

Campus Operations Sustainability Work Group



University of Oregon
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Message From C.O. Sustainability Work Group

Feedback, Please

The Sustainability Work Group needs your help. Keep us informed of your great work, ideas, and feedback as you read these newsletters. Please send ideas for stories and Superstar nominations.

Email comments to: knowaste@uoregon.edu

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The 2014 RecycleMania competition is underway on campus. This is an annual competition among over 600 colleges and universities to recycle and compost the most material per-capita over an eight week period.

This year the competition is running from the first week in February through Spring break (2/2 – 3/29). Everyone in the campus community is a participant in the competition, that means every student, staff, faculty and resident contributes to the RecycleMania totals for the UO.

The RecycleMania competition is a great opportunity every year to raise awareness about waste reduction in the campus community. It is also a great way to show school spirit. In addition to the national RecycleMania competition, the UO will for the fifth time also be competing in the RecycleMania Civil War competition with OSU. The UO currently holds the civil war trophy. Help to keep it for another year by reducing waste, recycling all paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, tubs, jugs, cartons and composting all food waste and compostable food ware.

March 22nd Is World Water Day

World Water Day was first recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993. The day is used to bring global attention to important water issues. Over the years the day has been used to highlight the issues of access to healthy water for all, aquatic environment health, and water scarcity.

The theme for this year's World Water Day is "water and energy". The goal of the 2014 World Water Day is to highlight the interconnected relationship of water and energy. Water is a resource that is utilized in the production of energy particularly in producing hydroelectric, hydrothermal, and nuclear energy. In turn approximately 8% of the global energy supply is used to pump, treat and transport water.



Water Sustainability Facts

- **Water scarcity affects 1 in 3 people globally.** (World Health Organization)
- **Over 40% of a water utility's operating costs can from energy use.**
- **Agriculture accounts for 70% of water use globally.** (World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/09/03/why-waste-water-infographic>)
- **Less than 1% of the Earth's fresh water is available for human consumption as the rest is frozen or trapped under ground.**
- **Every day 10 billion tons of agricultural and industrial waste are poured into the Earth's waters.** (World Health Organization <http://www.seametrics.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/16.jpg>)
- **It takes 3 liters of oil and 3 liters of water to produce 1 liter of bottled water.** (Pacific Institute <http://www.pacinst.org/publication/bottled-water-and-energy-a-fact-sheet/>)

Water Sustainability Tips

- **Skip the Garbage disposal,** compost your food scrapes instead.
- **Protect your local watershed,** only use organic fertilizers on your yard and biodegradable soap to wash your car as these things make it into any near by streams.
- **Make sure your sprinkler isn't watering the sidewalk**
- **Put a brick in your toilet tank,** or soda bottle filled with water. This displaces water in your tank making it a low-flow toilet.
- **Scrape food off of your dishes instead of using water.**
- **Drink local tap water,** it is some of the best in the world.



This Winter's sustainability superstar is Dan Wectawski.



Thank you Dan for striving to build a sustainable campus community!



When Dan saw that Straub Hall was being remodeled he took initiative to seek out opportunities for reuse of the material that was being removed from the building rather than landfilling or recycling. He ended up saving over 233.5 square yards of carpet from the landfill. When he saw the potential for reuse of the carpet in Straub he put in a work ticket to instead remove and store the carpet squares until he found a new home for them. The carpet wasn't going to be used in the new Straub building but it was still of good enough quality to be used somewhere else. The carpet squares were eventually placed into the Teaching and Learning Center in the PLC building. The Teaching and Learning Center was able to upgrade their carpet at a savings of \$700 to \$800 over using brand new carpet.

This project was greatly eased because the carpet is Interface carpet tiles. Interface is a carpet company that strives towards sustainability in its company and in the larger global business community. It designed carpet that comes in square tiles rather than larger rolls. This allows for the carpet squares that get the most traffic to be easily removed and replaced without having to replace the entire carpet. Because the carpet squares are modular it made it much easier to remove them and place them in spaces of different sizes and shapes than that of which they originally occupied.

