

SWEO Green Programs Updates: Feb – May 2020

Green Neighbors

- The 2020 Recycled Arts Festival has been cancelled (June 27 and 28).
- The WasteBusters challenge wrapped up in March with 144 individual participants and 10 groups.
 - 60 people pledged to reduce paper waste such as paper towels and paper napkins
 - 37 pledged to reduce plastic packaging waste in their lunches
 - 47 pledged to not allow food to spoil in the 20-day period.
- Green Neighbors will be collaborating with The Master Composter Recycler program to host a Recycling Done Right webinar on June 4, 3 – 4:30 pm, and a Food Waste Prevention webinar on June 9, 3 – 4:30 pm via Zoom. <https://clarkcountycomposts.org/mcr/classes-and-workshops>
- The Green Burial workshop with Elizabeth Fournier, author of, “The Green Burial Guidebook,” has been postponed from April to July. Time and location are TBD. She will discuss green burials and regulations surrounding it as well as “green” options for funeral and burial choices.

Green Business

- The [Green Awards](#) was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Will not be soliciting nominations for the 2021 event. Will be recognizing this year’s winners, instead.
- The last in-person [Morning Blend](#) was in February at Columbia Springs,
 - March Morning Blend was a virtual event, held on Zoom, with 12 businesses represented
 - May’s Morning Blend currently has 18 people registered
- Four businesses and two property management companies have requested [recycling resources](#) using the form on clarkgreenbiz.com
- Ten Green Business re-certification meetings were conducted. Typically done on-site, however these were phone or video call meetings.
 - Going forward, re-certification will be required every 3 years.
- [EYE Clothing Co.](#) and [Otak](#) earned Green Business certification
- Since the Governor’s Stay Home, Stay Healthy order, one business has registered to go through the certification process.

Green Schools

- Ellen Ives, schools educator from Waste Connections was actively teaching students about waste reduction, leading many class presentations and transfer station tours.
- January 15 - Green Team leader training with Washington Green Schools.
 - Held at downtown Vancouver Community Library
 - ~20 educators present to learn how to get students interested in waste reduction and environmental care
- March 3 - Co-hosted High School Student Summit at Green Schools Conference & Expo ([recap](#))
 - Held at downtown Portland Hilton.
 - Collaborated with Oregon Green Schools to include students from OR and SW WA.
 - ~25 students from six Clark County high schools present.
- March 10 - Elementary & Middle School Student Summit ([recap](#))
 - Held at Clark College
 - Collaborated with Washington Green Schools
 - 25 schools and ~90 students participated.
- March 13th – Schools closed
 - Since then we have posted online resources for students and teachers including an [Earth Week Bingo](#) with activities students and families could do from home while learning about their local

environment. We are reinforcing the Stay Home Stay Healthy order from Governor Inslee and trying to provide activities to supplement learning about waste reduction and the environment.

- Michelle Sanow, Green Schools Environmental Outreach Specialist, has been working nearly full time on the COVID-19 response team as the assistant PIO. She will return to Green Schools once the demand lessens.
- We will still support schools as they work towards certification. Washington Green Schools is offering virtual one-on-one sessions, called “Report Card Parties”, to assist schools in finishing certification.

[Master Composter Recycler](#)

- Focusing on [spring webinars](#):
 - May 2 – Backyard Composting
 - Currently 60 registered (80 total participants)
 - Kaley posted on NextDoor, so more people might register
 - May 6 – Worm Bin Composting
 - May 16 – Lasagna Composting
 - May 27 – Green Cleaning
 - June 4 – Recycling Done Right (with GN)
 - June 9 – Preventing Food Waste (with GN)
- Kaley is working on a new tri-fold for Worm Bin Composting and revisions to Green Cleaning.
- We have shifted the focus for [Volunteer payback hours](#) to things that can be done from home.