

## Winter SWEO Updates: Nov. 2021 – Feb. 2022

### Operations

- Mollie is leading a Data project to develop a regularly updated system for collecting data, analyzing the data, and using it to improve planning and communications for Clark County's Solid Waste and Environmental Outreach Program.
  - The project is led by Clark County and will partner with Waste Connections and other oversight and advisory groups
  - To date, Mollie has met separately with all SWEO staff to not only learn about their respective programs and job responsibilities, but also to capture their responses to a series of specific questions that will provide insight and direction to the writing of the Report
    - What Data do we currently collect across the SWEO program?
    - How is this data currently being applied to program evaluation and planning?
    - What additional data do we need and what data can we stop collecting?
    - What will our process be from collection to use of the data?
- Hazardous Waste Program, with Jessica Fischberg
  - Through our Ecology grant, the county is sponsoring HHW collection at the Ridgefield's recycling day event on April 23rd.
  - Watching legislative session for HB 1896, Battery Stewardship.  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1896&Year=2021>
  - Presented battery recycling problems to RSWSSC and got the ok to continue working on a new county-wide battery recycling project (not dependent on HB 1896). More info to come in 2022.
  - Updating Construction/Demolition web page to outline the hauling rules and list some newer recycling resources. This will be available soon at: <https://clark.wa.gov/public-health/construction-and-demolition-debris>
  - Continuing to study management of small quantity generator (SQG) hazardous waste. Recent info can be found at: <https://clark.wa.gov/public-health/business-hazardous-waste>
  - Will be teaching hazardous waste management to residents as part of the COV's Recycle201 class for neighborhood associations, and at an MCR training.

### Green Business

- Morning Blend meetings:
  - December 9, 2021 – Managing Organizational Change
    - 20 attendees
  - January 13, 2022 – Energy Programs and Incentives
    - 25 attendees
  - February 17, 2022 – WasteBusters and Engaging Employees in Waste Reduction and Recycling
- A Virtual Green Business Workshop series will launch in March.
  - Dates are TBD but will be between March and June
  - Will cover 4 topic areas
    - waste and recycling,
    - managing dangerous waste
    - Washington's single use plastic laws
    - Communicating green initiatives
- The nomination period for Green Business of the Year awards is now closed.
  - We received nominations for 8 businesses and organizations for the 2022 awards.
  - Winners will be selected by Friday February 11.
- Three businesses requested workplace recycling resources from through our [online request form](#)

## Green Neighbors

- Single-family Recycling Outreach
  - Cart Tagging quarterly report for Oct-Dec 2021 (“CT Quarterly Report” handout included)
  - Recycling advocates working on the 2021 annual report and will submit when completed.
  - In partnership with City of Vancouver, Waste Connections and Clark County, RecycleU workshops have resumed in an online format January – June, [www.cityofvancouver.us/recycleu](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/recycleu)
  - Holiday waste reduction and Christmas tree recycling announcements and outreach conducted in December. Holiday waste reduction video created by CVTV, <https://youtu.be/hwMUZp2IGfg>
- Multifamily Recycling Outreach
  - The recycling dumpster lid pilot project to help decrease contamination will begin in February.
  - Planning phase for a newly designed recycling bag for property managers to distribute to tenants.
- Recycled Arts Festival
  - Tentatively scheduled on June 25 and 26 at Esther Short Park.
  - Approximately 175 artists have applied for the 2022 festival. Priority consideration for artist vendors closed on January 15. Non-profits and food vendors can submit applications through February 28.
  - Trash to Treasure Artist in Residence gallery show January 5-29 at Art At The Cave in downtown Vancouver, 108 East Evergreen Blvd
    - Bill Leigh created 16 pieces out of metal and wood destined for the landfill
    - First Friday Art Walk – January 5, successful exhibit opening and six pieces sold by the end of the weekend.
    - Waste Connections Exhibit Reception – January 22, 2-4 pm
  - WasteBusters Challenge: Food Waste Prevention
    - Three pledges centered around preventing wasted food: plan one meat-free meal a week; organize and rotate food in the refrigerator to consume before expiration; and, plan meals before grocery shopping.
    - Kick-off event February 28, 6-7:15 pm, speaker TBD
    - Challenge runs March 1-21
- Master Gardeners – Natural gardening
  - Meadowscaping in the Home Garden workshop, 7-8 pm, January 20 had approximately 185 attendees
  - 2021 Backyard Habitat Certification Program annual report (“WSU-MG 2021 Report” handout included)
- Backyard Habitat Certification Program
  - July – September 2021 program update
  - Annual report expected by end of January
- Watershed Alliance – Film Series
  - “Spawning Grounds” save the date February 22-24, <https://www.spawninggroundsfilm.org/>

## Green Schools

- Clark County Virtual Educator Training is coming up on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 25 educators are registered as of 1/20
- Planning for Green Awards
  - Green Apple Award
    - Awards an educator or Green Team leader for their leadership and sustainability efforts
  - Green Team Award
    - Created new Green Team Award category to honor student sustainability efforts
- School food waste collection service updates
  - Camas School District has reinstated food waste collection service

- Students from Lacamas Lake Elementary School wrote letters to district leadership and they decided to bring it back
    - AmeriCorps member, Trudi made a [blog post](#) about it
  - [Odyssey Middle School recently added cafeteria food waste collection service](#)
- Vancouver Public Schools is interested in starting up more schools with food waste collection service but is waiting until COVID cases come down
- La Center School District is also interested but dealing with the increase in COVID cases
- South Ridge Elementary School and Union Ridge Elementary School (Ridgefield School District) recently started food waste collection service
- Continuing to work with the Sustainable WA School Cafeteria Workgroup with Zero Waste Washington
- Working with the Lower Columbia Nature Network (formerly Clark County Nature Network)
  - Hoping to help schools incorporate more on-site composting systems for school gardens
- Total amount of recycling and composting materials distributed to schools since Summer 2021
  - 4 blue Slim Jims
  - 12 blue 32-gallon round brutes
  - 230 blue desk-side recycling bins
  - 43 blue classroom recycling bins
  - 332 black sidecars to attach to blue desk-side recycle bins
  - 8 Clear Streams
  - 6 sort tables
  - 4 green Slim Jims
  - 100 inner tubes

### **[Master Composter Recycler](#)**

- MCR 2022 Training - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/mcr-training-itineraries>
  - 61 applications to date; 28 one-on-one consults scheduled; 22 consults completed
  - 7 consecutive Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm (2/2/2022 – 3/16/2022)
- MCR Fall 2021 Webinars - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/current-offerings>
  - 11/3 Green Cleaning – 32 attendees
  - 11/10 Recycling Done Right – 20 attendees
  - 11/17 Prevent Food Waste in the First Place – 11 attendees
- Congregation to Compost - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/programs/congregation-to-compost>
  - Webpage link created and live
  - St. Thomas of Aquinas program launched 11/8/21; **1,108.1 pounds of food waste collected in first 10 weeks**
  - Discussions underway with Vancouver First United Methodist and Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver to join program
- Community Worm Bin - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/worm-bin-request-form>
  - 93 community worm bins distributed/requested since Jan 1, 2021 (each bin diverts 180 pounds of food waste per year). 68 community worm bins & 25 MCR class of 2021 divert 16,740 pounds (8 tons) annually
- Community Compost Bin - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/buyacomposter>
  - 42 community backyard compost bins distributed since Jan 1, 2021 (each bin diverts 380 pounds of organics). 42 bins divert 15,960 pounds (8 tons) annually
- Composting Demonstration Sites - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/mcr/compost-demo-sites>
  - Maintained