To learn more about Interface's ground breaking sustainability efforts visit their website <http://www.interfaceglobal.com/Sustainability/Our-Challenges.aspx>



Sustainability Super Stars: Honorable Mentions

Campus Planning and Real Estate

The Campus Planning and Real Estate office has taken numerous sustainability steps toward becoming a completely Zero Waste office. The CPRE showed great initiative by seizing all of the opportunities they could, both big and small, to reduce consumption of energy and goods in their office. According to planning administrative assistant Marie Swarringim, the office's motivation to make these changes came from the members of the office's existing environmental consciousness and desire to be sustainable. Over half of the office chooses to use alternative transportation to commute! They wanted their values to permeate every aspect of their lives including work.

The commitment of the individuals in the office should not be underappreciated as the most common obstacle faced when making effective sustainability changes in the work place is getting employees to "buy in" and make behavior changes. Instead this office's biggest challenges come from finances and the building that they work in. The CPRE office is located in an old Quonset hut. This type of building is not very energy efficient. They also share the building and do not have control over the temperature and building maintenance. These challenges did not stop them from upgrading their lighting system to conserve energy. Most of their sustainability steps have not been too expensive and some have even saved them money. Today "green" products, like environmentally friendly cleaners, are competitively priced to compete with the standard conventional products.

Another example of the CPRE office taking initiative and making behavior changes is their implementation of Zero Waste in their office. Not only do they strive to consume less but also they rid the office of desk side trash bins so that there is only one centralized trash, and they added compostables collection to the break room.

The CPRE office staff has been successful in permeating sustainability throughout their lives, office and work they do for the University. Since the department has a role in remodels and new construction on campus they try to ensure that sustainable designs are incorporated into these projects. This office is also responsible for The Oregon Model for Sustainable Development.

More on the Oregon Model for Sustainable Development

This plan, that was developed by Campus Planning and Real Estate, was implemented in July of 2011. The plan aims to achieve three main goals to address sustainable practices in energy, water and people.

The energy goal seeks to achieve a net zero increase in energy use from new development. A zero increase in energy use on campus will be achieved by only developing LEED Gold certified buildings and by improving the energy efficiency of existing campus buildings to offset the energy use from the new building.

The water goal of the plan aims to increase the treatment of storm water on campus to include dirtier surfaces than just the surrounding sidewalk of a building, like the streets and parking lots too.

The final goal of achieving sustainability through people is to fund education for the building's faculty, staff and operators. The funds will be directed toward training sessions, educational materials and an electronic dashboard program for the buildings that will have real-time energy use information. The hope for these efforts is that by educating building users real long term energy conservation behavior changes will occur.

To learn more about the plan or to read the plan itself visit this link: <http://uplan.uoregon.edu/subjects/Sustainability/OMSD/OMSDHomepage.htm>

Sustainability Super Stars: Honorable Mentions

Dave Peterson, Ken Straw and Tucker Clawson

The UO Zero Waste Program, due to security reasons, has recently had to refortify its bike cage. Thanks to Dave Peterson, Ken Straw and Tucker Clawson, from the Lock and Door Shop, this was a Zero Waste endeavor. These superstars were able to salvage all of the materials needed using only scrap and used materials. The door, lock and door closure were all previously used and the plywood was salvaged scrap material. Even the paint is leftover from another project. The old metal door and fencing that were previously used in the bike cage were all recycled as scrap metal. Now the bike cage is a zero waste fortress!



The bike cage before and after.



UO Outdoor Program: Steward of the Environment

The UO Outdoor Program's barn is a great example of energy and resource conservation on campus. In 2013 the barn was equipped with a \$26,000 photovoltaic system that was funded by the ASUO. The design is estimated to generate **6,268 kWh** annually, at **5.88 kWatts**. Click the link to check out real time energy production from the OP Barn: <http://tinyurl.com/kwca5qb>.

