

Summer SWEO Updates: May – Aug. 2021

Operations

- LSWFA 2021-23 grant cycle began on 7/01/21
 - \$1.3 million total
 - 75% State share
 - 25% County match
 - Plans for grant fund use include
 - Regional System Study
 - Solid Waste Management Plan update
 - Special Waste
 - Equity & Diversity
 - Contamination Reduction & Outreach Plan
 - Food Waste
 - Homeless Camp Cleanup
 - 2019-21 grant cycle ended on 6/30/21
 - Finishing up reporting
- Several things happening regarding staffing
 - Conducted interviews for Environmental Operations Specialist and Special Waste positions
 - Making a job offer on the Special Waste Position
 - Projects under this position (oil, anti-freeze, batteries, etc.) had been put on hold, but will resume upon start of new recruit
 - Will develop outreach/implementation for non-curb-side battery recycling
 - To be part of new recycling contract
 - Closing recruitment for Environmental Operations Specialist position to reevaluate the position
 - Hoping to recruit for Green Schools and Program Assistant positions soon
 - AmeriCorps members for the 2021-22 cycle have been selected
 - Paperwork is still pending, but at present, the following is expected
 - Green Business: Abby
 - Focusing on food waste outreach, recycling resources deliveries and outreach, workshops, and networking events
 - Green Neighbors: Brittany
 - Focusing on WasteBusters Challenge, Natural Garden Tour, and coordination of Pacific Park community garden
 - Green Schools: Trudy
 - Focusing on School cafeteria visits and developing a food waste prevention and rescue program
- Regional System Study still moving along
 - Finalizing Phase 1
 - Should be available by the end of August
 - Will be working on a chapter for Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) within the next week or so
 - Should finalize the following week

Green Business

- Two new certified business – [Columbia Okura](#) and [Cascade Sprouts](#)
- There are 2 businesses (one with 3 sites in Clark County) currently working on certification.
- A virtual workshop event was held on May 13 about tracking progress and change. It was the third and final event in a 3-part series for green teams.

- Events are on pause for the summer and will start up again in September.

Green Neighbors

- Single-family Recycling Outreach
 - A “Keep Recyclables Loose” ad campaign ran in May and June.
 - Banner ads campaign delivered nearly 3 million impressions (2,917,520) and 2,519 clicks to the www.clarkgreenneighbors.org/recycling-done-right webpage
 - Connected TV ad campaign delivered 420,717 impressions with a completion rate of 98.3%
 - Audience targeting ad campaign delivered nearly 2.5 million impressions (2,496,803) and generated 2,510 clicks.
 - During the months of May and June, the www.clarkgreenneighbors.org/recycling-done-right webpage saw 791 pageviews, 731 unique pageviews, and an average time of 1:57 on the page.
 - Waste Connections Recycling Advocates put together a cart tagging report to submit to Department of Ecology for grant reimbursement. (“CT Grant Report_2019-21” pdf handout)
- Multifamily Recycling Outreach
 - Final versions of the Door Tag and Multifamily Recycling Guide have been printed (*previews available upon request*)
 - Outreach is currently on pause until August 2021 for Waste Connections staff.
- Natural Lawn and Garden
 - The 2021 virtual Natural Garden Tour is live at www.clarkgreenneighbors.org/gardentour. As of 7/23/21, we have over 1,000 views of our 13 videos. We had a “Gardener Panel” online event on July 19 with 35 attendees.
 - Backyard Habitat Certification Program has continued with site visits, and this past quarter certified 9 properties and have 37 in-progress.
 - The Master Gardeners hosted our first volunteer work party open to the public at the Natural Gardens at Pacific Park on Saturday, July 24.
 - August 16, 7 pm, online workshop: “[Moonlight Moth Gardening: Supporting Moths in the Home Garden](#)”
- Recycled Arts Festival
 - Virtual event to go live August 7. A selection of 13 artists will be featured in the story map along with videos, photos and written descriptions of their artwork.

