

Class 9 (Green Awards)

Clark County Green Programs

Clark County Department of Environmental Services *Solid Waste and Environmental Outreach* team coordinates three programs that engage businesses, schools, and residents. Each program is branded with its own logo and website that capture various services, certifications, events, and resources offered to Clark County citizens and companies.

Clark County's Green Business Program



The Clark County Green Business Program, www.clarkgreenbiz.com, recognizes and celebrates the achievements of its green certified businesses. These businesses demonstrate that “going green” is not only good for the environment but is also good for a business’ bottom line, employee morale, operational efficiency, and public image.

The program offers a self-assessment form, resources, and assistance to businesses seeking a structured approach to implementing green initiatives and measuring results. In addition, technical assistants are available to visit businesses, perform resource audits, and recommend improvements. Clark County partners with Waste Connections, Clark Public Utilities, and the City of Vancouver to provide this program free or charge to all businesses (excluding home-based businesses) within Clark County.

To become a certified Clark County Green Business, a business must have a green team or green leader, have management support for going green, and not have any pending enforcement actions against them. Then, the business self-assesses their impacts and ensures they meet the minimum requirements in the following areas:

- Community engagement
- Energy
- Stormwater
- Hazardous materials
- Waste and recycling
- Water and wastewater

Once a business has completed the assessment, they send it to the Green Business program for review. Following the review, Clark County staff conducts a site visit to verify that all the program requirements have been met. If all requirements are met, a business is recognized as a certified *Green Business* and listed as a Clark County Green Business in the County's business directory: <http://www.clarkgreenbiz.com/8/directory.html>

What do Green Teams Do? They Help Lead the Way!

Do you want to reduce waste and recycle more at work? Forming a green team is a good place to start. Green teams are groups of coworkers who meet regularly to learn more about sustainability, take a look at their workplace's practices, and brainstorm ways to engage their coworkers to improve these practices.

Green teams might start small, perhaps looking at providing recycling opportunities or eliminating throw-aways in the lunchroom, or they make take aim at large scale changes. No matter what the project, a green team can be instrumental in creating positive change in the workplace by envisioning ways to foster more sustainable practices, engaging the support of management and other workmates, and keeping improvement projects organized and on track.

Besides helping to keep our environment healthier, green teams can help their business reduce costs associated with energy and water use, transportation, materials use, or cost of materials disposal. Being a green business can also help improve employee morale and may strengthen a company's brand by increasing their customer regard.

Green team projects might be to implement or improve recycling efforts, identify ways to conserve water or save energy, implement environmentally friendly purchasing practices, or facilitate more efficient transportation logistics. It is helpful to recruit green team members from all types of levels or departments in an organization to harness a variety of viewpoints, skills, and energy.

The most successful green teams have:

- **Top-level support** to ensure time and resources are available for projects;
- **Well-organized meetings**, scheduled at regular intervals, with an agenda;
- **A sustainability plan** that tracks goals and communicates improvements to management, other employees, and possibly even outside stakeholders.

Some Resources for Help in Forming a Green Team

The Clark County Department of Environmental Services Green Business Program (www.clarkgreenbiz.com) offers support and resources to green teams in Clark County in several relevant areas, including recycling education, waste reduction, pollution prevention, and alternatives to dangerous and hazardous wastes. Contact (360) 397-2121 x4352 for more information.

Several Clark County Master Composter/Recyclers have started or are engaged in green teams at their workplace, school, or church and may be able to share ideas with you. Talk to the MCR Program Coordinator to see how you might get connected with these peers.

Below are some examples of MCRs' green team activities and infrastructure.

“Beyond Curbside” Recycling Station

This green team project at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Vancouver was initiated through the collaboration of three Master Composter/Recyclers.

This Green Team collects items for recycling at a beyond curbside recycling station. The sign was made out of materials collected during a roadside clean-up. Collection bins are set up for both traditional curbside recycling items and difficult to recycle materials. *(Photo right)*



Green Tips

The green team at the Unitarian Universalist Church also regularly share “green tips” with their congregation through a newsletter. You can view some of their clever green tips here: <https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1bySkQonSDivV7lXTOWyErLIXv6qklVnfl2w3DQAwvRM>

Corwin Beverage

With the guidance of MCR and green team leader Shaun Nelson, Corwin Beverage achieved certification as a Clark County Green Business and boasts sustainability features such as onsite composting, energy efficient lighting, and a recycling program that diverts over 100,000 pounds of material from the landfill every year.

