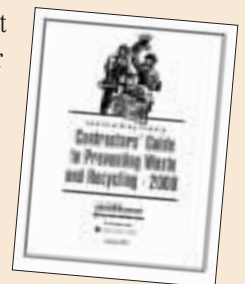
All in all, Turner Construction plans to reuse and recycle at least 80 percent of the Kingdome's building materials. "We hope to meet or even beat that goal," explained Brian Polis, Turner Construction's Recycling Coordinator. "Our plan is to keep the overall waste of the project at 10 to 20 percent."

For more information or free assistance in setting up construction recycling programs, please contact King County Construction Works at (206) 296-4407. ●

Construction Recycling

It Makes Sense for Ballparks or Bungalows!

Even if you aren't blowing up or building a stadium, you can save on your next construction project with the help of the new 2000



Seattle/King County Construction Directory. The directory lists local recyclers, reuse/recycling opportunities and even offers step-by-step instructions to set up a job-site recycling program.

If you'd like the nuts and bolts on saving money and materials, call for your free directory at (206) 296-4466. For an electronic version, visit http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/bizprog/sus_build/constructionrecyclingdirectory.pdf ●

Good Will dumping

Donating unused materials or surplus stock to local charities can benefit your company in many ways. Besides good old-fashioned altruism, donating merchandise frees up valuable storage space, provides a taxable deduction and sets a good example of thoughtful giving to your employees. Some recent business donations welcomed by St. Vincent de Paul include mismatched mattresses from Sleep Country USA and slightly distressed wooden furniture from two local furniture stores. Seattle Goodwill received boxes of Christmas decorations and surplus designer clothes from local department stores.

Surplus office supplies, overstock or off-season merchandise, returned goods and older working computers are all good items businesses can donate. Depending on the volume of the donation, some charities offer free pick-up service. The collected materials are either donated to needy individuals or resold to the public at retail outlets to raise money to fund the charities' various adult education, employment and training programs, and to provide rent and utility subsidies.

When Giving Gets Grim

Charities unfortunately also receive tons of unrepairable or unusable items and sometimes even hazardous materials. While some items left after-hours at the charities are in saleable condition when dropped off, most are stolen, broken or damaged by the weather before they can be collected in the morning. To handle theft, vandalism and the vast volumes of unwanted materials, charities

It's really depressing for staff to start each workday facing a heap of damaged, broken donations

spend their limited resources for security, transportation, additional labor and disposal fees. Samanthe Sheffer, Special Projects Director for Seattle Goodwill, estimates that as much as 10 tons of materials are dumped at their regional sites on any given night. The extra costs for security and disposal fees divert funds from the charities' task of providing resources and services to the community.

"It's really depressing for staff to start each workday facing a heap of damaged, broken donations," said Sheffer. "Some staff members spend the first hour or more away from their real jobs just hauling the dumped material away, most of it to the trash because it isn't recyclable." Sheffer adds that the extra security does not deter the most tenacious dumpers.

Renie Hope, Director for Corporate and Media Development at St. Vincent de Paul, and Captain

Samuel Southard of the Salvation Army both estimate that roughly 20 percent of all donated goods are unusable or broken. One particularly troublesome item from businesses are old photocopiers. Besides having little resale value since older models are unwanted, the installed toner cartridges often spill fine, black ink dust everywhere when the copiers are moved, and their weight makes them expensive to dispose.

While most businesses donate thoughtfully, Sheffer asks "What do people think we can do with their propane tanks, pesticides, aerosol cans or partially-used cleaners and shampoos? We have no idea what's really in those bottles—it could be bleach or fixatives for all we know." Rather than donating potentially hazardous materials, businesses should contract directly with a waste management company to handle these wastes.

Recycling helps defray disposal costs but the massive volume of "hazardous waste" items force charities to pay higher disposal rates to properly handle these materials. Last year Seattle Goodwill recycled over 3,983 tons of materials, but still spent over \$30,000 to dispose of materials that could have been properly disposed of by the donors. St. Vincent de Paul recycled over 940 tons of materials last year and spent an extra \$26,000 to dispose of unusable items.

So, if you're looking for ways to move that surplus stock, consider donating to a charitable organization. For more information on recycling and disposal options, visit www.metrokc.gov/services.htm#solidwaste or call Green Works at (206) 296-8800. •



Seattle Goodwill

- (206) 329-1000
- 20 regional drop-off sites. Business pickup available on a limited basis.

