



NewsLink

INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES USING RECYCLED MATERIALS IN THEIR PRODUCTS

IN THE NEWS

What the media are saying about LinkUp partners

Articles about LinkUp partners appeared in several diverse publications recently.

Forest products

A new publication issued in May from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, entitled *Small-Diameter Success Stories*, included LinkUp partner Forest Concepts. The publication featured several companies that are successfully using small-diameter timber and other under-utilized forest products. Forest Concepts is working to bring WoodStraw™ spreadable wood strands, an all-wood erosion control material, to market. Plans are to use plywood veneer manufacturing waste, small-diameter timber and construction waste wood to make the product.

Eco-savvy home

Countertops made of Squak Mountain Stone, a recycled composite material, graced the August issue of *Sunset Magazine*. The countertops were an integral part of the Glidehouse, a prefabricated modern home using affordable, green building materials and products. Since publication of the article, Tiger Mountain Innovations, makers of the recycled-content counters, has received numerous inquiries about its composite stone.

Smoothing the way

U.S. Cold Patch, which uses recycled asphalt to make a pothole patch, received coverage in July's *Sustainable Industries Journal Northwest*. Several years ago, the LinkUp team helped smooth the way for product testing by King County's Department of Transportation. Today, U.S. Cold Patch is being used throughout the West, from Yosemite National Park to the City of Los Angeles. The product is manufactured by Everett-based Y.K. Products.

Tiger Mountain Innovations: Natural beauty redefined

When Amée Quiriconi began her business nearly two years ago, it was a true home-based enterprise. Not only did her company, Tiger Mountain Innovations, Inc., makers of a durable, lightweight composite stone slab, start out in her garage, but much of her early testing was done using everyday household items, such as coffee cans and spring-form baking pans.

Quiriconi has since moved beyond those simple beginnings. Today, she rents a 2,700-square-foot shop space, and her product, Squak Mountain Stone, is grabbing the attention of area builders and designers.

Squak Mountain Stone is a cement-based composite that uses about 65 percent recycled material, primarily mixed waste paper fiber as well as granite dust and fly ash recovered from local manufacturers. The result is a product that weighs 50 percent less than traditional concrete slabs of similar size, but is as durable as concrete.

Counter intelligence

Squak Mountain Stone can be used for countertops, tables or kitchen islands. It contains no rebar or other reinforcing steel, so it can be easily cut on the job site for a custom fit using standard stone or tile-working tools. In the near future, Quiriconi hopes to further customize the product by using 100 percent recycled post-consumer glass aggregate (provided by LinkUp partner TriVetro Corporation), which will increase the overall recycled content.

Quiriconi anticipates Squak Mountain Stone (www.tmi-online.com) will be in production by the end of the year. "We have been beta-testing since early spring," says Quiriconi. "Currently, 12 people are trying out our countertops, and their feedback has been helpful."

Visually, Squak Mountain Stone appears to have the same depth and characteristics of



Ameé Quiriconi oils a mold before pouring a Squak Mountain Stone tile, a new product that uses about 65 percent recycled material.

natural stone. It is available in four rich hues — natural, slate, tan and pewter blue. Quiriconi uses a powdered pigment derived from iron oxides, which distributes the color evenly throughout the slab, so scratches or nicks to the surface are less noticeable. Once installed, the slab is then sealed with a water-based topical acrylic sealer to protect it from staining.

Quiriconi, a former green-building consultant, began her product research as part of a master's degree program at Antioch University Seattle.

The LinkUp program has given this start-up business some much-needed support. "LinkUp helped with material testing," says Quiriconi, "which gave us an objective view of our product. The test results helped us focus on the areas we needed to change." The LinkUp team also designed a logo and tagline to help launch the new product.

