

A Quarterly Newsletter of



**Spokane Regional
Solid Waste System**

(509) 625-6580
www.solidwaste.org

Winter 2012



Students use artistic talents to show their support for recycling



"America Recycles" poster contest finalists display their artwork.

Using the theme of "I Recycle, Do You? Get Involved," over 248 students from 22 schools and organizations in Spokane County entered their hand-drawn posters in the "America Recycles Day" Spokane poster contest this fall.

At the Nov. 8 meeting of the Spokane County Commissioners, 34 students, ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade, were recognized as finalists in the contest. From that group of finalists, 18 posters have been selected to appear in the 2012 "Spokane Recycles" calendar.

There were many outstanding submissions, and all participants deserve congratulations for their works of art. The 2011 finalists are:

Campfire USA

Anni Rosselli, Grade 7

Chattaroy Elementary, Chattaroy

Katie Kemink, Grade 4 (November art)

Bethany Long, Grade 4 (HM)

Jacob Lucas, Grade 4

Colbert Elementary, Mead

Jordan Kuhnkey, Grade 3 (May art)

Farwell Elementary, Mead

Jeannette Baird, Grade 2

Lindsey Krygier, Grade 2

Finch Elementary, Spokane

Erik Sohner, Grade 5 (HM)

Logan Elementary, Spokane

Samaa Alsamerraey, Grade 5 (July art)

Casey Pierce, Grade 5

Dakota Sterling, Grade 5

Ntsaia Yang, Grade 5 (HM)

Medical Lake Middle School, Medical Lake

Jeremy Ryan, Grade 8 (Cover art)

Orchard Center Elementary, Millwood

Riana Loughlin, Grade 5 (HM)

Frankie Schade, Grade 5 (March art)

Esther Way, Grade 4

Pasadena Park Elementary, Millwood

Zoe Dice, Grade 3 (December art)

Caitlin Richardson, Grade 3 (October art)

Pioneer School, Spokane Valley

Amanda Alexander, Grade 3 (January art)

Alex Bachman, Grade 4 (April art)

Blake Busch, Grade 1

Olivia Christensen, Grade K

Sanjana Sharma, Grade 1 (February art)

Bella Schmick, Grade 3 (HM)

Henry Schmick, Grade 5 (August art)

Amelia Smith, Grade 2

Ariana Smith, Grade 2

River Day School, Spokane

Talia Williams, Grade 3 (June art)

St. Mary's Catholic School, Spokane Valley

RaeAnna Malarkey, Grade 6

Eva Kennar, Grade 6 (September art)

Olivia Miranda, Grade 6

St. Thomas More Catholic School, Spokane

Marissa Olsen, Grade 6

Connor Vose, Grade 6

Trinity Catholic School, Spokane

Julian Arias, Grade 3

Note: HM = Honorable Mention

The "Spokane Recycles" calendar is free and available by calling the Recycling Hot Line: 625-6800.

Construction begins on the SMART Center, a materials recovery facility

Government and business representatives turned the ceremonial first spade of dirt at the Oct. 26 groundbreaking for a structure that will bring the Spokane area an advanced approach to recycling. Expected to open in fall 2012, the Spokane Material and Recycling Technology (SMART) Center will be able to process more types of recyclable materials than are accepted under the current program. Additional types of plastics, as well as office paper and junk mail, are among the items that will be added to the list of accepted materials when the new facility begins operations. The site is adjacent to the Waste to Energy facility at 2900 S. Geiger, and is being constructed by Waste Management, Inc.

Keep reading "One Man's Trash..."



for more information about changes in your recycling program as the opening of the SMART Center draws near!

Winter and food scrap collection – not a problem!

The Spokane Regional Solid Waste System (SRSWS) food scraps and food-soiled paper recycling program is going strong a year and a half after its introduction. Many Spokane-area residents are finding that putting those items into their Clean Green cart is easy and convenient. But now cold weather is upon us and curbside pickup of the Clean Green carts has stopped until March for City of Spokane customers and is on a reduced-frequency schedule for customers of other waste hauling services. So what should you be doing with your food scraps and food-soiled paper until spring?