Wanted Items

- Off-season merchandise
- Surplus, overstock, returns
- Quality office furniture and supplies
- 486s or newer computers

Unwanted Items

- Cleaning products, paints
- Larger appliances
- Broken electronics
- Broken or old computer equipment
- Old office system phones

St. Vincent de Paul

- (425) 483-9497, ext. 105 (business pickups only)
- (206) 767-3835 for store locations and hours

Wanted Items

- Furniture
- Metal office furniture (small quantities only)
- Off-season merchandise
- Surplus or overstock
- 486s or newer computers

Unwanted Items

- Cleaning products, paints
- Broken electronics or computer monitors
- Old office system phones
- Air conditioners
- Water heaters

Salvation Army

- 1-800-95-TRUCK

Wanted Items

- Furniture
- Off-season merchandise
- Surplus or overstock
- 486s or newer computers

Unwanted Items

- Cleaning products, paints
- Metal office furniture
- Copy machines
- Broken electronics or computer monitors
- Old office system phones



In Action: Distinguished Businesses in the Green

Century Reprographics

Clients are accustomed to getting high-quality digital print jobs from Century Reprographics — and to having them delivered in reused boxes



packed with reused copy paper wrappers. These clients keep coming back with more jobs — and are encouraged to

bring their boxes back for another go-round. Customer participation helps Century Reprographics maintain a 77 percent recycling rate. Century, which also offers graphics, scanning, and network and internet service, even recruited their suppliers to seek out recycled-content products besides the copy paper, garbage bags, binders, and plastic desktop organizers already being used. For more information contact David Sundine at (206) 346-1806. ●

Winter Sun Design

At Winter Sun Design, good environmental practices are almost second nature. The company's new and remodeled home designs feature passive solar, low-toxic, eco-friendly techniques and materials.



Winter Sun shines as a recycling role model with a whopping 98 percent

recycling rate. The company uses seven different recycled products, and encourages the ethic with envelopes stamped "Reusing Envelopes Saves Trees." Winter Sun also took the initiative in getting its local paper supplier to stock Kenaf tree-free paper. To shed light on new conservation options, company owner Chris Herman teaches classes on sustainable building and writes magazine articles on innovative recycled-content building materials. For more information contact Chris Herman at (206) 525-3969. ●

Daedalus Press, Inc.

You'd expect a printing company to run on paper, but Daedalus Press, Inc. hums along via e-mail.



Whether they're providing quotes to clients, receiving printing specs, or sending art files to film houses, Daedalus just clicks and sends — saving paper, delivery fuel and time in the process. Ninety percent of the

paper used for its print jobs is recycled-content, and leftover stock is donated to daycares for "refrigerator art." By recycling the usual cardboard and paper, with the unusual (like aluminum printing plates), Daedalus racks up a growing 65 percent recycling rate. Their motto in ordering supplies? "If we can't recycle it, we don't use it." For more information contact Cindy Gwinn at (206) 624-5776. ●

Nowogrowski Rupp Insurance Group

Nowogrowski Rupp Insurance Group's recycling committee takes charge and makes sure every possible office product is recycled, from paper to



garbage bags. Buying supplies in bulk cuts down on packaging, and the packaging that does pass through the office is reused. Toner cartridges never see a landfill — the company buys recycled and returns spent ones. The committee regularly sends emails to publicize the recycling program's progress and to solicit new recycling tips from staff members. The company even sweetens the pot with prizes — an hour off, a prime parking space for a week, etc. — for the best recycling tip! For more information contact Donna Brown at (206) 363-2044. ●

Parkplace Book Company

The Shipping and Receiving Guru is one title you can't purchase at the Parkplace Book Company; that notable title belongs to Robyn Stewart, who



dictates waste prevention rules for the company and strives to maintain a sci-fi high recycling rate of 81 percent! Stewart's recycling program includes the usual items, but goes further by reusing or recycling "dumps"

(stand-up cardboard promotional pieces), returning unsold books to the publisher and recycling those that laws won't allow them to donate.

Parkplace reads "waste prevention" into everything — customers are asked if they need their purchases bagged, boxes are reused to send orders to local customers, and the staff dine with reusable mugs and dishes. For more information, contact Robyn Stewart at 425-828-6546. ●