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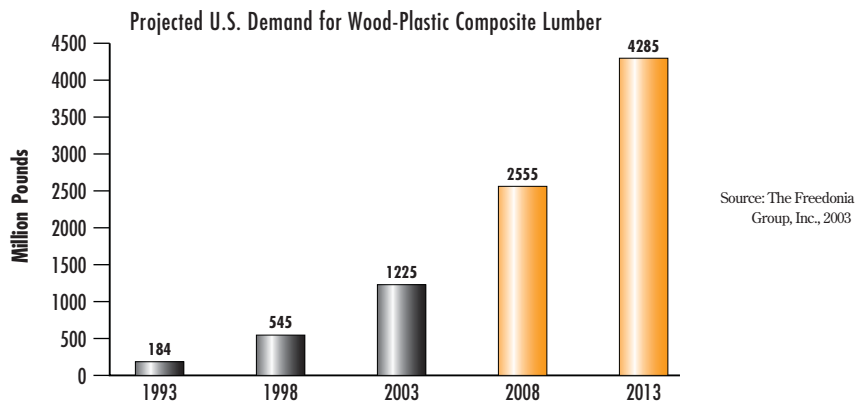
Become a LinkUp partner in the new year!

LinkUp provides eligible Puget Sound manufacturers of recycled products with technical assistance and marketing support. To be considered for program participation, download and complete an application form at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/linkup>, call Kris Beatty at 206-296-3740, or email linkupinfo@metrokc.gov.

FAST FACTS

Composites demand goes up

Wood-plastic composite (WPC) lumber, some made with recycled materials, is used to make decks, fences, siding, windows, doors and trim. In 2003, demand for wood-plastic composites was 1.2 billion pounds, representing about \$490 million dollars in sales. By 2013, the use of WPC is projected to reach 4.3 billion pounds — a 250 percent increase.



SPOTLIGHT ON KING COUNTY

King Street Center wins gold

King Street Center, home to 1,450 King County employees, won a gold-level rating from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the first building in the Pacific Northwest to do so and only one of a handful nationwide. Gold is the second-highest rating possible through the Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Existing Buildings. The center was recognized for substantial water conservation, reduced carbon dioxide emissions, energy savings and an exemplary recycling program.

The 327,000-square-foot building has a reclaimed water system that saves more than one million gallons of potable water each year by collecting rainwater off the building and using it for 50 percent of toilet flushing needs. Lighting systems that rely on natural light and HVAC systems helped save \$100,000 over two years, and a recycling program diverted 60 percent of building waste from the landfill.

King Street Center, completed in 1999, was King County's first green building project. It is located at 201 South Jackson Street in Seattle's Pioneer Square

neighborhood. For a virtual tour, visit http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/ksc_tour/.

Materials get second life

King County agencies now have a new way to prevent waste and reduce disposal costs. A recent agreement signed by the WasteWise Program (part of the Solid Waste Division) enables the RE Store, a nonprofit used-building-materials store, to pick up reusable materials that would otherwise go to the landfill and sell them to the public. Items offered for sale include doors, windows, stairway railings, cedar sheeting and hardware fixtures that come from King County internal construction, renovation and demolition projects.

RE Store has two outlets: one in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood and one in Bellingham. Both sites are operated by RE Sources, a nonprofit environmental education organization. Proceeds from the sale of materials fund the organization's environmental and community programs.

For more information, contact Tom Watson, King County WasteWise program coordinator, at 206-296-4481, or send an email to tom.watson@metrokc.gov.

CHECK IT OUT!

Sustainable building design

Want to know how to increase the energy efficiency of a newly designed office building? Visit *Implement*, a new City of Seattle website that offers tips on making sustainable design decisions. For details, go to <http://www.seattle.gov/implement>.

Vendor help online

Businesses registering with Washington's Electronic Business Solution Vendor Resource Center can be notified of bid opportunities and access bid documents online. Get details at www.ga.wa.gov/WeBS/index.html.

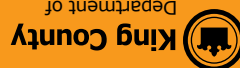
Washington Recycles Day

The Washington State Recycling Association will hold workshops and other activities Nov. 15 in Spokane, Yakima and Marysville/Everett to mark Washington Recycles Day. To learn more, visit www.wsra.net and click "News and Events."

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Alternate formats of this newsletter are available upon request.

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