Green Schools

- Hosted first ever Virtual Student Summits with [EarthGen](#)
 - Elementary and Middle School Summit
 - Total of 8 schools from around the state attended
 - Had a career panel, school green team presentations, and global environmental leaders and activists bingo
 - Career panel included a high school student green team leader and activist, a landscape architect, and water resources engineer
 - High School Summit
 - Total of 3 schools from around the state attended
 - Had a career panel, school green team presentations, and global environmental leaders and activists trivia
 - Career panel included a wind farm technician, a water resources engineer, and an urban naturalist with [Seattle Parks and Rec](#)

- 8 Clark County schools certified with EarthGen this year
 - Ellen and Sami were able to visit a few schools with EarthGen to celebrate their accomplishments
 - Schools certified include
 - [Gardner School](#): Waste & Recycling
 - [Gaiser Middle](#): At-Home Action
 - [Hockinson Heights Elementary](#): School Grounds & Gardens
 - [Lacamas Lake Elementary](#): At-Home Action
 - [WA St. School for the Blind](#): School Grounds & Gardens, At-Home Action
 - [Camas High](#): At-Home Action
 - [Washougal High](#): Waste & Recycling
 - [Roosevelt Elementary](#): At-Home Action
- Database transition to Smartsheet
 - Current Google Drive database contains thousands of data entries that are taking up too much space and not working properly anymore
 - Transitioning to Smartsheet to streamline our school visit history, inventory and materials management, and school administration info
 - Will allow easier access for GS team members (Waste Connections and City of Vancouver)
- AmeriCorps
 - Hiring a Green Schools AmeriCorps member for the 2021-2022 schoolyear
 - New term starts September 16th
- Materials Requests
 - Fulfilling school and school districts requests for new recycling and composting bins
 - Hoping to create a new barcode tracking system to maintain a better inventory
- Hockinson Blueberry Farm Tour
 - Hockinson School District and Chartwells are hosting a blueberry farm tour at [Majestic Farms Blueberries](#) on August 9th
 - Pete and Sami will be hosting an educational table featuring worm bins and composting bins
 - Hoping to promote school garden composting

Master Composter Recycler

1,541 MCR volunteer hours (as of 7/27/21)

- 415 hours with 33 reporting - MCR Class of 2021 volunteer hours
 - Graduated the largest class ever – 43 trained
- 1,126 hours with 31 reporting - MCR Veterans volunteer hours

Program: Trainings/Workshops/Education

Fall MCR webinars scheduled: <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/mcr/classes-and-workshops>

Recordings - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/virtual-learning>

- Oct 6 – Curbside Composting: Organics 101 (with City of Vancouver Solid Waste)
- Oct 13 – Backyard Composting
- Oct 20 – Worm Bin Composting
- Oct 27 – Lasagna Composting
- Nov 3 – Green Cleaning (with Public Health)

- Nov 10 – Recycling Done Right (with Waste Connections of WA)
- Nov 17 – Preventing Food Waste (with Green Neighbors)

Jan-July 2021

- **13,195 pounds of yard debris diverted from the landfill**; Compost bin sales (22 Small sold, & 13 large)
Backyard compost bins can divert an average of 650 pounds per household each year
- **3,819 pounds of food waste diverted from the landfill**; 36 worm bins distributed
Each worm bin contains 1 pound of worms; eat ½ their weight per day
- Green Clean Kits - 22 distributed

Program: Volunteer Coordination

- 8 MCR Volunteers attended Natural Garden Virtual Tour
- 12 MCR volunteers (24 total attendees) attended July Meeting – B&B organic farm tour
- 17 MCR volunteers attended the June Monthly meeting – Low Waste Living with Jen W. MCR '18 & Alex L. MCR '20
- 15 MCR volunteers attended the May Monthly meeting – Lasagna Compost Garden with Kris P. MCR '02
- 125 Volunteers subscribed to Facebook Closed MCR group
- Regular Work Parties at Compost Demonstration Sites
 - Heritage Farm 1919 NE 78th Street
 - CASEE 11104 NE 149th Street
 - Pacific Park

Program: Community Outreach

- Art in the Garden – Partnership with Naturescaping at CASEE
 - **204 attendees**