

RECYCLING WORKS

It's Good Business

Inside this issue:

- Full-Filling Full Potential
Maple Valley company stretches the life of toner cartridgesPage 2
- How Green is the Evergreen State?
Overall recycling rate slips as Washingtonians throw more away.....Page 2
- Carpet Manufacturer Covers New Ground
Company makes longer lasting floor coverings from recycled materialsPage 3
- The Do's & Don'ts of Computer & Software Donation
Make sure your company and charities get the most from your old equipmentPage 4

Recycler Profile

Veterans Re-enlist Recyclable Materials

Old Goggles Renewed By VIEW, Inc.

Located in the small town of Fife is a 50,000 square foot warehouse that recovers and recycles over 60,000 pounds of optical-grade plastic every year. But the real story isn't just in the amount of materials that this company diverts from the local landfills. The workers that diligently process materials that flow into this warehouse are all disabled or formerly homeless. Twenty to 40 percent of VIEW's employees are veterans.

The Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington, or VIEW, is a non-profit organization founded in 1986 to help homeless and disabled veterans acquire new work skills and reenter the work force. VIEW's 29 staff members train and supervise an average of 40 to 70 workers in its

average of 20,000 respirators each month. VIEW employees replace used respirators with new filters, lenses and rubber linings, or disassemble and recover materials from unusable respirators for recycling. VIEW also inspects, reconditions for reuse, and recycles an estimated 10,000 pairs of safety goggles used by Boeing workers and plant visitors every month.

VIEW's work crew also refurbishes a number of other products, including phones, tools, utility line hardware and barricades. Its packaging facility offers boxing, bottling, bagging, labeling, serializing, repackaging and collating services, and is equipped with specialized packaging equipment such as banding machines, heat sealers and barcode wands. Visit VIEW's website for a complete list of the skills available for outsource, including woodworking, assembly and painting.

“We're good stewards to both the environment and our community,” said Switzer. “We've helped decrease the amount of solid waste heading into our landfills. Since 1982, we've increased our work output by 525 percent and have reduced the amount of materials that go into the facility's trash by 39 percent.”

Besides Boeing, companies such as NEC, Intel, Hawk Industries, Nintendo of America, NorWesCo and many others have used VIEW's work crews. Companies interested in the VIEW program can request a free 20-minute video of the facility and its services by calling (253) 922-5802. You may also visit www.veteransworkshop.org. Ray Switzer can be contacted by email at rswitzer@veteransworkshop.org or via fax at (253) 922-0248. ●



program. Businesses seeking packaging, assembly, recycling and refurbishing services, or other outsourcing services contact VIEW for a work crew.

One of VIEW's major recycling projects involve the refurbishing or recycling of painting respirators and safety goggles used by Boeing. A Boeing worker on the manufacturing floor can use an average of three respirators in an eight-hour shift. VIEW refurbishes and recycles an

Full-Filling Full Potential

Edward's Imaging
Tones Up Printer Cartridges

Edwards Imaging, Inc., located in Maple Valley, expertly repairs, reuses and recycles nearly 15,000 printer toner cartridges a month. Owner Curt Heikell has made it his mission to stretch the life of toner cartridges for as long and reliably as possible.

Edwards Imaging provides local businesses with refurbished and refilled toner cartridges for their printers and copiers, and also picks up used cartridges that are otherwise destined for the trash. Edwards accepts all major printer and fax toner cartridges, including Hewlett-Packard, Lexmark, Panasonic, and Canon. They also trade or sell the more uncommon cartridges, such as Okidata toner drums, with other toner refurbishers throughout the country.

Edwards Imaging's detailed refurbishing process requires that all replaceable parts of a cartridge are marked to track how often they are reused. Once a part has been used two to six times, the part is replaced with a new one. Aluminum or plastic parts that no longer work are recycled. Edwards Imaging recycles an average of two to three tons of plastic every month.



Refilled toner cartridges are vigorously tested by Edwards Imaging to ensure quality printing before they are shipped back to customers. "Lots of other companies out there offer to take back and provide businesses with reused toner cartridges, but these reconditioned cartridges have notoriously high failure rates," said Heikell. "We bought 90 cartridges from another company that was refurbishing and reselling these things, and only 30 of them worked."

To ensure that companies continue to return and order refilled cartridges, Edwards Imaging puts forth extra effort to deliver reconditioned cartridges that are reliable and cost effective. "Our failure rate on refilled cartridges are about 4 percent," said Heikell.