There are several options that you can choose from, depending on your situation:

- Keep putting the acceptable materials into your Clean Green cart, especially if it is outdoors. The winter weather should keep the food scraps cold enough (and maybe even frozen) so that they won't become smelly.
- Keep your compostable food scraps and food-soiled paper in a specially designated container in your freezer, if you have room. Don't forget to place them (without the container!) into your Clean Green cart in time for the next scheduled pickup. Contact your service provider to verify that date.
- Put your food scraps and food-soiled paper

into your regular garbage until Clean Green curbside pickups begin again.

- Drop off food scraps and food-soiled paper in the Clean Green area at one of the three Spokane Regional Solid Waste System facilities, which are open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tipping fees apply. (For maps and addresses, see the back page of this newsletter.)

- If you are a City of Spokane Clean Green curbside pickup subscriber, you can continue to place your Clean Green cart at the curb on your scheduled pickup days. The contents of the cart will be considered garbage and you will be charged an additional fee. Subscribers to other Clean Green pickup services may be on a reduced-frequency schedule for the winter. Please check with your service provider to confirm.

If you have questions about disposing of your compostable food scraps and food-soiled paper during the winter, or any other time, please call the Recycling Hot Line at 625-6800, or visit www.solidwaste.org.



"Living the Green Life" at Spokane Youth Environmental Conference

The 15th annual Spokane Youth Environmental Conference (SYEC) will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012, at Spokane Community College. SYEC is a one-day event for 7th through 12th grade students in Spokane County. The conference promotes environmental sciences by encouraging students to conduct scientific investigations and provides them a venue to showcase their environmental research projects.

Teachers must complete the pre-registration form by Friday, March 2, 2012.



Students must then submit a project abstract form by Friday, April 13, 2012.

All forms and more information are available at www.syec.org.



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Fleece season

This time of year, fleece is everywhere—sweatpants, pullovers, jackets, vests, gloves, scarves, blankets, and more. We are so used to seeing fleece during the cool weather that you might be surprised to know that the first fleece product wasn't sold until the early 1980s. By 1993, some of that fleece was being made with post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Today, many plastic bottles become fleece and other polyester products.

To turn bottles into fleece, used bottles are sorted by color, cleaned, chopped, and ground. The flake plastic is then melted, reformulated, and turned into chips. The chips are heated and sent through a machine called a spinneret (much like a showerhead) to become yarn. A knitting machine turns the yarn into cloth that can be dyed, textured, and finished. A process called napping gives fleece its famously soft, fuzzy feel.

"How It's Made" on Discovery Science Channel has a feature on how fleece is made. Watch it on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/YHHqFwDhGTM>.

FAST FACTS

From holiday to home

The 74-foot Norway Spruce decorating New York's Rockefeller Center will come down on January 7. When it does, it will be turned into lumber which will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Since 2007, the lumber from the Rockefeller Center tree has been donated each year to Habitat's home-building efforts. Read more and watch a video at "From Shade to Shelter" in *Habitat World* online: <http://magazine.habitat.org/stories/shade-shelter>.



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As simple as soap

Derreck Kayongo, a humanitarian relief expert and former refugee, knows firsthand about the challenges faced by displaced

persons—the daily struggle for food and fresh water, and the diseases that result from lack of soap and clean water. When he learned that American hotels discard about 2.6 million bars of soap a day, Derreck and his wife and father began the Global Soap Project. The project accepts donated bars of soap from hotels, reprocesses and remolds it, and then donates the soap to existing relief organizations that serve refugees, orphans, and disaster victims. Learn more about the Global Soap Project at www.globalsoap.org.



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Constant connection

If it seems like you are always online, it may be true. CTIA—The Wireless Association conducts a semi-annual survey of wireless subscriber connections, which is the total number of devices, such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, and laptops, that people have connected on cellular networks. In 2011, for the first time, the number of connections at 322.9 million exceeded the population of the U.S., which is about 312.7 million.