The barn also saves energy by using "on demand" hot water heating. This heats water instantly as the tap is turned on rather than heating and maintaining a tank of hot water.

The barn is also equipped with a water catchment system that harvests water to be used for washing gear and vans and for filling the toilets in the barn. The OP takes a step further by promoting stewardship of the Earth by the greater UO community.

The OP hosts interpretive trips to help foster relationships with nature. It tries to encourage its members to "leave no trace" when enjoying nature. And it organizes and participates in many clean-up events of various outdoor recreation sites around Oregon.

Thank you OP for being a leader in sustainability and fostering a new generation of stewards.

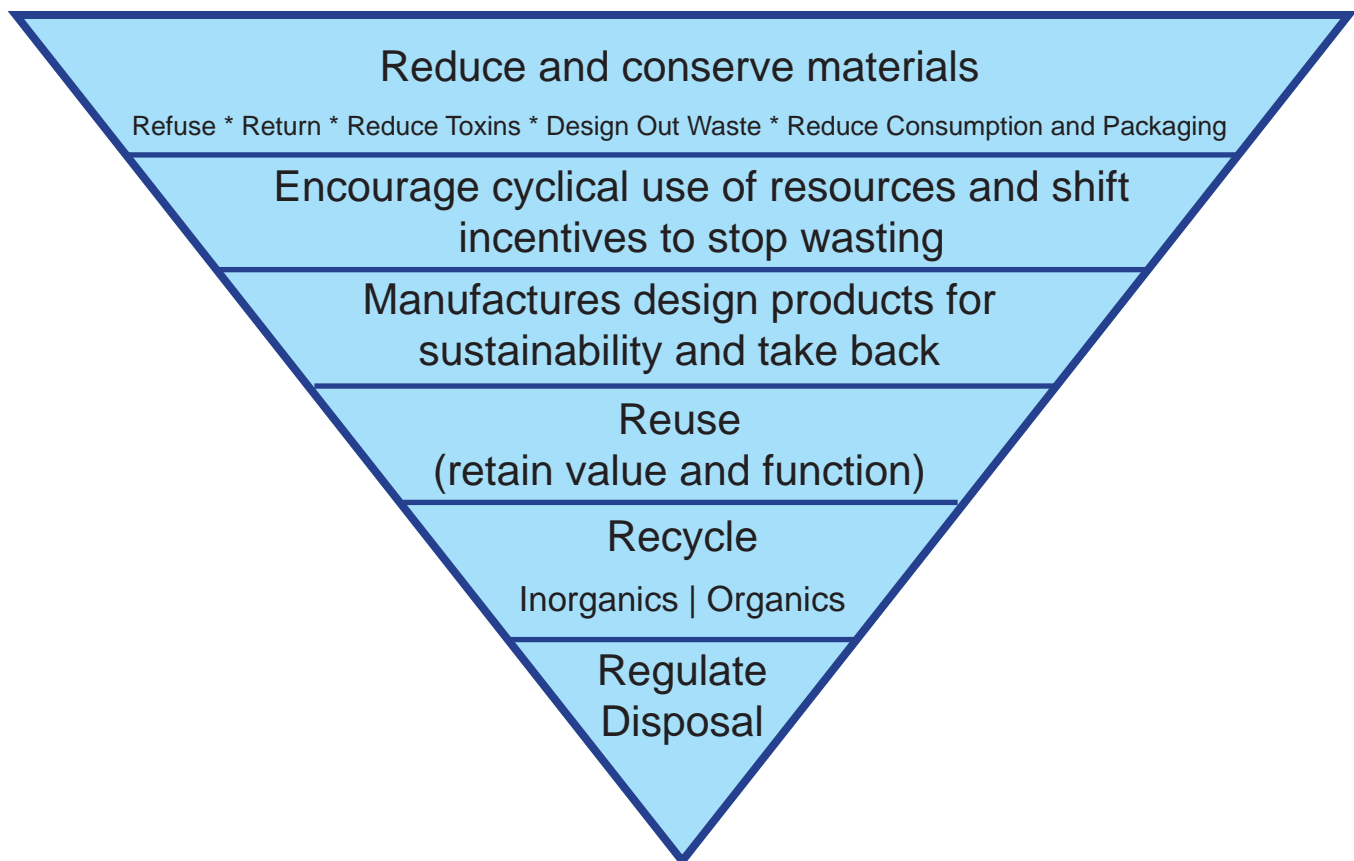


Principles of Zero Waste

Zero Waste is a philosophy that takes a whole systems approach to materials management and conservation. It conserves resources through reduced consumption and recycling. It also saves money due to reduced labor costs and landfill fees. There are a few basic principles to the Zero Waste philosophy:

- Reduce Consumption
- Choose durable products that can be recycled at the end of their life
- Maximize reuse, recycling and composting to ensure that no materials are landfilled or incinerated

Zero Waste Hierarchy



How does an organization practice Zero Waste?

Zero waste business practices include reducing, reusing, recycling and composting but as zero waste is much more than that, so are zero waste business practices. The Grass Roots Recycling Network (GRRN) has outlined the principles of zero waste business practices. These principles help to frame how a business or organization can really achieve the whole systems approach to zero waste. The entire list of principles can be found on the GRRN website at <http://www.grrn.org/page/zero-waste-business-principles>. The primary features of a zero waste business are that it follows the triple bottom line of sustainability (ensuring that social, environmental and economic standards are met together) and it practices the precautionary principle (something must be proven safe before it can be practiced or used). At every step of its business practices an organization is preventing waste and pollution and taking full responsibility for its actions and the products it puts out into the world. By taking the responsibility for end of life disposal of its products a company will in turn ensure that it produces long lasting durable goods that are recyclable at the end of their life.