For more information on Edwards Imaging, Inc., contact Curt Heikell at (800) 337-8591, fax (425) 413-4474. To locate recyclers of other office products such as computers or fluorescent lights, visit the free King County Reuse and Recycle Database online at dnr.metrokc.gov/greenworks/rec_assist/guides.htm or call (206) 296-8800. ♻️

Fill 'Er Up!

Do-it-Yourself Ink-Jet Cartridge Refill Kits

Businesses that replace their ink-jet printer cartridges once or twice a month should consider using a do-it-yourself ink-jet printer refill kit to save money and resources. A typical refill kit includes either a bottle of black, or blue, red, yellow and black ink that can be injected into the storage unit in the printer's existing ink cartridge with a supplied syringe or spouted bottle. The process is quick, clean and easy.



Black inkjet refill kits start at \$12.99 and color refill kits start at \$14.99. Individual color inks can also be purchased. Each kit can refill three to six cartridges, which means filling up a cartridge costs \$5.00 or less – a substantial savings compared to the average \$35 to \$45 cost for a brand new cartridge. Inkjet refill kits can be purchased at most major office supply stores or online at www.office-depot.com or www.staples.com. ♻️

How Green ^{is the} Evergreen State? Waste Reduction and Recycling Update

Our state may have to work a little harder to maintain its nickname. Residential and commercial recycling dipped 1.6 percent to 33 percent in 1999, according to the Washington State Department of Ecology's recently released 9th Annual Status Report on Solid Waste. The good news is that King County's recycling rate remained stable at 39 percent – which is equal to the state's all-time high reached in 1995.

According to the report, overall tonnage of materials recycled between 1998 and 1999 in Washington State increased by nearly 33 tons. Unfortunately, Washingtonians also produced an additional 425,000 tons of waste in that same period. Ecology speculates that the decline in recycling was due to a flat resale market, mature curbside recycling programs and, primarily, weak collection systems within the commercial sector.

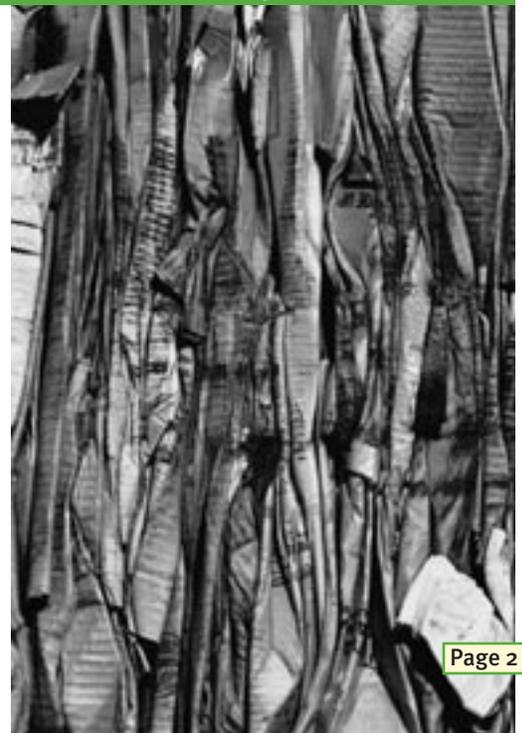
Other interesting facts and areas for improvement:

- The average Washington resident generates 6.32

pounds of solid waste a day – 2.05 pounds are recycled and 4.26 pounds end up in the landfills.

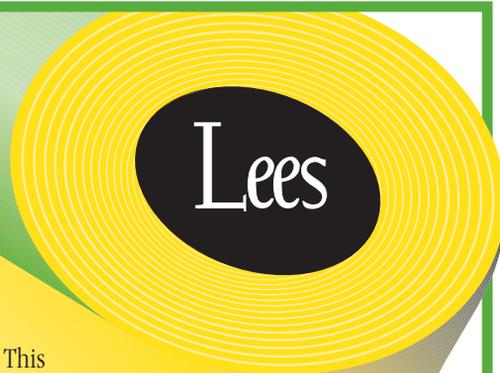
- King County businesses still dispose about 80,000 tons of recyclable paper and cardboard.
- King County residents and businesses still dispose of about 67,000 tons of recyclable wood.

