



# NewsLink

INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES USING RECYCLED MATERIALS IN THEIR PRODUCTS

## IN THE NEWS

### *What the media are saying about LinkUp partners*

LinkUp partners continue to make headlines in local and national media.

#### **Wood works**

An article in the spring edition of *Northwest Home + Garden* on Urban Hardwoods spotlighted the company's dedication to salvaging hardwood trees from yards and construction sites and creating fine furniture. The company's designs are inspired by wood that other furniture makers might consider useless. The felled trees might have veining caused by disease or pockmarks from pruning. The products crafted by Jim Newsom and partner John Wells expose the wood's natural beauty and accentuate its distinctive characteristics.

#### **Reaching the midwest**

Smiling from the front page of *The Salina Journal* (Kansas) on April 1 was Salina native Ameer Quiriconi, president of Tiger Mountain Innovations (TMI), one of LinkUp's newest partners. TMI manufactures Squak Mountain Stone, a composite made of cement, wastepaper fiber and pulp, granite dust and fly ash. About 65 percent of the product is recycled content.

#### **Recruitment assist**

This spring, an assortment of publications helped LinkUp reach manufacturers that might qualify for free technical or marketing support. Articles appeared in *Techline*, published by the American Electronics Association's Washington council; *Over the Wire*, an electronic publication from the Technical Association for Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI); and in newsletters produced by the Washington Organic Recycling Council, the City of Seattle's Resource Venture and the Kent Chamber of Commerce.

## *Cedar Grove Composting: Turning food scraps into compost*

Tucked away in Maple Valley, Wash., under 12 large breathable membranes, a science project of sorts is taking place. Tons of grass, leaves and yard trimmings, along with residential and commercial food waste from several area municipalities, are being turned into nutrient-rich compost and soil enhancement products.

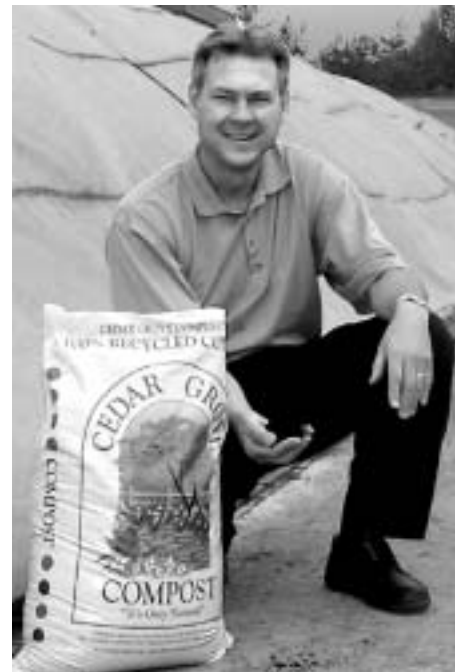
The conversion is taking place at Cedar Grove Composting, LinkUp's newest program partner. Cedar Grove began operations in waste management in 1938. Fifty years later, the company started recycling yard waste into compost. Today, Cedar Grove sells about one-half million bags of compost each year to consumers, in addition to providing compost to commercial and municipal accounts.

Recently, Cedar Grove was selected as one of two sites in the U.S. to use a new technology developed by Gore Creative Technologies Worldwide. The system uses a specially designed membrane (Gore Cover) to create an enclosed space that controls odors and microorganisms and creates a consistent composting process unaffected by outside environmental conditions. The efficient high-tech system shortens the time required to produce finished compost.

At Maple Valley, Cedar Grove processes about 25,000 tons of material in peak months. With the opening of a second facility in Everett, Wash., this fall, company officials expect to process another 10,000 tons of material during peak months.

#### **Food waste recycling**

Two years ago, Cedar Grove began processing food waste collected from select residential households as part of King County's pilot residential food collection program. Following the success of the



*Jerry Bartlett, general manager, helped attract new recycling technologies to Cedar Grove Composting.*

pilots, Kirkland, Redmond and Bellevue began regular residential food waste collection, serving 44,000 households. A newly launched commercial food recycling pilot began this June. [See "Spotlight on King County," over.]

In the residential food waste collection program, residents fill small, lidded plastic buckets with food scraps and place them into their outdoor yard-waste carts for pickup. Greasy pizza boxes, soiled paper take-out containers and other soiled paper are also put into yard-waste carts.

"We discovered that food waste made up 8 percent to 12 percent of the total yard waste we collected in these communities," says Jerry Bartlett, Cedar Grove general manager. "As more consumers and businesses are educated about food waste recycling, that figure could reach 20 percent or more."

