

Solid Waste Program Updates: Nov. 2023 – Jan. 2024

Operations

- Working on
 - Joined Guidelines Rejuvenation and Modernization team to support Ecology in updating the Guidelines for Development of Local Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plans and Plan Revisions
 - Continued to work on draft CSWMP, including being part of the design team with Maul Foster Alongi
 - Collaboration between operations and outreach & education on battery and vape pen disposal
 - Updated Self-Haul webpage to highlight secure your load information and update method for connecting residents with rates/fees
- Near future
 - Formed project team to initiate an updated Waste Stream Characterization Study
 - Preparing to be a pilot county to work on the streamlined WUTC questionnaire
 - Beginning information gathering including meeting with the new regional Ecology litter coordinator for potential application for the 2025-27 Ramp Litter Cleanup Program
- New Environmental Operations Specialist, Tatum Flowers,
 - will be working on the Residue Study Sort that will be happening in April-May with PSU CES and WC.
 - Meeting with CRC/WC to better understand their monthly tonnage reports to accurately represent SW & recycling for the County on a dashboard and our website.
 - Helping to organize and host HHW collection events this spring and summer.

Green Business

- Working on revamping certification process
- WeCompost organics program
 - Reviewed We Compost toolkits
 - 3 new facilities signed up for We Compost, and 3 existing facilities added more carts to their weekly use.
 - 10 new compost carts = 78,000 pounds of diverted food waste annually

Green Neighbors

- November
 - The Green Neighbors team partnered with SWO operations staff to create an advertising toolkit for the Battery Take-Back program
 - The team worked to create a community holiday waste reduction education plan, including blog posts, a press release and paid advertising campaigns (social media and The Columbian).
 - [The blog post detailing specialty holiday waste disposal](#) was viewed over 5,000 times
- December
 - Tabled at Kindred with Waste Connections where we answered waste related questions from the community
 - Attended Clark County Food Systems Council Meeting to promote food waste reduction education and market the We Compost program
 - Attended an on-site consult with a local REACH multifamily housing community that is interested in participating in We Compost for food waste diversion

- Promoted the Battery Take-Back program via paid advertising on social media and with the Columbian
- Distributed over 700 flyers to Christmas tree lots in Clark County educating residents about proper Christmas tree disposal. We also promoted this messaging through social media advertising campaigns.
 - [Christmas tree disposal blog post](#) was viewed on our site over 3,000 times.
- January
 - The GN team has worked to support event coordination and promote the [Watershed Alliance Film Series](#)
 - Working to plan the 2024 Clark County Secure Your Load Campaign in partnership with the SWO operations staff and WA Dept. Of Ecology staff.
 - Provided the community with education about waste service changes during the week-long winter weather event, including information about the service recovery plan.
 - Coordinated a community tabling event for GN to staff an educational booth at the 2024 Seed Swap and Giveaway in Battleground on 1/28.
- Moving Forward
 - Table at the 2024 Seed Swap Giveaway on 1/28 in Battle Ground.
 - Will provide event support and education to attendees during 2024 Watershed Alliance Film Series.
 - Continuing to work on information gathering/planning for Secure your Load campaign
 - Continue to develop materials and resources (signage, website, handouts) or the We Compost Community Hub program.
 - Continue work to edit and update content on the Green Neighbors website.

Green Schools

- Presented at Association of Oregon Recyclers Conference on La Center School District's compost program in October
- Hosted Secondary Student Summit for 7 middle and high school students at Clark College on Thursday, November 9th
- Hosted STEM Seminar: A Taste of Food Waste with EarthGen in November and December
 - 20 Clark County teachers participated
- Completed audit with Washington State School for the Blind in November
 - Will be launching cafeteria composting soon
- Distributed 4 worm bins to schools
 - Dorothy Fox Elementary School
 - Washougal High School
 - Daybreak Middle School
- Installed 10 food waste digesters at Discovery Middle School
 - Composting food waste from kitchen – kitchen preps food for 3 other schools
 - Will be harvesting the digesters in a few weeks
- Working with Lincoln Elementary School's newly formed green team to help them get EarthGen certified
 - Focusing on waste and recycling
- Planning for Green Awards
 - Washougal High School is making our trophies again this year
 - 4 awards for Green Schools:
 - Green Apple Award
 - Green Team – Elementary
 - Green Team – Middle
 - Green Team – High

- Working with SNAP-Ed and Master Gardeners to provide supplemental programming at schools with school gardens
 - GS would do a lesson on composting
 - Hope to bring participating schools to Heritage Farm on a field trip
- Preparing to launch some new food waste reduction or composting programs
 - Hazel Dell Elementary School
 - Washington State School for the Blind
 - Discovery Middle School
 - Heritage High School
 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg Elementary School
- Hosting a green cleaning workshop for Spanish-speaking parents in Evergreen Public Schools in partnership with CR in January
- Preparing for Elementary Student Summit on April 11th at Clark College

Composter Recycler

- MCR Fall 2023 Webinars - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/workshops>
 - 11/1 Advanced Composting Techniques
 - 11/8 Recycling Done Right
 - 11/15 Green Cleaning
 - 11/29 Prevent Food Waste in the First Place
 - 12/6/23 Low Waste Living
- Community Worm Bin - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/worm-bin-request-form>
 - 51 community worm bins 9,180 pounds of food waste diverted annually distributed
 - 180 pounds of food waste diverted annually per worm bin
- Community Compost Bin
 - 72 Enviro World Compost Bins distributed 20,880 pounds of food waste diverted annually
 - 290 pounds of food waste diverted annually per compost bin
- In-ground composters
 - 10 digestors at Discovery Middle School diverting 5,000 pounds of food waste diverted annually
 - 6 digestors at Kindred Homestead diverting 3,000 pounds of food waste diverted annually
 - 500 pounds of food waste diverted per 32 gallon digester
- Composting Demonstration Sites - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/mcr/compost-demo-sites>
 - Trainings for “hands-on” composting techniques held for workshop attendees and Composter Recycler volunteers in training