King County is now finalizing its Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan that will provide guidance on how to better manage the region's garbage and recycling services over the next 20 years. Copies of the final plan are now available at King County Library branches or can be requested through the Solid Waste Division at (206) 296-4398; 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay). The plan is available for the cost of printing and postage. ♻️



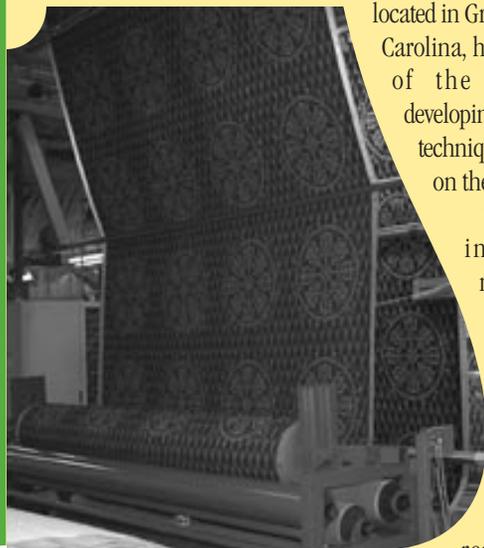
Carpet Manufacturer Covers New Ground

Lees Carpets Piles On Multi-Layer
Strategies for the Environment



According to the EPA, an estimated four billion pounds of carpet are discarded in the United States every year. Replacing carpeting for a company can be a very expensive endeavor as well – with prices ranging from \$15 to \$40 per square yard. It makes great economic sense for businesses to select durable, long lasting carpet, and it helps to reduce the amount of carpeting that ends up in landfills.

Recently, the carpet industry has made a consolidated effort to manufacture more durable carpets using recycled materials while establishing an environmentally sound end-of-life reclamation process for old carpets. Lees Carpets,



located in Greenboro, North Carolina, has become one of the leaders in developing products and techniques that are soft on the environment.

“We’re interested in making all aspects of the carpeting process eco-friendly,” said Lees Carpets account representative,

Finished carpet

Greg Whitman. “From manufacturing, installing, cleaning, disposing and recycling carpet, we believe there are ways the industry can do it without harming the environment.

Environmentally Friendly Techniques Increase Value & Decrease Waste

Since 1991, Lees has collected, re-colored and reprocessed old yarns back into new carpets. Lees produces over 25 floor coverings that contain from 3% to 67% recycled fibers. Carpets manufactured by Lees are recycled and made into various products, including pallets, highway safety devices and other forms of floor coverings.

All adhesives used to install Lees carpeting are environmentally safe and contain no hazardous or carcinogenic ingredients that can off-gas and contaminate offices with noxious odors after installation. Lees’ Duracolor line of carpeting guarantees that

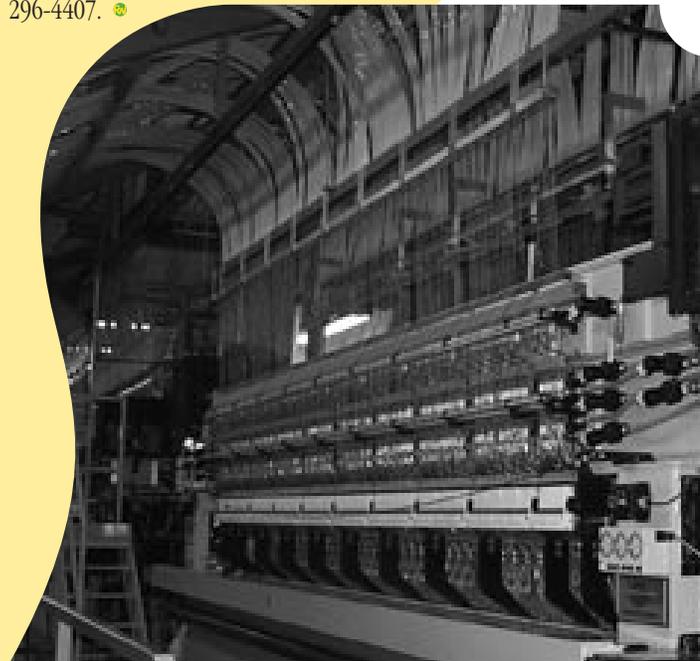
96% of all stains can be removed with water and a mild detergent. This means less harmful chemical cleaners are needed to maintain the carpets. For more stubborn stains (such as lipstick, coffee, or rust), Lees has developed their Durasafe environmentally safe carpet cleaners.

Lees’ performance product lines of carpets are warranted for life – which is good news for businesses, who can save substantially from lower replacement rates. The extended lifespan also means a reduction in the frequency of carpeting being landfilled.

Businesses Buy Into the Concept

Many local companies are considering eco-friendly products when building or renovating their office space. Indeed, some companies in the Pacific Northwest such as Boeing, Washington Mutual, Nordstrom and Bank of America have used Lees carpets recently in building and remodeling projects. “Whether a product is environmentally friendly or not is becoming a bigger factor in the decision-making process for my clients,” said Whitman. “I used to get a call a month about our eco-friendly carpets. Now I get one a day.”

