



# eNewsLink



# LinkUp

A NEWSLETTER TO EXPAND MARKETS FOR RECYCLED MATERIALS

Spring 2006



## Rainier Wood Recyclers

### Giving urban wood waste a second chance

At a paper mill in Wallula, Wash., near the TriCities, Boise Cascade is using recycled urban wood to make cardboard boxes. The wood it uses is processed and supplied by LinkUp partner Rainier Wood Recyclers. The unique collaboration means increased recycling of wood that would otherwise be used as fuel or end up in our landfills.

Rainier Wood Recyclers president Tony Bennett stands near a pile of urban wood ready for recycling at the company's Auburn facility.

Each year, Rainier recycles nearly 70,000 tons of urban wood from sources such as construction debris, used pallets, and home

improvement projects. When the wood is received by Rainier, much of it contains nails and other contaminants that must be removed as the material is processed. All of the urban wood is inspected and cleaned before it is sent to Boise Cascade.

Rainier Wood Recyclers is one among the few wood processors producing a clean, processed urban wood material, and Boise Cascade is one of the few mills using this material to make the low-grade corrugated medium found in cardboard. Typically urban wood ends up in our waste stream or burned for fuel in industrial boilers rather than being recycled.

"What's beautiful about the recycling of urban wood is that it has taken wood that has lower value and put it to a higher and better end use," said Tony Bennett, president of Rainier Wood Recyclers.

Here's how it works: Rainier grinds the wood and removes contaminants. The wood is then inspected and run through a series of five magnets to pull out any metal debris. The company also recycles 50,000 pounds, or two 20 cubic yard containers full, of nails every week. The cleaned urban wood is

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## Be a LinkUp partner in 2006

LinkUp provides eligible Puget Sound area businesses with technical assistance and marketing support. To be considered for program participation, download an application form at [www.metrokc.gov/linkup](http://www.metrokc.gov/linkup) or call Kris Beatty at 206-296-3740.

## Partner Highlights



### Handbag designer joins LinkUp!

Recycled bicycle tire inner tubes, ad banners and seat belt straps are just a few of the materials finding their way into bags made by the newest company to join LinkUp, [Alchemy Goods](#). This Seattle company has created a line of handbags that are stylish, innovative and good for the environment. The complete line of bags, which includes

then sent to Wallula where Boise Cascade creates a pulp and turns it into the corrugated medium.

"Because of the unique way Rainier Wood Recyclers processes the urban wood, we will be able to use it for the long term," said John Dick, fiber manager at Boise Cascade's Wallula mill. "Over the last year we have been ramping up our use of urban wood."

Boise Cascade's Wallula mill recycles about 50 tons of urban wood each day and hopes to double that amount.

"We're always striving to find new markets for recycled wood," said Bennett. "The work Boise Cascade is doing is an example of the potential for future uses of urban wood waste."

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## King County Focus



### Turning E-waste into Opportunity

It's been called the "dark side of the digital age." According to the EPA, the amount of waste generated from discarded electronics products, or e-waste, continues to grow and much of it ends up being disposed—more than two million tons each year—when it could be recycled.

Recycling computers and other electronics will become easier under the new system.

To help solve this problem, in October 2005 King County banned computers, monitors, TVs and cell phones from the garbage and transfer

stations. Just last month, Washington state became a national leader in e-waste recycling when it passed a bill establishing a statewide system making it easier for households, charities, small governments, schools and small businesses to recycle unwanted televisions and computers. The new law, which will go into effect in January 2009, has been called the most comprehensive electronics recycling law in the country.

The bill provides incentives for more entities to become "collectors" of computers and TVs. As long as a "collector" registers with the state and meets certain criteria, they will be eligible to receive compensation from the party administering the state-wide recycling program. This will create a significant increase in the flow of recyclable commodities. Recyclable materials such as steel, plastic, aluminum, glass and copper will become more readily available to manufacturers. The more difficult-to-recycle materials, such as leaded glass from cathode ray tubes, will also be abundant, and many recyclers will be searching for new markets and creative, environmentally sound solutions for these commodities.

