

Spring SWEO Updates: Feb. – May 2021

Operations

- Jessica working on business hazardous waste study
- Tina has been promoting the PaintCare and Meds-Project disposal programs

Green Business

- A 3-part virtual Green Team Workshop series kicked off on February 25th with the topic of forming and managing a green team. A 3-person panel of business representatives discussed their strategies. The second event was held on March 14 to discuss waste prevention. The third and final event will be May 13. The topic will be tracking progress and change, and the aim is to provide tools for monitoring progress to communicate and report about green team initiatives.
- 2021 Green Business of the Year award winners were announced during a virtual event on March 31. Videos of all the individual and business winners are available here - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8WEdw1aSB4IS1IaQ1i7d1C1QzvROVN14>
- The Green Business award winners are:
 - Frito Lay Vancouver, large business
 - Harvest of Peace Microgreens, small business
 - C-TRAN, nonprofit or government organization
- The online workplace recycling resources order form (<https://clarkgreenbiz.com/workplace-recycling-resources-order-form>) now has commercial recycling guides available in 4 languages – English, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese. Korean will be added soon.
- Three new businesses were certified, and one is in the process.

Green Neighbors

- Single-family Recycling Outreach
 - Based on last year's findings from the cart tagging program, plastic bags and wrap came out as the top contaminant. An outreach campaign will be conducted in May – June to educate the public on not bagging recyclables. Commercials will air on broadcast television in English and Spanish, as well as digital and print ads in English in the three local papers (i.e. Columbian, Camas-Washougal Post-Record, Reflector).
 - [Recycle Education Commercial Spanish on Vimeo](#)
 - [Recycle Education Commercial English on Vimeo](#)
 - [CWhat Recycle Education Interview Segment on YouTube](#)



- Multifamily Recycling Outreach

- Waste Connections staff have been visiting multifamily complexes conducting audits in addition to regular outreach.
- A door tag has been drafted to supplement outreach when high contamination is noted.
- Staff and partners are working on a second draft of the multifamily brochure that includes tailored information for apartment and condo recycling.
- Natural Lawn & Garden
 - Backyard Habitat Certification Program has continued with site visits, and this past quarter certified 4 properties and have 25 in-progress.
 - Master Gardeners have recently been given approval to have volunteers start back up with installing plants at Pacific Park demonstration gardens. Workshops are still online.
- Events
 - Natural Garden Tour: Virtual event to go live Sunday, July 18. Confirming participants for video interviews.
 - Recycled Arts Festival: Virtual event to go live Saturday, June 26. Confirming participants for video interviews.

Green Schools

The Green Schools program continues to navigate the twists and turns of a school year affected by COVID. During this last quarter, lead Michelle Sanow has also been serving half her time to the Public Health COVID response as Public Information Officer.

Michelle Sanow is leaving her position as Green Schools lead May 3.

Here is a list of the varying in person schedules for Clark County schools and what we are navigating:

- **Battle Ground:** K-12 full in-person instruction begins April 26.
- **Camas:** K-5 four-day-a-week, in-person instruction began March 22; grades 6-12 began April 19.
- **Evergreen:** Remains in twice-a-week hybrid instruction through rest of school year.
- **Hockinson:** K-5 full in-person instruction starts April 26; grades 6-12 start May 3.
- **La Center:** K-12 full in-person instruction starts April 26.
- **Ridgefield:** K-6 full in-person instruction began April 19; grades 7-12 begin April 27.
- **Vancouver:** K-3 four-day-a-week, in-person instruction begins May 3; grades 4-5-6, 9 begin May 10.
- **Washougal:** K-5 four-day-a-week, in-person instruction began April 12; grades 6-12 began April 19.

Educator Training

Teacher Training held February 9 for over 20 educators and partners. Info [here](#).

Green Awards

Michelle Sanow awarded Nancy Stoy the Green Apple Award in March. Read more [here](#). Nancy had been selected as the recipient in 2020 but the awards was held over. Coverage of the small award ceremony in front of the school was in Clark County Today [here](#).

Education

Waste Connections educator Ellen Ives has been able to re-enter schools since she is fully vaccinated. She worked with our district connections at Evergreen School District. While she continues to do online lessons as requested, Ellen has worked in several Evergreen Schools first doing outreach at York Elementary educating students about sorting waste properly. She is now teaching in-person lessons at Frontier Middle School and others. She has been expanding her lesson on the landfill model and is teaching that in-person.

Events

Two Student Summits will be held virtually in May; elementary and middle school May 12 and high school on May 19. EarthGen/Washington Green Schools. Flyer and details are [here](#).

Certification

Gaiser Middle School became the first school in Clark County to achieve the At-Home certification with EarthGen/Washington Green Schools. This category was created to provide an opportunity for schools to still certify even with students learning at home. The participated in projects in the home environment. Read more [here](#).

Other schools have certified this school year including Hockinson Heights, Lacamas Lake Elementary and Gardner School of Arts and Sciences.

Green Classroom Cleaning Kits

We created an awareness program with Public Health's school health and safety team to reduce the amount of chemicals used to clean classrooms. Green cleaning kits have been made available to teachers that just contain castile soap and water. More [here](#). Our message follows [CDC](#) and DOH guidance. New York Times wrote [this article](#) about oversaturation of chemicals in schools and how the new guidance will hopefully reduce this.

Master Composter Recycler

Program: Trainings/Workshops/Education

MCR Annual Training (Class of 2021)

- Graduated the largest class ever using a hybrid approach webinars & field trainings – 43 trained
 - Recordings - <https://clarkcountymcomposts.org/virtual-learning>

MCR is focused on spring webinars:

<https://clarkcountymcomposts.org/mcr/classes-and-workshops>

- April 14 – Curbside Composting: Organics 101 (with City of Vancouver Solid Waste) – 10 participants
- April 21 – Backyard Composting - 30 participants
- April 28 – Worm Bin Composting
- May 5 – Lasagna Composting
- May 12 – Green Cleaning (with Public Health)
- May 19 – Recycling Done Right (with GN)
- May 26 – Preventing Food Waste (with GN)

Compost bin sales (27 SOLD out of 35 small) & (14 SOLD out of 15 large bins)

Worm bins - 22 distributed to MCR 2021 class

Green Clean Kits - 22 distributed to MCR 2021 class; 3 distributed to community

Program: Volunteer Coordination

- 31 MCR Volunteers attended February monthly enrichment meeting (Lasagna Gardening)
- 15 MCR volunteers watched the virtual dirt hugger tour (March Mtg)
- 21 MCR volunteers attended the March Monthly meeting – Climate Change: There is no Planet B
- 22 MCR volunteers attended the April Monthly meeting – Curbside Composting: Organics 101
- 125 Volunteers subscribed to Facebook Closed MCR group
- Wan C. '21 creating lasagna compost gardens at Korean Presbyterian Church of Vancouver
- Regular Work Parties at Compost Demonstration Sites
 - Heritage Farm 1919 NE 78th Street
 - CASEE 11104 NE 149th Street
 - Pacific Park

MCR volunteer hours as of 4/27:

- MCR Class of 2021 volunteer hours – 250.38 hours
- MCR Veterans volunteer hours – 195 hours

Program: Community Outreach

- On hold due to Covid
 - Vancouver Farmers Market possible start in May
 - Art in the Garden event in July