New Members

- ADVO Inc., *Kent*
- AMS Laser Supply, *Seattle*
- Anchor Environmental LLC, *Seattle*
- Attachmate Corporation, *Bellevue*
- Budget Batteries Inc. #15, *Seattle*
- Budget Batteries Inc. #3, *Seattle*
- Callison Architecture, Inc., *Seattle*
- CDK International, Inc., *SeaTac*
- Electronic Arts Seattle, *Bellevue*
- Federal Way Radiator & Automotive, *Federal Way*
- JM Consulting Group Inc., *Bellevue*
- King County DOT - Metro Transit - Ryerson Base, *Seattle*
- King County DOT - Metro Transit - South Complex, *Tukwila*
- King County Solid Waste Division, *Seattle*
- Madison Market - Central Coop Natural Foods, *Seattle*
- Mainstart Software Corp., *Bellevue*
- Orrtax Software, Inc., *Bellevue*
- Red Wing Shoe Store, *Burien*
- Tools for Life, *Bellevue*

Renewals

- Design One!, *Seattle*
- Bob Bjerneby's Federal Way Collision, *Federal Way*
- Shasta Beverages, Inc., *Tukwila*
- Susan Hollinsworth DDS, *Kent*
- City of Federal Way, *Federal Way*
- Madison Master Builders, Inc., *Fall City*
- Washington State Parks Maintenance Shop, *Issaquah*
- Gary Cassill Insurance Agency, *Kent*
- In Harmony Organic-Based Landscape Services, *Redmond*
- AGRA Earth and Environmental, *Kirkland*
- Ennco Display Systems, Inc., *Redmond*
- Harper Brush Distributors Inc., *Renton*
- Perkins Coie LLP, *Bellevue*
- AdCorp, *Woodinville*
- Inslee, Best, Doezie and Ryder, PS, *Bellevue*
- Harding Lawson & Associates, *Bellevue*
- Cascade Signs, *Seattle*
- Idyll Arbor, Inc., *Ravensdale*
- Wilderness Glass, Inc., *North Bend*
- PCC Natural Markets, *Kirkland*
- Ellisport Engineering, Inc., *Vashon*

so what is Green Works?

Green Works is a waste prevention and recycling assistance program for businesses. It is sponsored by the King County Solid Waste Division, the Business and Industry Recycling Venture of The Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and King County suburban cities. If your business needs help reducing waste or finding a company to recycle your office paper, aluminum cans or even used office equipment, give us a call.

Businesses can become Green Works Members by recycling at least 40 percent of their waste, using three waste reduction practices, and using three recycled products in the work place. Each Green Works Member receives free, positive publicity in this newsletter, on the radio, and in local newspapers and publications. For assistance or to become a Green Works member, you may call us at (206) 296-8800 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay); visit our web site at www.metrokc.gov/greenworks; fax us at (206) 296-0197; or email us at greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov.

Recycling Works

Recycling Works is a quarterly newsletter written and produced by the King County Solid Waste Division. Inclusion of a business, product or service in this newsletter does not constitute an official endorsement or sponsorship by the Solid Waste Division or King County. Send us your questions, story ideas or suggestions!

Receive Recycling Works by Email

Cut down on waste and receive *Recycling Works* via email. We'll send it to you in **Portable Document Format (PDF)** that's read with **Adobe's Acrobat Reader**. Email your name, company name and your email address to: greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov. You may also fax your request to (206) 296-0197, or call us at (206) 296-8800; 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay).

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request.

Let your fingers do the walking ...over the keyboard

As more and more businesses rely on the Internet for information, the traditional paper telephone directories are fast becoming a relic of the past. Online directories offer phone numbers and addresses worldwide and even customized driving directions with a few strokes of the keyboard. The online information is constantly updated and does not require resources for production, transportation, or recycling like its paper counterparts.

One set (yellow and white pages) of local print phone directories weighs more than 10 pounds. If all 19,400 employees at Microsoft stopped using paper phone books, it'd save over 97 TONS of paper! This year, all King County employees have switched to using online directories and plan to reduce their paper directories by 80 percent.

Currently, the three more widely-used online directories are:

- GTE Online Directory at <http://superpages.com/>
- US West Online Directory at <http://uswestdex.com/>
- AT&T Online Directory at <http://www.anywho.com/>

Some online directories offer their data to businesses on CD-ROM upon request. Check with your directory provider for this option.



Reducing the Mountain of Information

To eliminate or reduce telephone directory deliveries to your business, call the directory request lines (GTE: 1-800-888-8448; or US West: 1-800-422-8793)

and ask for one of the following options:

- ask that your business be removed permanently from their list;
- ask that your business not receive the next issue of their phone directory; or
- ask that your business receive a predetermined limited number of directories when the next edition comes out.

If you continue receiving unwanted directories, call again and ask the phone directory company to come and recollect them. So why continue using the old-fashioned, resource-intensive paper phone directories when you have all the information you need at your finger tips? ●

♻️ Printed on Mountie Matte Natural, a recycled paper containing 10% post-consumer content.