

Fall/Winter SWEO Updates: Sept. 2020 – Feb. 2021

Operations

- Jessica to present Batteries, Motor Oil, and Antifreeze reports during meeting

Green Business

- The last two Morning Blend networking events of 2020 were held in September and October. In September, a representative from Call2Recycle talked about battery recycling, and in October, Natural Grocers discussed their sustainability initiatives. January's event was networking and sharing in small groups about projects for 2021.
- Green Business Program hosted a Bag Ban Forum for businesses on Dec. 8 from 3-4 PM. A speaker from Ecology provided an overview of the new statewide bag ban requirements. A recap can be found here: clarkgreenbiz.com/news-and-events/news/entry/bag-ban-forum-event-summary
- Three businesses were recertified, and no new businesses were certified.
- Three businesses are currently working on green business certification.
- The Green Business Program is hosting a workshop series to guide green teams, the first event is at the end of Feb. clarkgreenbiz.com/news-and-events/news/entry/green-team-workshop-series

Green Neighbors

- Green Neighbors lead is back from extended leave (August – November).
- The year-round cart tagging program completed their first year and have summarized their findings in an annual report
- Food waste prevention outreach online presentations occurred in December (34 attendees total) and toolkits dispersed in January (15 kits).
- Natural Gardening online workshops in partnership with the Master Gardeners occurred:
 - Aug. 3, "Starting an Herb Garden", 72 attendees
 - Sept. 17, "Sustainable Landscaping", 41 attendees
 - Nov. 17, "Answer Clinic Exploded", 60 attendees
 - Jan. 23, "Blueberry Pruning and Basic Care", over 200 attendees
- Multifamily outreach planning has revolved around updating the recycling guide that is still underway. Materials to be translated into Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese.
- Partnering with WSU Extension and COV Stormwater on a 6-part webinar series for property managers ('Green Apartment Living: Pollution Prevention', once a month Feb - July)
- Participated in meetings to update the Contamination Reduction Outreach Plan (CROP) for the county.

Green Schools

Pivoted education to online in order to still support schools who have been in full remote learning

- Developed Google Earth [Virtual Transfer Station tour](#) and [Journey of Garbage tour](#) which include videos with narration, drone footage of garbage being loaded at Tidewater, barges going through the locks at the dam, all the way to the Finley Buttes landfill. The tours incorporate quizzes so students can be tested in their knowledge.
- Worked with county GIS department to create a [Virtual Learning Center](#) which includes the transfer station tours as well as links to other online resources for learning. It will also house a map of school gardens in the county using the GIS technology.
- Worked with Washington Green Schools to create a seventh level of certification, "[At-Home certification](#)" allowing students to engage in waste reduction and other projects within their home and become the Green Team leader in their family.
- Washington Green Schools just changed their name on January 25th to EarthGen. They engaged a consultant and found that they had outgrown their name. They are still committed to serving our

schools as they have been, including certification. Their mission is to equip youth to become leaders in the fight against climate change and environmental injustice. FAQ about their name change can be found [here](#).

- Working on incorporating equity into our school outreach. Engaging with the SWEQ Equity team on evaluating how we look at equity and ways we can adapt our programs to be more inclusive. We are working with Will Hornyak our storyteller to adapt his stories of waste and compost to be more culturally sensitive.
- We have pivoted to teaching our lessons on Zoom. Ellen Ives, our Waste Connections Educator and Sami Springs from Clark County have led several lessons via Zoom and are working to find the best way to deliver their waste reduction message. More found [here](#).
- Launching at new Green Classroom Cleaning guidance and cleaning kit to help reduce chemicals and waste in the classroom and keep students safe. Collaborating with Public Health's School Health and Safety team.
- EarthGen (formerly Washington Green Schools) educator trainings held in November 2020 and [February 2021](#). Good attendance from Green Team leaders.
- Engaging in planning the 2021 virtual Student Summit with EarthGen with a focus on careers in sustainability. We have not focused on careers before so this will be a nice new topic for an unusual year.
- Now supporting schools with their re-opening plans regarding waste reduction, food waste and recycling collection. Providing containers and educational support.
- Provided recycling containers and sort tables for six new schools in Clark County