**NewsLink** is published quarterly by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Solid Waste Division, as part of the LinkUp program. To request an electronic version, or deletion from the mailing list, send an email to [linkupinfo@metrokc.gov](mailto:linkupinfo@metrokc.gov), or call 206-296-3740.

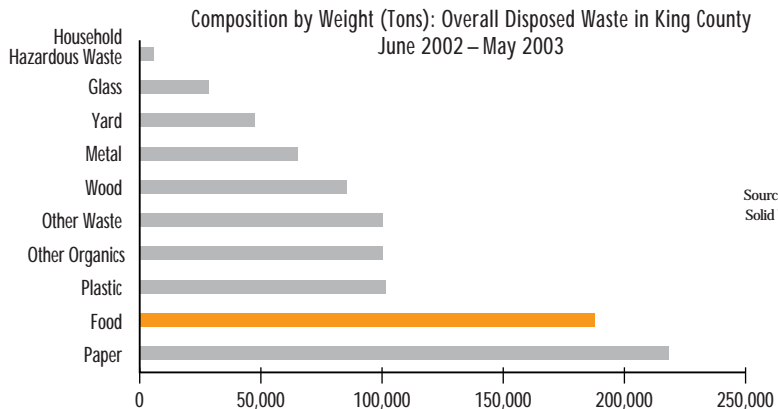
## **Be a LinkUp partner in 2004**

LinkUp provides selected Puget Sound area 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](mailto:linkupinfo@metrokc.gov).

**FAST FACTS**

**Food waste weighs in**

During a recent 12-month period, the amount of food waste disposed of in King County landfills was second only to paper in terms of weight. Residential food waste collection services, now offered to about 44,000 county residents, should take a bite out of that figure.



Source: King County Solid Waste Division

**SPOTLIGHT ON KING COUNTY**

**Commercial food waste pilots**

About 50 businesses in Redmond and Bellevue are participating in a commercial food waste collection pilot program sponsored by King County’s Solid Waste Division. The pilot program began in June and will continue for one year. Participating businesses, which include restaurants, florists, grocery stores and a meat market, are recycling *pre*-consumer food waste — for example, kitchen prep material, not waste from the dining rooms — and soiled paper, such as napkins and food cartons. The scraps and soiled paper go into biodegradable bags and then into recycling carts. This “double-wrap” contains any odors or liquids.

There are numerous economic and environmental benefits, according to program manager Beth Humphreys. Businesses may see substantial savings on hauling and tipping fees, and the amount of food waste being sent to the landfill will decrease. “Food is just another resource,” says Humphreys. “By recycling it into a useful product like compost, less of that resource is wasted in landfills.” If the pilot program is successful, it may serve as a blueprint

for a larger countywide effort to collect and recycle commercial food waste.

**Linking up to events**

The annual LinkUp partner event, held June 24, focused on financing for small businesses. Featured panelists Kristin Martinez, Sound Point Ventures; Elizabeth Rusnak, Banner Bank; and Tina Vlasaty, Cascadia Revolving Fund, shared insider tips on finding and securing financing from various sources.

On April 22, King County’s Department of Natural Resources and Parks recognized Earth Day with a public event at Seattle’s Westlake Center. Six LinkUp partners and their products were showcased: Cedar Grove Composting, Custom Handweaving, Durable Plastic Design, Tiger Mountain Innovations, TriVistro Corporation and Urban Hardwoods. Also on the agenda were presentations on natural yard care, worm bins and recycling cell phones. LinkUp partners reported that the daylong event provided a good networking opportunity and a way to raise product awareness.

**CHECK IT OUT!**

**Recycling conference**

This year’s annual congress for the National Recycling Coalition will be held Aug. 29 – Sept. 1 in San Francisco. For more information, visit the NRC website at [www.nrc-recycle.org](http://www.nrc-recycle.org), or call 202-347-0450.

**Profitable sustainability**

Seminars, workshops and an exhibit hall are part of the “Profitable Sustainability: The Future of Business” conference, scheduled Sept. 26–29 in Seattle, sponsored by the Network for Business Innovation & Sustainability/NW. Visit [www.nbis.org/conference](http://www.nbis.org/conference) for registration details.

**New state vision**

In May, the state’s Department of Ecology released a draft summary of the “Beyond Waste Project,” a strategic plan that outlines five initiatives for handling hazardous and solid wastes over the next 30 years. View a copy and comment online at [www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste).

This newsletter is printed with nonpetroleum-based ink on a 100 percent recycled paper using 80 percent post-consumer waste.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEATTLE WA  
PERMIT NO. 3466

**NewsLink**  
A LINKUP PUBLICATION

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
Solid Waste Division  
LinkUp Program  
King Street Center, KSC-NR-0701  
Seattle, WA 98104

