



eNewsLink



Linkup

A NEWSLETTER TO EXPAND MARKETS FOR RECYCLED MATERIALS

Fall 2005



Creation Station owner Frank Knight keeps his shelves well stocked with an ever-changing variety of recycled and surplus items.

Creation Station:

The art of recycling

One visit to [Creation Station](#), an innovative crafts store and art studio in Lynnwood, Wash., and you're likely to be hooked. There are literally tons of reasonably priced materials — from homemade rockets and robots, to waterfalls and "whatsits" — displayed on shelves and in barrels, just waiting for a creative touch.

Creation Station is not simply a crafts store. About 60 percent of its stock is made up of surplus and recycled materials, such as plastics (film canisters, colored cellophane and bottles), paper (cardboard boxes, file

folders and rolls of surplus food labels) and wood (utility spools and colored sticks). The business also sells textiles (fabric samples and yarn), metals (copper wire and film reel cans), glass beads and tiles.

"It's all the stuff you can't live without," says store owner Frank Knight. Teachers, inventors, architects, scientists, engineers and craft enthusiasts – not to mention children and their parents – apparently agree. On any given day, customers can be seen walking through the aisles, inspecting the colorful and varied merchandise. At Creation Station, visitors can purchase by the piece, the pound or the package. They can create their *objets d'art* onsite in the large studio space, or they can purchase materials and take them home. Also available for sale are traditional supplies, such as glue and glitter, for craft and school projects.

Besides being fun, Creation Station subscribes to a strong environmental ethic. "We want children to know there is an alternative to sending items to the landfill," says Knight. "We want to foster not only creativity but also awareness of the importance of recycling."

The store gets much of its recycled and surplus materials from regular suppliers, such as photo developers, medical supply houses, retail outlets and even a local dairy. Although the store is located in Snohomish County, most of its recycled materials are generated in King County.

The studio space is available for birthday parties and field trips. In addition, individuals or groups can make an appointment to participate in staff-directed arts and crafts projects. The store also

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Partners in Brief

Plastic lumber rated

[Orcaboard](#), manufactured by Durable Plastic Design, was rated one of the best choices for plastic lumber products based on environmental and public health priorities. [Guide to Plastic Lumber](#), a report released this summer by the [Healthy Building Network](#), reviewed 38 plastic lumber products, citing huge disparities in their environmental quality. One-third of the products reviewed, which included Orcaboard, earned the top ranking of "most environmentally preferable."

Technology award

[Forest Concepts](#) received a Research and Technology Development grant from the Washington Technology Center this summer. The company is one of 12 in Washington state recognized for their technology innovations. Founded in 1998, Forest Concepts develops and markets a range of innovative wood products, including WoodStraw® erosion control material, made from the by-products of forest thinning and veneer manufacturing.

Everett expansion

[Cedar Grove Composting](#) reports that its new facility in Everett, Wash., has been up and running at full capacity since May 2005. The Everett

packages its own science and craft kits made from 100 percent recycled materials.

Creation Station is working with the LinkUp team to update its Web site. The new site will be appealing and easy to use, allowing customers to purchase materials online and enabling Creation Station staff to post information about upcoming classes and special events. The new Web site should be up and running by the end of the year.

Spotlight on King County



LinkUp program manager Kris Beatty (left) and Tim Bennett, Rainier Wood Recyclers, discuss recycling wood waste.

bedding.

Wood recycler is new LinkUp partner
[Rainier Wood Recyclers](#), a company that annually processes nearly 200,000 tons of green wood waste and 70,000 tons of urban wood waste, is the newest LinkUp partner. Rainier grinds and then recycles landclearing debris, brush and urban wood waste, such as construction and manufacturing debris, pallets and crates. Much of Rainier Wood Recyclers' work takes place onsite where customers generate or collect this kind of material. The company also operates three wood recycling yards locally in Auburn, Covington and Fall City, and manufactures about a dozen different products from recycled wood, including playground base, mulch and animal

Roofing recycler joins LinkUp

[American Roofing Recyclers](#), located in Snohomish, Wash., joined LinkUp this summer. Each month, the business processes and recycles about 250 tons of composition roofing, 260 tons of shake roofing and 90 tons of mixed composition roofing and wood. The wood shake and composition roofing materials are recycled and used for trail and walkway surfaces, slip prevention for snow and ice, and numerous other uses. About 95 percent of the material is generated in King and Snohomish counties by roofing and construction companies. American Roofing Recyclers, established in 1998, hopes to move to a larger location next year.

