



Re-Co-Ver Review

Master Composter/Recycler Newsletter

From the MCR Desk

January 2009

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Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and cheer. It's hard to believe it's 2009 and we're already gearing up to host a training for a new crop of Master Composter/Recyclers and planning our spring workshop and outreach schedule. As we plan for a new year, volunteer input to the MCR program is especially welcome and encouraged. Have an idea or inspiration on how we can improve training, or grow and strengthen the program in the 2009? Tell us about it in our volunteer survey here at: TinyURL.com/9bu72l

Master Composter/Recyclers contributed over eight hundred hours of volunteer effort and reached close to five thousand community members through backyard composting and worm composting workshops, school programs, composting demonstration site support, and outreach at community events in 2008. On behalf of Columbia Springs and Clark County Solid Waste Program thank you for your efforts to *keep the green* in Clark County!

To all of you who give and gave so generously and graciously to the Master Composter/Recycler Program in 2008, my heartfelt appreciation for your spirit of giving. I look forward to working together in 2009!

My best,

Jo Anne Dolan

Sustainability Programs Director

Master Composter/Recycler Coordinator



Photos:

Top: A wormshop participant explores vermicompost.

Bottom: A parade of worm bins leaves a family wormshop

Volunteer Meeting and Opportunities



January Volunteer Meeting

Firstenberg Community Center

Thursday, Jan. 15, 6:30- 8:00 p.m.

700 N.E. 136th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98684

You are what you eat. This relationship to the earth and basic principle of biology is important to our health and well-being. With today's culture and technology - the route from farm to table is

often obscure. For our January volunteer enrichment we will watch the PBS broadcast "King Corn," a thought-provoking documentary featuring two recent college graduates who learn where food comes from when they plant an acre of corn and then follow it from kernel to cornflake.

Helpers Needed for MCR Training

Volunteers are needed to **help assemble MCR volunteer manuals and training materials for the 2009 training.** This project can be done anytime between January 20-23. Helpers are also needed to assist with set up and hosting at trainings, any Thursday evening between Jan. 29 - April 2.

Getting a New Computer or Going Digital in '09? E-Cycle!

Many electronics, especially TVs and computers, contain toxic materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury. Reusing and recycling electronics keeps these toxic materials out of our landfills and incinerators and recovers valuable resources. Washington now has a FREE, convenient and environmentally responsible recycling program for computers, monitors, laptops and televisions. This program is free to Washington households, small businesses, schools & school districts, small governments, special purpose districts, and nonprofits & charities. The electronic equipment this program collects are taken apart and separated into materials such as glass, plastic, metal and toxic chemicals. In the Vancouver area there are several locations for electronics recycling, including Office Depot and Goodwill Stores. You can view a database with all the e-cycling locations in Clark County at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/recycle/>



The old CREAM facility at the Clark County Jail Work Center closed earlier this year. They are in the process of forming a non-profit to do similar things at a new location, focusing on re-use. It is expected to open later this spring.

Volunteers Honored at December Dinner

The *Volunteers Sustain Us* 2008 volunteer appreciation dinner was a wonderful evening filled with good company and cheer. Braving less than wonderful weather, Master Composter/Recyclers and Naturally Beautiful Backyards volunteers joined together for warmth and festivities in downtown Vancouver. Our venue was transformed with lights, decorations and fresh greens into a cozy backdrop to honor volunteer contributions to our two sustainability programs. While munching a localvore dinner of food grown or produced in Clark County, folks enjoyed the old-timey harmonies and funky instruments of *Trashcan Joe*. To see photos of the fabulous recycled instruments follow this live link: <http://www.trashcanjoe.com/gear.php> or get a taste of the music here: http://www.trashcanjoe.com/mp3/Dusty_Sneaker_Waltz.mp3



Volunteers who attended went home with door prizes and a special goodie/gift bag courtesy of Clark County Solid Waste Program and Columbia Springs. If you missed the dinner please come by Heron House to claim your gift or let me know if you are coming to our next volunteer meeting. Thanks so much to all of you for coming out and special thanks to the kitchen, decoration, coffee and clean up angels! Thanks to all you exceptional MCR volunteers. We could not do it without you!

Congratulations to these volunteers who received special awards:

Master Composter Recycler Volunteer of the Year - Laura Sauermilch

Sustained Commitment Award - Bill Drummond (bottom right w/Jo Anne Dolan)

Earth Day Queen Award - Anne Holbert (right)

Professor Rot Award - Carlos Rodriquez (below)



Special appreciation to these generous contributors to the volunteer recognition dinner:

Backyard Birdshop; Café Femenino Foundation, Clark County Solid Waste Program, New Seasons; Scented Acres, Waste Connections.



The Vancouver Planning Commission Presents

"Green Working and Living: Local Actions, Global Perspectives"

(In Conjunction with the National Teach in on Global Warming) A
First Tuesday Presentation

THURSDAY, February 5, 2009 * 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Clark College, Gaiser Hall, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA 98663

Join the Vancouver Planning Commission for a special "First Thursday" session in conjunction with Clark College's Climate Change Teach-In. A panel of local citizens will present ways that Clark County is already working and living green. Learn about projects in local businesses and neighborhoods, along with changes you can make in your own home to promote a greener lifestyle. The teach-in is associated with a national organization of leaders and educators (<http://www.nationalteachin.org/>), focused on engaging the public in a dialogue about climate change solutions as we embark on the first 100 days of a new administration.

Gaiser Student Center is located at the north end of campus. Maps and driving directions can be found at <http://www.clark.edu/maps/>. Free, near-by parking is available in the Green 1 and 2 lots and the Yellow 2 lot (do not park in an 'F/S' spot).

Clark College is served by C-Tran. The #25 and #44 buses travel down Fort Vancouver Way with a stop at Gaiser Hall. The #30 bus travels down McLoughlin Blvd with stops at the south end of campus. The #39 bus stops on Fort Vancouver Way, at the south end of campus. The #4-Fourth Plain and the #37 Mill Plain will drop you off within 1-3 block of campus.

Event Sponsored by the Vancouver Planning Commission

Intended only for informational purposes - No policy decisions will be made

Open to the Public: Please RSVP Terry Lenhart @ 360-487-7955

terry.lenhart@ci.vancouver.wa.us

Contact me anytime with comments, questions, suggestions, brainstorming, anything at all.

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The Master Composter/Recycler Program is a program of Columbia Springs. It is offered in partnership with Clark County Solid Waste Program and is a cooperative effort of, Battle Ground, Camas, Clark County, Columbia Springs, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal, and Yacolt.





Become a Master Composter/Recycler

HELP CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE IN CLARK COUNTY



Want to learn more about sustainability related topics like backyard composting, vermicomposting, recycling, building and maintaining healthy soil, green cleaning and more? Would you like to help others to learn about sustainability too?

Become a Master Composter/Recycler!
Free Volunteer Training will be held
Thursdays, January 29th - April 2, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
download a Master Composter/Recycler
volunteer training application at:
www.columbiasprings.org/mcr
360-882-4567
mcr@columbiasprings.org



Volunteers exchange 30 hours of "payback" service for a free ten-week Master Composter Recycler training. Payback can include tabling at community events to share information about composting and recycling techniques, helping to host free lectures and workshops, assisting with community education programs, and helping to maintain composting demonstration sites.



The Master Composter Recycler Program at Columbia Springs is a cooperative effort of Clark County, Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, Yacolt, LaCenter and Columbia Springs. It is offered in partnership with Clark County Solid Waste Program.