

Autumn SWEO Updates: Aug. – Nov. 2022

Operations

- Sarah Keirns has been promoted from Green Business Outreach Specialist to Program Coordinator I
- Program Manager position is currently vacant
 - The role is being reevaluated for the needs of the position and the team.

Green Business

- Fulfilled 3 requests for workplace recycling materials.
- Recertified 2 businesses – Earth Friendly Recycling and C-TRAN
- The Outreach Specialist position for this program is currently vacant, and activity on commercial outreach projects has been limited.
 - The role is being reevaluated for the needs of the position and the team.

Green Neighbors

- General
 - 2022-2023 new AmeriCorps member started mid-September and his term ends in July. Henry Canafax will be serving the Green Neighbors program and tasked with the WasteBusters Challenge and the Natural Garden Tour as well as other recycling outreach.
 - This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Green Neighbors program. We celebrated by hosting a “birthday” event at the Vancouver Community Library at 2-3:30 pm on Saturday, October 8. A speaker from Backyard Bird Shop of Vancouver spoke about local bats and their benefits to the environment. Over 76 residents were in attendance and approximately 25 participants pledged to support bats by reducing synthetic chemicals in the garden, humanely removing them from the home or spreading an affinity for bats and helping to dispel myths.
 - Planning on distributing Christmas tree recycling flyers to tree farms and lots in late November.
- Single-family Recycling Outreach
 - Received Cart tagging Q3 2022 Quarterly Report
 - To-go cups contamination outreach advertising campaign
 - In the process of putting together another ad campaign in November for bubble mailers, air pillows and bubble wrap in anticipation of the shopping holiday.
- Multifamily Recycling Outreach
 - The recycle bag estimated delivery has been updated to December.
 - Received Q3 report
- Master Gardeners – Natural gardening
 - Received Q3 report

Green Schools

- Completed and uploaded two training videos on sort tables and share tables to YouTube and Clark County Green Schools website
 - [Sort Table Training Video](#)
 - Available in English, Russian, Spanish
 - Working on adding Chuukese subtitles to English version
 - 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
- [Share Table Training Video](#)
 - Available in English, Russian, Spanish

- Working on adding Chuukese subtitles to English version
 - Teaches students how to properly use a share table to prevent food from being thrown away in the food waste cart or garbage can
- Continued support of school food waste composting programs
 - Meeting with school green teams and staff to promote sort tables
 - Met with Sacajawea Elementary School Green Team to help students better sort their lunch waste
 - Providing tools to improve sorting cafeteria waste
 - Grabber tools
 - Replacing and fixing broken or old sort tables
 - Working on providing green buckets for Family and Community Resource Centers to compost leftover food
 - 4 FCRCs have requested the buckets along with green cleaning kits to clean the buckets out
- Provided lessons on food waste reduction and conducted waste audits with Green Teams
 - Conducted 3 cafeteria and kitchen waste audits at each of the schools in La Center School District
 - Baseline data for transition to sort tables/composting
- Led worm bin lessons and taught students about the nutrient cycle and the importance of composting
 - 6 lessons for ESD 112 Summer Camp
 - 1 lesson for Frontier Middle School
 - La Center High School requested 4 worm bins for their garden
 - Washington State School for the Blind requested a worm bin
- In progress: adding share tables to all 36 schools in Vancouver Public Schools
 - Nutrition Services Director has trained kitchen staff on how to use and process the food to be re-served
 - Email sent out to Family and Community Resource Centers so they know they can take food from the share tables to give to students and families
 - Will be ordering bins and other supplies for schools to reduce barriers to having share tables
- In progress: La Center School District sort table launch
 - Met with school district staff, teachers, and custodial staff in August 2022 to discuss our plan
 - Conducted kitchen and cafeteria waste audits at each school to gather before and after implementation data
 - Spending the week of October 24th educating students on how to use the sort table
 - We have already seen a decrease in garbage
 - LCES has gone from 5 bags of cafeteria garbage to 2 bags
 - LCMS has gone from 6-7 bags of cafeteria garbage to 3-4 bags
- EarthGen programs
 - Educator Training
 - Hosted our first in-person educator training in 2.5 years on Tuesday, October 4th
 - 20 educators attended
 - Received very good feedback – one teacher said it was the best EarthGen/CCGS training they’ve been to!
 - Clark County Green Schools Student Summit
 - Hosting a middle and high school Student Summit at Clark College on Thursday, November 3rd
 - As of Friday, October 21st, we have 43 folks signed up and hoping to increase that number
 - Students will learn about sustainability projects, careers in the environmental field, and have time to talk and share with students from other schools
- Also working on Equity and Environmental Justice Plan RFP Updates
 - [RFP #842](#) was released on Wednesday, September 28th and closed on Wednesday, October 19th

- We are currently reviewing proposals and will be conducting interviews November 2nd-7th
- We will be selecting our consultant on Wednesday, November 9th and hope to have them start on Thursday, December 1st

Master Composter Recycler

- Supported two churches in “[Congregation to Compost](#)” program, to collect food scraps from houses of worship’s congregations/neighborhoods for composting, instead of sending them to a landfill.
 - 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
 - 3rd Church set up with a Nov 2022 start date
- 10 Community [worm bins distributed](#) for food scrap diversion (each bin diverts 180 pounds of food waste per year).
 - 103 bins have been distributed since July 1, 2021 diverting 9.27 tons of food waste annually.
- 82 gallon backyard [compost bins](#) ordered and received for organics material diversion
- Provided technical assistance to [Firestone Pacific Packing](#) as they began [diverting food](#) (Berry) waste from being sent to the landfill, in July 2022
 - 2,574 (55 gal) drums were diverted for on-farm application at agronomic rates. This equates to 424 tons diverted from the landfill (330 pounds per 55 gal drum)