



# Waste Watcher

Summer 2003



Quarterly, electronic resource conservation newsletter for state agency resource coordinators

## Staying Cool this Summer

Once the temperature outside becomes warmer, the temperature inside state buildings can become warmer. As always, here's a quick reminder about a few ways to help yourself, and those around you, stay cooler this summer.

- ☀ Dress in layers so that you can be warm enough in the mornings when the temperature is cooler, and remove an outer layer of clothing in the afternoon when the building warms up from the sun and plug loads.
- ☀ If you sit by a window, close the blinds when the sun shines directly on the glass. If the sun shines in first thing in the morning, close the blinds before you leave for the day. Otherwise, open the blinds at night and let the night air help cool the building down overnight.
- ☀ Drink lots of water – it helps to regulate the body's natural thermometer.
- ☀ Turn off your plug loads (monitors, computers, task lights, etc.) if away from your desk for more than an hour and at night. Those items create heat that adds to the building's temperature and works the chiller harder.



## Water Conservation

Water conservation continues to be a big player this summer in Salem. Combined with a moderate drought from a low snow pack and the rehabilitation of the Franzen Reservoir, the City of Salem's largest reservoir, the water available for business and residential use needs to be conserved.

On May 6, 2003, state agencies met with City of Salem officials to review the issue and learn what we can do to help. The City shared a few ideas:

- Irrigate sparingly, with no more than 1" a week.  
*NOTE: DAS irrigates the Capitol Mall with water from wells and recycled water from chillers, not potable City water that should be conserved.*
- Report all leaks that are noticed in sinks, drinking fountains, toilets, etc., or outside on irrigation lines if you notice puddles around sprinkler heads.
- Turn off the water in break rooms while you soap up your dishes; use water only for rinsing.
- Don't run the drinking fountain to cool the water down prior to filling up containers.

Thanks for your help! For more information, call Jason Pulley, City of Salem at 503-588-6398.

## State Recycling Statute Revised

In the spring 2003, the Legislature approved and Governor plans to sign revisions to the statute that governs recycling in state agencies for executive, judicial and legislative branch employees. Here's a quick summary of the big changes:

- ◆ The outdated time references for various documents from 1992-94 were removed.
- ◆ The waste audit requirement for agencies was removed.
- ◆ The requirement to transfer revenue to the State Productivity Fund was eliminated, since we no longer receive revenue from recyclables, due to market shortfalls.
- ◆ Legislative employees are no longer called out separately, but are now included in the definition of state employees.
- ◆ The items recycled in state agency locations were defined and expanded. Those items listed in ORS 279.635 (b) are "office paper, corrugated cardboard, newsprint, waste paper, plastic bottles, waste oil, batteries, toner and printer cartridges..."
- ◆ The requirement for the annual report of recycled product purchases and recycling by agencies was eliminated.

Watch for a link to the revised rule in an upcoming Energy Update or Waste Watcher Newsletter.



## Miscellaneous Resource Updates

- **Garten Paper Recycling Contract** – the contract was renewed in April 2003 with no major changes. The new contract is valid through 2008.
- **Weather** – according to NOAA, "the outlook for Summer 2003 calls for above normal temperatures over much of the U.S. and Alaska...above normal precipitation is expected for portions of the Pacific Northwest and Southeastern Alaska based on trends and numerical models." <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/Portland/afd?SLCPMD90D>

## Recycling at the State Capitol

During every Legislative session, folks from the Press to the general public ask DAS if the senators, representatives, and their staff recycle in the State Capitol. The answer is YES.

In 1996, Garten Services, the local recycler, met with Capitol staff and established a system that worked for everyone. Now Legislative Assembly members, their staff, and year-round employees who work in the building all have the ability to recycle and they are doing a great job.

During the session times, the Capitol sees nearly a 400% increase in paper recycling. Most of this paper are House and Senate bills that are printed daily and then recycled when they are superceded. However, these impressive figures show that folks in the building are making use of the program and recycling the paper. Good job, everyone!



## New Projects

This section is dedicated to new projects going on around Oregon.

**Electronics Recycling** – DAS is working on a new contract for recycling computer monitors, PC's, TV's and peripherals. There has been a problem with the disposal of much of this material, since some of the parts (such as cathode ray tubes and lead in TV's and monitors) are hazardous and can't be treated as regular garbage or recycling. There would be a charge for the service, but it would be less than the current options and would keep dangerous chemicals where they belong: out of landfills. Stay tuned for more information in an upcoming Waste Watcher or Energy Update.



## Did you know...

Hybrid cars, which combine electric motors with small petroleum engines, will outpace the environmental benefits of hydrogen fuel cell cars until at least 2020, according to a study by Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This is because converting a hydrocarbon fuel, such as natural gas or gasoline, into hydrogen to fuel such vehicles uses substantial energy and emits greenhouse gases, the study said. [http://www.enn.com/news/2003-03-07/s\\_3232.asp](http://www.enn.com/news/2003-03-07/s_3232.asp)

## State Agency Update

Here's an update of great projects in resource conservation and sustainability that state agencies are working on around Oregon.

**Division of State Lands** – efforts to promote sustainability take many forms at the Division of State Lands (DSL), since the agency regulates some actions of public and private landowners and itself serves as owner of thousands of acres of state land and water resources.

- **Agricultural Projects** – DSL manages around 630,000 acres of Eastern and Central Oregon range and agriculture land. The agency has started a process to assess the health of the land and create long-term plans that will promote sustainability. The plans will outline ways to reduce erosion, eradicate noxious weeds and adjust cattle grazing to more closely match capacity. Recent projects with partner agencies and ranchers who lease DSL land have included aggressively re-seeding burned range land and constructing pipelines to provide drinking water to cattle, which disperses grazing livestock more evenly.
- **Water-Related Projects** – these projects range from leasing submerged land near Astoria for raising salmon smolts that produce a sustainable harvest for commercial and sport fishing, to pumping sand from Columbia River channel maintenance to in-land sites for making concrete rather than dumping the sand in the river. An earth-bermed addition to a visitor center at DSL's South Slough Reserve near Coos Bay also features passive solar orientation and ventilation, natural lighting and recyclable roofing.
- **Energy Projects** – at DSL's headquarters in Salem, energy costs have dropped significantly due to building management efforts. Future DSL sustainability projects include investigation of wind generation of electricity from state-owned land.

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