



eNewsLink



LinkUp

A NEWSLETTER TO EXPAND MARKETS FOR RECYCLED MATERIALS

Summer 2005



King County employees install VitroClean crushed glass filtration media in the stormwater filter vault at the Auburn Park & Ride.

TriVidro Corporation

Clean, green filtration machine

From swimming pools and stormwater runoff to ponds and aquariums, [VitroClean®](#) water filtration media, made from 100 percent recycled glass, is used in many applications. First introduced in 1998, the eco-friendly product is made by [TriVidro Corporation](#), Kent, Wash., a LinkUp partner and the only Northwest company that uses 100 percent recycled glass to create products specifically for the industrial market.

Many Puget Sound facilities are now using VitroClean and finding it cost-effective. It weighs 20 percent less than silica sand, so it provides more filter volume per pound. It takes less water to back flush and lasts longer than sand. In addition, it is safer for employees to handle and better for the environment.

For the past two years, Boeing has used VitroClean in its industrial wastewater treatment system at its Renton, Wash., facility. This fully automated system treats water that may contain paint, organic solvents, metal hydroxide and other industrial waste from Boeing's commercial airplane manufacturing operations. The system treats about 20,000 gallons of water per batch, up to 150 batches per

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Partners in Brief

Counter culture

[Tiger Mountain Innovations, Inc.](#), makers of Squak Mountain Stone, a paper and cement-based composite used primarily for counter and table tops, was featured on KOMO 4 News in a home and lifestyle report. The company recently signed an exclusive two-year retail and distribution agreement with the Environmental Home Center.

Reclaiming trees

[Urban Hardwoods](#), a Seattle company that reclaims trees and crafts beautiful furniture and architectural materials from the salvaged wood, was featured

year.

Boeing officials report that VitroClean saves them about \$1,000 per year in material cost over using conventional sand and gravel products. In addition, the company found that disposal costs, which are based on weight, are less with VitroClean because it weighs less than sand and gravel.

“Based on its successful use at Renton,” says Paul Murphy, TriVitro Corporation, “Boeing is now using VitroClean at its Renton vehicle maintenance shop and the company is considering using the product at some of its other facilities throughout Puget Sound .”

VitroClean is also used by a variety of state and county agencies, as well. In Auburn, for example, King County 's Metro Transit Division is using the product to treat stormwater runoff from the 400-car Park & Ride lot.

The lot's runoff is channeled through 18-inch pipes from storm drains and catch basins. After going through a settling basin to separate out the coarsest material, the water flows through two filters filled with several feet of VitroClean, which removes fine particulate matter. Eventually, the filtered water is released into the Green River .

Compared with traditional sand media, VitroClean has less of a tendency to form a surface crust, which reduces system maintenance. Metro reports that the filtration system works flawlessly and, after five years of continuous use, there has been little, if any, clogging.

King County is also using TriVitro's filtration media at its Federal Way Aquatic Center. Every six hours, more than one million gallons of water in the center's two swimming pools are filtered through tanks containing 18 tons of VitroClean. The angular-shaped recycled glass granules filter more efficiently, produce clearer water and need replacement less often than sand (7 years versus 5 years), which reduces operating costs.

LinkUp worked with TriVitro to develop case studies documenting results customers have seen by using VitroClean. The company is using these materials in their product marketing.

Since its founding in 1996, TriVitro has recycled more than 25,000 tons of glass. The company markets two additional product lines: VitroGrit abrasive blasting media and VitroHue glass aggregates, both from 100 percent recycled glass.

Spotlight on King County

Solid Waste Division wins award

May 22 in [Pacific](#), the *Seattle Times*' Sunday magazine supplement. The article traced the early days of the business and highlighted Urban Hardwoods' products and environmental ethics.

LinkUp ink

The April issues of both *BioCycle* and *InBusiness* featured profiles of six LinkUp businesses: [Big Shrimpy](#), [Cedar Grove Composting](#), [Durable Plastic Design](#), [Forest Concepts](#), [Tiger Mountain Innovations](#) and [TriVitro Corporation](#). By using recycled materials to create new products, these and other LinkUp partners are helping King County achieve its long-term goal of zero waste of resources.

More LinkUp ink

LinkUp program manager Kris Beatty was profiled in [Sustainable Industries Journal NW](#). The story also highlighted four LinkUp business: [YK Products](#), [Tiger Mountain Innovations](#), [Creation Station](#) and [TriVitro Corporation](#). The same issue included a profile of LinkUp partner [Custom Handweaving](#), which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

News You Can Use

Greenbuild 2005

[Greenbuild 2005](#), sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council, will be held Nov. 9–11 in Atlanta, Ga. Last year, more than 8,000 people attended. Register by Sept. 1 to save on registration fees.

