

Summer SWEO Updates: May – Aug. 2022

Operations

- Preparing contract for 2023 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events in northern Clark County, to provide access to those residents that live farthest from the permanent HHW facilities.
- Joined the Northwest Product Stewardship Council workgroup on battery product stewardship. The group is currently planning a “WRED” webinar event with Washington State Recycling Association on the topic of battery recycling and extended producer responsibility.
- Sami is still working on the Equity Project
 - Developing RFP with Clark County Grants and Contracts Team and Purchasing Department to hire a consultant to create the environmental justice and equity plan that we will incorporate into the SWMP
 - Creating a list of possible consultants to contact about the RFP
 - Creating scope of work for the consultant and outlining expectations and deliverables needed
 - Met with Clark County Grants and Contracts lead, Joelle Loescher, to discuss RFP and Scope of Work on Monday, July 11th
 - Next meeting with Joelle is Wednesday, August 10th
- Mollie working on restated Recyclables Collection Contract w/Waste Connections Deadline 09/30/22.

Green Business

- Sarah is currently working out of class, as the interim Program Coordinator, and doing very little work on Green Business
 - Camille (Program Tech) is currently spending 20 hours weekly to cover Green Business
- Two new business certified, [Webfor](#) and [PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center](#)
- Received and fulfilled 7 requests through our [online form](#) for recycling resources.
- Delivered Green Business presentations to the Port of Camas Washougal and the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce.
- Currently worked to redevelop online content for food scraps composting and waste prevention.

Green Neighbors

- Single-family Recycling Outreach
 - Due to staff changes, there was a decrease in carts visited. Two new Recycling Advocates have started this month.
 - Received Cart Tagging Q2 Report (see supplemental documentation)
- Multifamily Recycling Outreach
 - A recycle bag has been designed and should receive in fall 2022.
 - Received Multifamily Q2 Report (see supplemental documentation)
- Natural Garden Tour
 - Self-guided tour occurred on Sunday, July 17, 10 am – 4 pm.
 - Approximately 850 unique visitors and over 2,800 total garden visits at nine properties. Visitors learned about natural gardening techniques utilized, including no chemical pesticide/herbicide use.
 - Virtual tours and informational booklets can be viewed/downloaded from the [Green Neighbors NGT](#) page.
- Master Gardeners – Natural gardening
 - Next event: [Introduction to NatureScaping](#): Incorporating Native Plants into the Home Landscape (Zoom). 10-11 am, Aug 20, 2022.
 - Received Master Gardeners Q2 report (see supplemental documentation)
- Backyard Habitat Certification Program

- 13 properties certified and 57 site visits conducted.
- Received Backyard Habitat Certification Program Q2 Report (see supplemental documentation)

Green Schools

- Implemented share tables at Lincoln Elementary School
 - Collaborated with Vancouver Public Schools nutrition services, SNAP-Ed program director, and Family-Resource Center (FCRC) coordinator
 - Students can place uneaten or unwanted foods, such as apples, bananas, milk, yogurt, in the bins on the share table that are then brought to the FCRC to be redistributed to families
- Filmed two training videos on sort tables and share tables
 - Worked with Vancouver Public Schools staff and Lincoln Elementary School students
 - Camille drafted and edited script for both videos
 - Sort Table Training Video (in editing phase)
 - Teaches students how to properly sort their waste and minimize contamination in food waste carts
 - Teaches students why it's important to compost their food waste and what happens to it after it leaves the cafeteria
 - Filmed Share Table Training Video (in editing phase)
 - Teaches students how to properly use a share table to prevent food from being thrown away in the food waste cart or garbage can
- Trudi, Green Schools AmeriCorps Member, contacted and visited schools to check on composting programs
 - Final Stats
 - 12 school outreach visits completed
 - 7 classroom lessons taught
 - 1 waste audit conducted
 - 18 blog posts written
- Provided lessons on food waste reduction and conducted waste audits with Green Teams
 - Conducted 1 waste audit at Dorothy Fox Elementary School (Camas School District)
 - Led 5 worm bin lessons and taught students about the nutrient cycle and the importance of composting
 - Camille developed new age appropriate, scientifically accurate lesson guides and discussion materials
 - 3 classrooms kept bins to take care of next school year
- Waste Connections Waste Reduction Educator (Ellen Ives) collected data on food waste programs at schools around Clark County
 - Found that 50 schools are composting food waste
 - Amounts to 903,424 pounds of food waste diverted for 2021-2022
- In progress: participating in Zero Waste Washington's Sustainable School Cafeteria Workgroup
 - Attending monthly meetings
- In progress: adding new food waste prevention and reduction lessons to website and offered lessons
 - Food Waste Warrior Toolkit has 4 toolkits that are broken into different age groups
 - This doesn't seem like quite the right fit for us, but we will add it to our resource list
 - Researching other lessons that we can teach students about food waste prevention and reduction
- In progress: ESD 112 Summer Camps
 - Teaching lessons at 6 school sites July 26-28 and August 2-4
 - Ellen and Trudi leading waste reduction and recycling lessons

- Camille and Sami leading worm bin exploration lessons
- Recycling and Composting Materials Requested 2021-2022
 - 7 blue slim jims
 - 14 32-gallon blue brutes
 - 231 blue desk-side recycling bins
 - 51 blue classroom recycling bins
 - 334 black sidecars (trash bins attached to desk-side recycle bins)
 - 8 Clear Streams
 - 8 sort tables (with accompanying accoutrements, i.e. buckets)
 - 107 inner tubes for food waste carts
 - 12 long grabbers
 - 5 short grabbers

Composter Recycler

MCR Spring 2021 Webinars - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/current-offerings>

- 5/4 Lasagna Garden Composting – 22 attendees
- 5/11 Green Cleaning – 23 attendees
- 5/25 Prevent Food Waste in the First Place – 14 attendees

Congregation to Compost - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/programs/congregation-to-compost>

- St. Thomas of Aquinas program launched 11/8/21; Averaging 117 pounds per pick up; average volume 70% per pickup
- Vancouver First United Methodist program launched 3/1/22; Averaging 81.4 pounds per pick up; Average volume 50% per pickup
- Informational flyer translated into Spanish and will go out in English & Spanish to St. Joseph's Catholic Church bulletin 7/31. We are in discussions with the church to launch Aug/Sep 2022.

Community Worm Bin - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/worm-bin-request-form>

- 27 community worm bins distributed (each bin diverts 180 pounds of food waste per year). **4,860 pounds** of food waste diverted annually

Community Compost Bin

- (100) - 82 gal. Enviro World Compost Bins received at Heritage Farm for “at cost” distribution to the community.

Composting Demonstration Sites - <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/mcr/compost-demo-sites>

- Trainings for “hands-on” composting techniques held for spring workshop attendees and Composter Recycler volunteers in training

Community Outreach

- 6/3 Afghan Women's Group Recycling Presentation - 19 attendees
- 6/11 Downtown Vancouver Farmers Market - (did not receive interaction count from volunteers)
- 7/9 Downtown Vancouver Farmers Market - interacted with 75 attendees
- 7/10 Art in the Garden - interacted with 116 attendees
- 7/28 East Vancouver Farmers Market - TBD