[Master Composter Recycler](#)

AUG / SEP / OCT

- MCR Fall Composting Webinar series (30 attendees for Backyard Composting; 25 attendees for Worm Bin Composting; 15 attendees for sheet composting)
 - Webinar presentation to Small Acreage Program (37 participants)
 - Webinar presentation to CC Nature Network: Greening of schoolyards – Composting on Campus
 - Webinar presentation 50 Master Gardeners
- Seattle Composter on-line sales & distribution launched – clarkcountycomposts.org/buyacomposter
 - 10 out of initial order of 15 large (150 gallon) compost bins sold
 - 13 out of initial order of 35 small (90 gallon) compost bins sold
 - Note: each backyard compost bin diverts 800 pounds of food scraps and organic material from the landfill annually
 - [sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0956053X17301691?via%3Dihub](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0956053X17301691?via%3Dihub)
- Community Worm bin program launched - clarkcountycomposts.org/worm-bin-request-form
 - 15 worm bins assembled with bedding and worms and distributed to citizens
 - Note: each worm bin diverts 200 pounds of food scraps and organic material from the landfill annually
 - Source: 1 pound of worms per 1 cubic feet of space decomposes half their weight per day (0.5 pounds)
- Residential Food Waste Reduction planning
 - St. Thomas of Aquinas, Camas, WA
- Compost Demonstration Site maintenance, volunteer work parties, site tours (per COVID protocols)
 - CASEE, Brush Prairie
 - Heritage Farm, Hazel Dell
 - Pacific Park, E. Vancouver
- Monthly Volunteer Enrichment Meetings
 - 19 volunteer participants for August MCR monthly meeting with Kris Potter MCR '02 on Share the Bounty

- 18 volunteer participants for September MCR monthly meeting with PH Christine Harper presenting on Disinfecting / Sanitizing.
- 17 volunteer participants for October MCR monthly meeting with Concentrates, Inc.

NOV/DEC/JAN

- MCR Fall Sustainable/Green Living Webinar Series (11/18 Green Cleaning 30 attendees; 11/25 Recycling Done Right - 20 attendees; 12/2 Preventing Food Waste – 15 attendees)
 - Webinar presentations to Food Bank Seed to Supper (21 participants)
- Seattle Composter on-line sales & distribution – clarkcountycomposts.org/buyacomposter
 - 27 compost bins sold
 - Note: each backyard compost bin diverts 800 pounds of food scraps and organic material from the landfill annually
 - sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0956053X17301691?via%3Dihub
- Community Worm bin program - clarkcountycomposts.org/worm-bin-request-form
 - 18 worm bins assembled with bedding and worms and distributed to citizens
 - Note: each worm bin diverts 200 pounds of food scraps and organic material from the landfill annually
 - Source: 1 pound of worms per 1 cubic feet of space decomposes half their weight per day (0.5 pounds)
- Residential Food Waste Reduction planning
 - St. Thomas of Aquinas, Camas
 - UUCV, Vancouver
 - United Methodist Church, Ridgefield
- Compost Demonstration Site maintenance, volunteer work parties, site tours (per COVID protocols)
 - CASEE, Brush Prairie
 - Heritage Farm, Hazel Dell
 - Pacific Park, E. Vancouver
- Monthly Volunteer Enrichment Meetings
 - 18 volunteer participants for November MCR monthly meeting on Food Waste Prevention
 - 13 volunteer participants for December MCR monthly meeting on Holiday Waste Prevention
 - 15 volunteer participants for January MCR monthly meeting on MCR program 2020 recap and 2021 planning

2020 Volunteer Service	# of Volunteers	Hours of Service
MCR Postgraduates	28	1,115
MCR Class of 2020 Graduates	23	264
Total	56	1,399

Here is a 3 min video recapping 2020 MCR volunteers in action: youtube.com/watch?v=kU-OvLU7H-E&feature=youtu.be

MCR Virtual Learning page launched: clarkcountycomposts.org/virtual-learning

MCR 2021 begins this Wednesday 2/3/21. Currently there are 42 confirmed for the class, the largest class in the history of the MCR program