For more information on Lees Carpets, visit their website at www.leescarpets.com or call (800) 523-5647. Businesses interested in free assistance and information on sustainable building techniques can contact the King County Construction Works program at (206) 296-4407. ☺



Carpet stitcher

The Do's & Don'ts of Computer & Software Donation



Businesses interested in donating their old computers and software should take some easy steps to make sure they're doing it properly. A few precautions can help your business protect its privacy, ensure no software distribution laws are broken, and correctly estimate the value of donated equipment for tax purposes. The following information will also help you decide what types of equipment to donate to charities and which should be recycled properly.



Dump that Data

To protect your company's privacy, be sure to erase all data stored on your hard drives. This requires more than just dragging files into the Trash bin and deleting. There are a number of software programs that even a lay person can use on a computer to recover "deleted" files. Purchase reformatting software or ask your computer specialist to take the appropriate steps to delete all installed programs and files from hard drives before donating computers.

Software Donation

Businesses donating software usually hand over the program disk along with all the inserts and manuals to a charity or school. Unfortunately, this is a violation of the non-transferable terms of most software licensing agreements. This is the agreement your business made when the shrink-wrap is broken on the software package and when you clicked the "I agree" button when installing the software.

Essentially, software that has been previously installed onto a computer cannot be donated or

given to anyone other than the registered user. Software still shrink-wrapped or with its installation disk envelope still intact can be donated. Schools and nonprofit organizations can often purchase software from vendors at special low costs. These regulations obviously do not apply to any "shareware" or free software that can be downloaded from the Internet.

For a list of local charities and computer resellers and recyclers, visit the King County Computer Recovery Project website at dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/crp.htm or call (206) 296-8800. ☺

Is it worth giving?

Many local charities report that over two thirds of the donated computers they receive do not work. Most charities lack the time, expertise or resources to fix broken equipment. Giving broken or outdated computer equipment to charities only drains their valuable resources. A couple of good rules of thumb:

- Sell your equipment after two years, donate after three, and budget for recycling after four years.
- If your computer is older than a Windows Pentium 75 with 32MB RAM or a Power Macintosh with 8MB RAM, explore recycling options.

Some computer resellers will accept older computers to salvage parts for reuse and recycling. However, most companies that take used computer equipment will not pay for older equipment and may charge a small recycling fee.



STEPS TO ENSURE BOTH YOUR COMPANY & CHARITIES GET THE MOST OUT OF OLD EQUIPMENT

New King County Computer Recovery Project Brochures are available!

New collection sites and information have been added in the new brochure to help companies that would like to donate, refurbish or recycle their old computer equipment. For the online version, visit dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/crp.htm or call (206) 296-8800 for copies of the brochure!





In Action: Distinguished Businesses in the Green

With the amount of building going on in the Puget Sound area, it's more important than ever that builders conserve resources. Here are three standouts in the construction business who donned their thinking caps before their hard hats – and saved materials and money in the process.

Quadrant Homes

Quadrant Homes got in on the ground floor when King County and the Master Builders Association established the “Built Green” program. The program created a checklist that guides builders like Quadrant in the use of everything from environmentally friendly landscaping and design components to indoor air quality. Homeowners know that a “Built Green” home is affordably built to protect both human and environmental health. Quadrant uses these guidelines in building more than 500 homes per year.

Conservation really counts for a company that starts an average of three homes per day, so Quadrant has standardized its recycling setup for maximum efficiency at each jobsite. An average 70-percent jobsite recycling is just one reason Quadrant has received special recognition for five of its King County projects: West Hill in Bothell, Redmond Ridge, Snoqualmie Ridge, Liberty Ridge in Renton and Berkshire Glen in Auburn. Contact: Rob Geline, Production Manager, (425) 646-8327. ♻️



Timberland Homes

Timberland Homes gives all its custom modular homes a lean, low-waste start. This company builds most of its homes for the secondary and vacation market, while keeping waste reduction a primary concern. By manufacturing the homes at its Auburn facility, Timberland is able to get the most from its materials and to maintain a tight 74-percent recycling rate. Only the completed elements of a home are trucked to the site for assembly, which means less shipping and bare-bones construction site waste.