Learn more about [Washington State's new e-waste legislation](#), and use King

the Messenger, Haversack and Ad Bag, is made with recycled materials from local bike shops and junkyards. Each bag is one-of-a-kind, handmade and stamped with the percentage of recycled content by weight. All of their products are made from at least 70 percent recycled material. Alchemy Goods sells their bags online and in stores throughout the Seattle area.

### Renton Concrete Recyclers closes the loop

As work moves forward on construction of Seattle's light rail, [Renton Concrete Recyclers](#) is doing their part. Asphalt taken from the demolition of Martin Luther King Jr. Way South is brought to RCR's dump, crushed into aggregate form and then used as fill material in new construction of the light rail line.

### Creative colors

[Bedrock Industries](#) recently invented a new way to enhance their products made from 100 percent recycled glass. The new technique, which they are keeping under wraps for now, allows for more variety of colors and shapes in their gift and garden items. They say there's more to come... Bedrock continues to offer mosaic classes on Fridays and Sundays.

## News You Can Use

### Environmental resources

King County offers a complete list of [environmental resources](#) to help businesses ensure their operations are environmentally sound – everything from energy conservation to water quality.

### Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

On April 13th, [Town Hall Seattle](#) presents a lecture by scientist and "Weather Makers" author Tim Flannery. He'll discuss how individuals can substantially reduce carbon-dioxide emissions.

### Earth Day

April 22 is Earth Day! [King County](#) will celebrate Earth Day on Friday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Seattle's Westlake Park. You can find a list of other local events on the Earth Day web site.

### Recycling conference

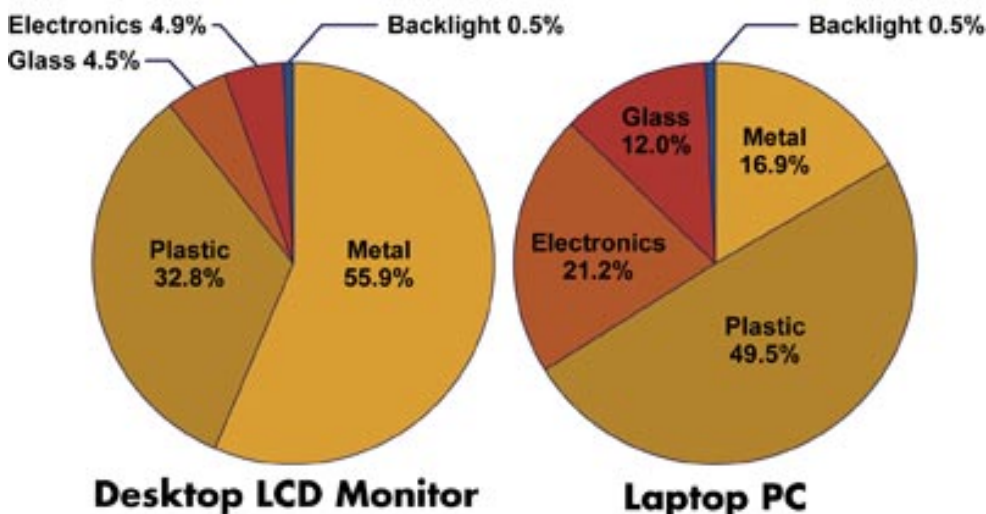
Washington State Recycling Association will

County's [Take it Back Network](#) to find local businesses that will recycle your old electronic equipment.

host its annual [Recycling Conference & Trade Show](#), May 21-24 in Spokane.

## Fast Facts

### Recyclable Materials and Components in LCD Monitors and Laptop PCs



LCD Monitors and Laptop PCs contain some materials that have been deemed hazardous and must be disposed of properly. However, if done correctly, the devices can provide a wealth of recyclable materials. Washington's new electronics recycling law will make it easier to be sure these types of electronics are reused to their full potential.

Source: Martin, R., Simon-Hettich, B., and Becker, W., Safety of Recovery of LCDs in Compliance with WEEE, September 7, 2004

### Northwest sustainability

Sustainability trends, especially efforts by old-line industries in the Northwest, will be the topic of discussion at the [Sustainable Industries Journal 2006 Economic Forum](#) on May 18 in Seattle. The event features regional economist John Mitchell and a panel of CEOs.

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