WellHome has created an infographic about electronic waste — where it comes from and what happens to it. Check it out at www.wellhome.com/blog/2011/05/electronic-waste-where-does-it-all-end-up.



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The tower that books built

Photo by Juan Mabromata | Getty Images



During May 2011, Argentinean artist Marta Minujín created a seven-story tower of books in Buenos Aires. Entitled "The Tower of Babel," the display included 30,000 books in hundreds of languages. The books were donated by embassies, libraries, and others around the world and ranged from children's books to comics to poetry to philosophy. A metal ramp allowed visitors to climb the tower, examining the books and enjoying the city's skyline. A soundtrack featured Minujín repeating the word, "book," over and over in many different languages. At the end of the installation, some books were given to visitors, but the majority were donated to create the city's first multilingual library.



Renew your commitment to the 3R's

It's the time of year when we're thinking about making things better—ourselves, our families, our homes, and our budgets. As you're making your resolutions, give some thought to the 3R's:

Reduce

- Before you buy, ask yourself these questions: Do I need this? Do I already have something like this? Do I need something new right now? Does it have too much packaging? What will I do with this when I no longer need it?
- Stop making "wish lists." Oftentimes, the items on a wish list are things you want but don't necessarily need. Whether you make them online, write them on a scrap of paper, or keep them in your head, wish lists keep you thinking about what you don't have—often creating dissatisfaction with the things you do have.

Reuse

- Start your exercise, weight-loss, or other self-improvement program on borrowed or shared equipment. If you stick with the program or hobby, you can purchase your own supplies and equipment later, if you need them. If and when that time comes, remember to look for secondhand equipment.
- "Shop" at home. You probably have books you haven't read, movies you haven't watched, games you haven't played, kitchen gadgets you haven't tried, and supplies for hobbies you haven't started. Put them to use now.
- Find your library card. The library is a great resource for no-cost entertainment. Look for books, magazines, music, movies, and more. Ask your library about downloads for e-readers and MP3 players, too.
- Scan your pantry shelves. We all have canned and boxed goods that we purchased but never got around to using. Find recipes for the supplies you already have on hand. Also, pull out food that your family won't eat. Check the "use by" or "best by" dates and donate unexpired items to a local food pantry or other non-profit organization.

Recycle

- Recycle. You do this by shopping for groceries and other products with recycling in mind. Know what you can recycle and choose products packaged in those materials.
- Collect recyclables and recycle them!
- Commit to recycled-content products.

Successful recycling programs depend on having manufacturers use your recyclables. If you need a new fleece vest or jacket, look for fleece made from recycled soft drink bottles. If you need printer paper, select post-consumer recycled-content paper.



Recycling means jobs

In 2008, with the nation recycling and composting about one-third of its discards, nearly 732,000 Americans worked in jobs directly related to recycling and composting of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. A recent study by the Tellus Institute and Sound Resource Management concludes that increasing the nationwide recycling rate to 75% by 2030 could add as many as 1.5 million more recycling and composting jobs to the U.S. economy. In other words, every percentage point of improvement in our national recycling rate could lead to 30,000-35,000 new jobs.

In addition to job creation, the report also explores potential reductions in harmful emissions, such as carbon dioxide. Increasing the national recycling rate to 75% would be equivalent to removing 50 million cars from our roadways.

The final report, "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.," is available online at www.recyclingworkscampaign.org.



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Gift cards GALORE



Gift cards are big business. In fact, by most estimates, gift card sales for 2011 will top out at around \$91 billion in the U.S. At \$25 per card, which is the most common gift card value sold, that is a whopping 3.64 billion cards.

While 95% of American adults have given or received a gift card, only about 20% choose to refill cards after the value has been expended. This leaves a lot of depleted cards headed to the trash. How often have you had a clerk ask, "Since this is empty, do you want me to throw it away?"