If you've seen Timberland's models on the Valley Freeway between Kent and Auburn, you know that a good-looking home can look good to the environment, too. Contact: Debbie Heller, (253) 735-3435. ♻️



Woodinville Lumber

“Measure twice, cut once” pays off in more than one way for Woodinville Lumber. Woodinville, which builds all of the trusses and wall panels for Quadrant Homes, is constantly gauging its production methods to cut waste. The company has realized resource and cost savings by using an optimizer saw to get the most from each piece of wood cut for floor joists and trusses.

They have also found new uses for old-fashioned elbow grease: Woodinville has replaced gas-hungry forklifts with people-powered pushcarts to move its pre-cut truss pieces from the saw to the assembly area – and have cut down air emissions, fuel consumption, and costs. With a 74-percent recycling rate, this is a company that measures up as a real resource saver. Contact: Roy Schiferl, VP Operations, (800) 222-8278. ♻️



Renaissant Consulting, Seattle

Renaissant Consulting guides its clients in strategic planning and leadership development, and believes that for smart companies, using resources wisely is part of the business plan. This firm educates clients about the importance of using recycled products and about the wide range of products on the marketplace to meet their needs.

Renaissant practices what it preaches by using recycled paper for its letterhead, business cards, envelopes and brochures, and client reports. The company is always looking for new ways to close the loop, and has notified all of its suppliers of its “buy recycled” policy. Company owner Ryan Kellogg is committed to resource conservation, and his colleagues have taken up the cause, achieving an 83-percent recycling rate. Contact: Ryan Kellogg, owner, (206) 329-5787. ♻️



New Members

- AutoSport McMullen, *Renton*
- Clampitt's Cleaners, *Mercer Island*
- Crossport Systems, Inc., *Bellevue*
- Eclectic Topiary, *Covington*
- Evergreen Pet Supply, *Tukwila*
- Fleenor Paper Company, *Tukwila*
- General Nutrition Center, *Tukwila*
- Halecrest Veterinary Hospital, *Shoreline*
- Kinko's Copies, *Kirkland*
- Locker Room for Kids, *Tukwila*
- Madison Carnolia Cleaners, *Seattle*
- Mariners Team Store – Southcenter Mall, *Tukwila*
- Northshore Utility District, *Kenmore*
- Northwest Industrial Equipment, *Kent*
- Payroll Online Corporation, *Bellevue*
- Piston Service Wholesalers, *Renton*
- Ritz Camera – Southcenter Mall, *Tukwila*
- Safeco Insurance Company of America, *Seattle*
- Sharp Electronics Corp, *Renton*
- Sundance Catalog Company, *Seattle*
- United Tile, *Renton*

Renewals continue on back page

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.



Member Renewals, continued

- Ace Box Company, *Auburn*
- Andover Printing, *Tukwila*
- Ariston Capital Management, *Bellevue*
- Bellevue Medical Dental – Scott C. Schwalm DDS PS, *Bellevue*
- Boeing Commercial Airplane Group – Central Region, *Renton*
- Boma Sterling Silver, *Renton*
- Booknonger Used Books, *Vashon*
- Conner Homes Co, *Bellevue*
- Cugini Florists, *Renton*
- Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, *Bellevue*
- EcoGraphics – Environment-Friendly Printing, *Kirkland*
- Edwards Imaging, *Renton*
- First Union Small Business Capital, *Bellevue*
- Group Health – Riverton Operations Center, *Tukwila*
- Group Health Cooperative – Springbrook Business Park, *Kent*
- Huckell/Weinman Associates, Inc., *Kirkland*
- Jet City Espresso, *Renton*
- Keeney's Office Plus, *Bothell*
- Keeney's Office Plus – Distribution Center, *Redmond*
- Keeney's Office Plus, *Redmond*
- Keeney's Office Plus, *Woodinville*
- Les Schwab Tire Center – Rainier Ave, *Renton*
- Les Schwab Tire Center, *Renton*
- Med-Tox Northwest, *Auburn*
- Meydenbauer Center, *Bellevue*
- Mountain View Gift Baskets, *Redmond*
- NorMed, Inc., *Tukwila*
- Port Blakely Communities, Inc., *Issaquah*
- Regional Building Service Corporation, *Kirkland*
- Renton Flower Shop, *Renton*
- Renton Radiator, *Renton*
- Renton Veterinary Hospital, *Renton*
- Roger S. Chin DDS, *Bellevue*
- Seafirst Bank – Renton Hills Branch, *Renton*
- St Vincent de Paul – Renton, *Renton*
- Washington State Recycling Association, *Tukwila*

Printed on Mega Gloss 80# text, a 20% recycled paper

Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Seattle, WA
 Permit No.
 14146

SOLID WASTE DIVISION
 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 201
 Seattle, WA 98104-3855