Biosolids conference

The Northwest Biosolids Management Association is holding its annual conference Sept. 11–13 in Chelan. Contact Maile Lono at 206-684-1145 or visit the [Washington State](#)



Jeff Gaisford accepts the Public Agency Recycler of the Year award for the King County Solid Waste Division.

At its annual spring conference, the Washington State Recycling Association selected the King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) as winner of its Recycler of the Year award in the public-agency category. SWD was recognized for several public programs: two school assistance programs (Waste Reduction & Recycling Assistance and Green Schools), the Mercury Switch Removal project and the Good Guys Electronics Take Back pilot program. The award was accepted by Jeff Gaisford, Recycling and Environmental Services section manager. To determine the winner, judges took into account the percentage of solid waste being recycled, the program's economic and environmental benefits and its innovative approach.

Meeting annual goals

The [Solid Waste Division](#), encouraged by King County Executive Ron Sims to save money, improve customer service and reduce the amount of reusable resources in the waste stream, rose to the challenge. In 2004, SWD maintained its high customer satisfaction ratings while refocusing its recycling programs and saving the county nearly \$9.5 million. SWD programs, including LinkUp, are focusing more on materials that make up the greatest percentage of recyclables going into the landfill — electronics, food waste, mercury, yard waste, wood and recyclable paper. This work will help support the county's new Zero Waste of Resources policy, which will prolong the life of the landfill and keep rates down. More details can be found in SWD's [2004 Annual Report](#).

Sustainable landscaping

Creating landscaping that is easy to maintain and minimizes water and fertilizer use can be a challenge. Area residents can view sustainable-landscape designs at three public [demonstration gardens](#) installed by King County's Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) and Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). Drought-tolerant, shade and rain gardens surround the DDES offices at 900 Oakesdale Ave. S.W. in Renton, Wash. The low-maintenance gardens, which feature native plants, were designed to promote healthy soil and to minimize water, fertilizer and pesticide use. Builders and homeowners applying for a building permit at DDES can check out the gardens and consider sustainable landscaping for their upcoming projects.

Take It Back Network

Electronics is a key recyclable material for King County. Beginning October 1, the county will no longer accept computers, monitors, TVs and cell phones at the transfer stations. These items should be recycled or given to those who can reuse them. To help area residents reuse or recycle more electronics products, the [Take it Back Network](#), a group of local electronics repair and resale shops,

[University conferences](#) site for more information.

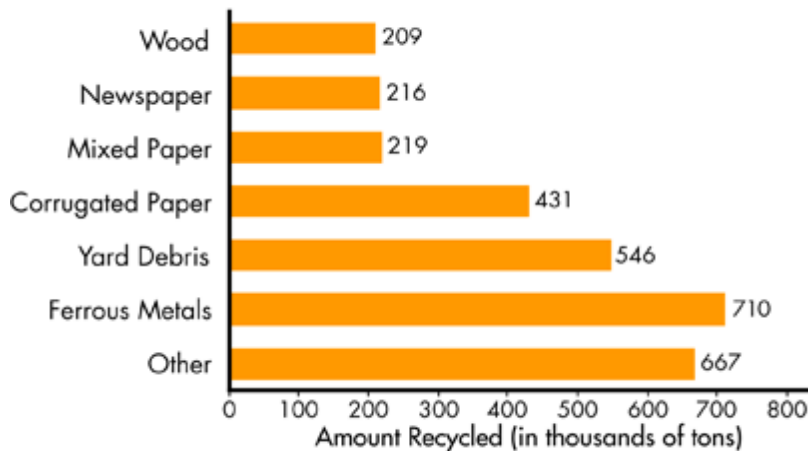
Washington gets greener

This spring, Gov. Christine Gregoire signed a bill that will make Washington the first state in the nation to require that all state-financed public buildings meet "green building" standards. Read more about this [new legislation](#).

recyclers and nonprofit groups, was formed. The network provides area residents with safe, convenient reuse and recycling options for computers, printers, TVs, cell phones, stereos and more. Check out the online list of participating businesses and the items they will recycle. (There may be a fee for the recycling service.)

Fast Facts

What does Washington recycle?



In 2003, Washington had a 38 percent recycling rate, which was a 3 percent increase over the previous year. King County hopes to improve the local recycling rate by implementing programs that support its goal of Zero Waste of Resources by 2030.

Source: Washington State Department of Ecology 12/04

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