The Story of Capannori

The latest installment of the “Story of Stuff” is the “Story of Solutions” and within that is the “Story of Capannori.” Capannori is a town in Italy with less than 50,000 people. It had faced a waste crisis due to dwindling landfill space. Instead of construction an incinerator, as was the trend across Italy at the time, the people chose to go zero waste instead. The community did not want an incinerator in their town because they are hazardous to the environment and human health.

The town was able to achieve zero waste by charging high waste disposal fees, educating the public on the various zero waste options, implementing curb side recycling and offering tax incentives to local businesses to cut packaging and encourage residents to bring their own containers. There are now two self-service refill stations for milk in the community, removing thousands of bottles from the waste stream every year.

In 2010 the town opened up the Zero Waste Research Centre. This center analyzes material that can't be recycled and composted and then works with the manufactures to try and develop sustainable alternatives.

The Story of Capannori is an inspiring tale that shows that if a community decides to be zero waste it can be.



Customers bring their own containers to fill in this zero waste grocery store in Cappanori.

Check out the “Story of Solutions” for other great inspirations.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpkRvc-sOKk&feature=player_embedded



Upcycling for the Office!



Use an old cassette tape case for a phone holder. You see incoming calls and messages clearly and easily watch videos or talk on speaker phone.



Organize your desk by decorating cans and jars.



Use an old yoga mat to make a pin board and mouse pad.



Need a coat rack? Try using old door knobs, bent silverware, and old rake head or whatever else you have around!

At the University of Oregon reuse in the office is made simple and easy. Used furniture can be obtained from Surplus Furniture and used office supplies can be found in ROSE (the Reusable Office Supply Exchange), located in PLC. By reusing in the office you are saving resources and money! You can take reuse in the office to the next level by upcycling.



An old shutter used to organize correspondence



Keep cords organized with toilet paper rolls.