Gift cards are just one type of wallet-sized plastic card. About 17 billion total cards are produced to be used by American consumers each year, including gift, loyalty, discount, membership, debit, store charge, and credit cards. As a result, as much as 75 million pounds of plastic cards, most of it PVC, are discarded each year.

At least one company, Earthworks in Ohio, has begun to accept used plastic cards for recycling. The cards are recycled in a closed-loop process, with old cards melted and turned into the plastic sheets used to make new cards. Individuals can mail in empty or expired cards. However, Earthworks hopes to work with stores, hotels, and other businesses that would collect customer cards and send in larger quantities for recycling. To learn more about Earthworks, visit www.earthworkssystem.com.

Ask retailers whether they will accept your depleted cards for recycling. Other waste-reducing ideas include refilling existing gift cards and giving virtual or electronic gift certificates instead. Also, be sure to use up the funds on your gift cards. The average amount left on cards is \$2.30, which adds up to about \$5 billion in unspent value each year!

QUOTES REQUOTED

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman, 1939-



1ST AND GREEN AT SUPER BOWL XLVI

When you think of the Super Bowl, you probably think of football, commercials, and "tailgating" food. However, look behind the scenes at any Super Bowl since 1994 and you'd see a growing list of environmental initiatives. The 2012 Super Bowl to be held in February is no different. Working with the NFL, the local host committee has planned recycling, food recovery, donating supplies and equipment after the event, planting trees, and a sports equipment/book donation project involving local kids. Learn more at www.1standgreen.com.



Fee changes for solid waste drop-off

Effective Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012, the tipping fee for trash loads brought to the Waste to Energy facility, the Valley transfer station and the North County transfer station will increase by \$6 to \$104 a ton. The tipping fee for Clean Green materials (yard debris and compostable food scraps) will also increase by \$6 a ton, beginning Feb. 1, 2012, to \$41. Various economic factors have created the necessity for these changes, which are the first fee increases in 10 years.

The impact of this change on residential curbside pickup customers in 2012 is expected to be approximately 50 cents per month, depending on your hauler.

Recyclable materials and household hazardous waste dropped off at the SRSWS recycling centers (see maps on this page) continue to be free.

Residential Fees for Solid Waste Drop-Off, as of Feb. 1, 2012:

- **Self-hauled trash** – A minimum charge of \$7 for 120 pounds or less, and a charge of \$1.04 for each additional 20 pounds (\$104 per ton)
- **Self-hauled Clean Green (yard waste) and food scraps** – A minimum charge of \$5 for 240 pounds or less, and a charge of 41 cents for each additional 20 pounds (\$41 per ton)
- **Recyclables drop-off** – FREE!
- **Household hazardous waste drop-off** – FREE!

Please contact the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System if you have questions about these changes: call 625-6580 or email solidwaste@spokanecity.org.

let's talk trash

www.TalkTrashSpokane.com
Recycle Hot Line 625-6800

Spokane Regional Solid Waste System

Food scrap recycling gets "Wheeled"

Meals on Wheels Spokane has begun daily food scrap recycling with the assistance of Sunshine Composting & Organics. Food waste that previously went into the garbage will now be converted into organic compost that, come spring, will be donated by Sunshine to Mid City Concerns Senior Center/Meals on Wheels Spokane.

Seniors at the center will use the compost as part of their organic vegetable gardening program. Plants and vegetables from the program are used in daily lunches at the center, creating a true recycling loop.

Since 1963, Meals on Wheels Spokane has provided a nutritional and social lifeline for seniors with the senior center and the Meals on Wheels deliveries to homebound seniors. With the help of over 640 volunteers, the nonprofit, secular organization now provides 500 meals daily and



Gordon and Bob, Meals on Wheels volunteers, stand proudly next to some of their gardening handiwork.

more than 182,000 meals each year. For more information about Meals on Wheels Spokane, visit www.mowspokane.org.