Deconstruction on Harbor Island

King County, a long-time leader in construction waste recycling, has now embraced deconstruction as well. Two wooden warehouses on Harbor Island, part of the larger Fisher Flour Mill complex purchased by the county's Solid Waste Division in 2003, were deconstructed recently by Grayhawk Construction Inc. It was stipulated in the contract that at least 75 percent of the used building materials be diverted from the landfill. More than 85 percent of the materials were recycled or salvaged for reuse. Items removed from the site for reuse were those made of glass or wood, such as beams and rafters. Materials that were recycled included concrete and metals. The project was completed in 134 days with a bid nearly \$14,000 less than the county's initial estimate.

Online exchange

King County recently launched a new [Online Materials Exchange](#). The site combines the best of two earlier King County Web sites: the Household Online Materials Exchange and the county's

facility, with a composting capacity of 164,000 tons, is the largest Gore Cover facility in the world. This system uses a specially designed membrane to create an enclosed space to control odors and microorganisms, and creates a consistent composting process unaffected by outside conditions.

News You Can Use

Environmental conference

The 2005 [Northwest Environmental Conference](#) will be held Dec. 8–9 in Portland, Ore. Now in its 17th year, this event is the area's largest environmental conference and trade show, providing high-quality, low-cost training, workshop sessions and networking opportunities.

ReCon tool

A new tool developed by the Environmental Protection Agency, called the [ReCon](#) (Recycled Content) tool, helps users estimate how much greenhouse gas is emitted or energy consumed in the manufacture and disposal of a range of products with recycled content.

Eco-friendly architecture

A new book, *The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture*, documents the rise of high-style, environmentally conscious design with examples of 35 houses built in six diverse climatic zones around the world. It is available from [Princeton Architecture Press](#).

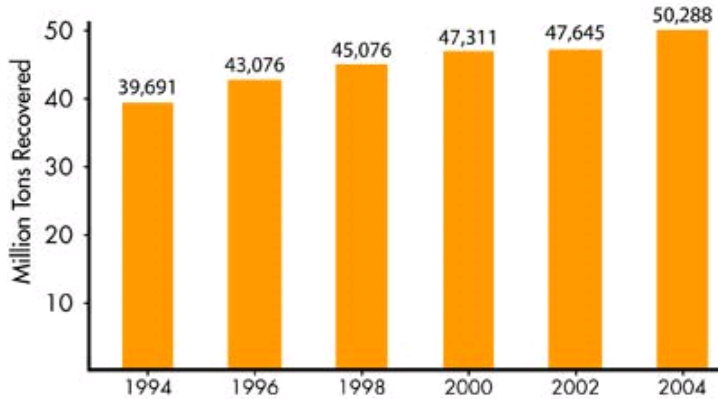
WSRA nominations

[Washington State Recycling Association](#) is seeking nominations for its 26th annual Recycling Awards in the categories of outstanding professionals, government agencies and residents. Nominations are due by March 1.

section of the Reusable Building Materials Exchange site (<http://2good2toss.com>). Now users have one site where they can list or find both household goods, such as appliances and electronics, and reusable building materials, such as cabinets, windows and insulation. As an added feature, residents can advertise garage and yard sales, complete with online maps to sale sites.

Fast Facts

Paper recycling hits new high



In 2004, paper recycling broke the 50-million-ton mark – a 73 percent increase in paper recovery since 1990. Nearly half of all the paper used in the U.S. was recycled in 2004. That works out to an average 340 pounds of recycled paper for each man, woman and child. The paper industry has set an even higher goal for the future: By 2012, it hopes to recover 55 percent of all paper used in the U.S.

Source: Paper Industry Association Council, 2005

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