System facilities serve all county residents

All Spokane County residents may bring trash, recyclables, Clean Green (including food scraps and food-soiled paper), and household hazardous waste to any of the three Spokane Regional Solid Waste System facilities. All facilities are open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding major holidays.



Waste to Energy Facility
2900 S. Geiger Blvd.
(West of Spokane, across from the Washington State Patrol)



North County Transfer Station
22123 Elk-Chattaroy Rd.
(Intersection of Elk-Chattaroy Rd. and Hwy. 2)



Valley Transfer Station
3941 N. Sullivan Rd.
(South of Trent Ave., across from Spokane Industrial Park)

For information on curbside recycling and area buy-back centers, please visit our website at www.solidwaste.org and click on "Recycling" in the left-hand menu bar. You can also call the Recycling Hot Line, 625-6800, for information.

Learn the secrets of creating Black Gold!

If you are a Spokane County resident, you have the opportunity this spring to learn simple, natural ways to build and retain healthy soil, reduce waste and pollution through recycling, and make a valuable contribution to your community. The Master Composter/Recycler program, sponsored by the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, will be holding its annual training sessions in March and April, and sign-up starts soon.

Training

Training consists of six lecture/discussion/hands-on sessions, as well as the Compost Fair at Finch Arboretum's Arbor Day celebration. The classes will be taught by Master Composters/Recyclers and SRSWS staff. Here is the class schedule:

- Five consecutive Monday evenings – March 26, April 2, 9, 16 and 23 (6-8:30 p.m.)
- Saturdays – March 31 (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and April 28, Compost Fair (9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Most classes are held at the WSU/Spokane County Extension building at 222 N. Havana. There is no fee for the class or the written materials provided. After completion of all class sessions, you will receive a compost bin.

Volunteering

Individuals who complete the program agree to volunteer at least 40 hours helping others learn more about composting and recycling through presentations, working in outreach booths and at clean-up events, performing computer/office

work, etc.(whatever activities fit your skills). This is in exchange for your training, written materials, and compost bin.

Applications go out at the end of January and are accepted through March 14, 2012. Class size is limited, and applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up to receive your registration materials for the 2012 class by contacting solidwaste@spokanecity.org or by calling 625-6580.



Changes in tour schedule

Because of staffing changes, walk-in tours of the Waste to Energy facility at 2900 S. Geiger Blvd. are not available until March 1, 2012. Tours for groups of 10 or more can still be scheduled, depending on staff availability, by calling 625-6521.



A new drop-off center for CFLs, batteries and more

Sun People Dry Goods Co., 32 W. 2nd Ave., is now a drop-off center for used compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), inkjet cartridges, batteries and cell phones. In partnership with Earthworks Recycling, Sun People Dry Goods will accept these items free of charge. For more information, call 368-9378 or go to www.sunpeopledrygoods.com.



Battery recycling options

Small household batteries can be placed into a plastic bag which is tied or sealed shut, and the bag can be placed on top of the items in your recycling bin for curbside pickup. Larger batteries, such as those from automobiles, may be placed at the curb next to your recycling bin. You can also drop off your batteries at any of the Household Hazardous Waste areas at the three SRSWS Recycling Centers. Some area businesses and recycling centers participate in the Household Battery Drop-Off Collection Program in Spokane County. Call the Recycling Hot Line at 625-6800 for more information.



The 2011 Master Composters/Recyclers graduating class

WASTE TO ENERGY REPORT CARD

Working Together!

July – September 2011

<p>Garbage In 68,688 tons disposed</p> <p>70,473 tons processed at WTE Facility</p> <p>2,370 tons of ferrous metal recovered from the ash for recycling</p> <p>20,350 tons of ash disposed at Rabanco</p>	<p>Electricity Generation 42,420 MWh produced</p> <p>7,587 MWh used to run the facility</p> <p>34,833 MWh sold to Puget Sound Energy</p> <p>Notice of Violation None</p> <p>Revenues after Electricity Transmission Expenses \$2,551,919</p>
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We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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