Recycling Workshops

Several Master Composter/Recyclers have developed recycling workshops that they present to their congregations or at work. Contact the Program Coordinator for a workshop description and materials list.

Special Events

Many MCR volunteers organize Earth Day celebrations at their workplace. The MCR program has display materials available for check out for use at such events. Below right is a lunchroom display set up to celebrate Earth Day.

The following page shows a flyer advertising a volunteer organized “Green Fair.” This fair included a learning station that tested common household products for the presence of chemicals that are hazardous to human health, such as bisphenol A and phthalates.



Green Fair 2012: Fostering a Toxic-Free Community: Saturday, April 21 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**One person can ~~only~~ do so much!
Spend a little time with us and see
what YOU CAN DO!**



- ✓ Test your household items for toxins. (list on reverse side)
- ✓ Send a hand-made Thank You card to an elected representative for supporting health. (All materials provided.)
- ✓ Take the No Bag pledge and receive a re-usable shopping bag.
- ✓ Protect your family's health with a few simple rules about plastics.
- ✓ Take home a booklet full of inexpensive, safe homemade cleaning recipes.



Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver - 4505 E. 18th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661
See the reverse side for more about what can be tested.

Suggested items to bring for testing:

- Toys, especially painted or soft plastic
- Car seats
- Strollers
- Diaper covers
- Costume jewelry
- Boots and shoes
- Backpacks
- Inflatable furniture and toys
- Computer keyboards, mouse-pads
- Cellular phones
- Mattress and pillow covers
- Food containers, plastic utensils
- Checkbook covers
- Printed (shiny) T-shirts
- Luggage
- Umbrellas and rain gear
- Credit cards
- Imitation leather items
- Coated wire
- Tarps



- Unnumbered containers for
 - Personal care products
 - Pet care products

It takes a minute to test each item. We want to have enough time to test everything that comes in, so **please don't bring these for testing:**

- Items marked with 3, vinyl, V, or PVC
- Multiples of very similar items

**WASHINGTON
TOXICS
COALITION**

Thanks to Washington Toxics Coalition for bringing their equipment to Vancouver to provide this public service! For more information: www.watoxics.org

Other participants:



Baby-drawing@Sharon Williams, courtesy of the Sierra Club

Clark County's Green Neighbors Program



One program that may be of particular interest to MCRs is Clark County Environmental Services' Green Neighbors program. As Master Composter/Recyclers, we all want to make our community a more sustainable

place by connecting with like-minded people and growing our knowledge and experience of sustainability efforts. The Green Neighbors program provides the opportunity to do just this by offering information on local sustainability-focused news, events, and activities that you can get involved in.

Mission

Clark County Green Neighbors is a program created by Clark County Environmental Services to provide sustainability education and outreach to the citizens of Clark County. Its primary aim is to provide comprehensive information about how to lead a more sustainable lifestyle and how to become engaged in community events to better the environment and strengthen the community as a whole. Through a monthly newsletter and an online calendar of events, participants can stay up to date on the current opportunities within the county and recent news about the program. The website also provides a number of interactive programs to help citizens realize how they can be more sustainable in their everyday life. The Green Neighbors program hosts workshops on various topics including those in WildWatch, a citizen science program that engages the whole family, and also co-sponsors many other events to connect and reinforce relationships with other community organizations. Whether you have an interest in gardening, waste, ladybugs, or even your pet dog, Green Neighbors has something for you!

On the Web

Explore the Green Neighbors' website (clarkgreenneighbors.org) to find green tips, upcoming events, and take part in some interactive programs. Take a stroll through the Interactive House to find easy, everyday ideas to keep your home bills and carbon footprint down. These are simple, yet effective suggestions for a green lifestyle. To see how much of an impact you truly are making, you can plug information into our collection of eco-calculators and find out where you could be making changes. Go a step further and use home assessment forms to conduct a Green Audit of your house! Report your results and find out what you can do about hazardous waste, indoor water use, clean water and waste reduction. To find out other information ranging from energy efficiency to natural gardening, check out Green Neighbors' numerous website resources.

So that you're always in the loop about the latest Green Neighbors events and news, follow on Facebook (Clark County Green), Twitter (@clarkneighbors) and Pinterest (Clark County Green Neighbors)!

Canines for Clean Water



There are many sources of water contamination, and we need to do everything we can to make sure that we keep our water as clean as possible. One source of

contamination comes from some of our favorite companions- our dogs. Pet waste left on the ground is not only an unfortunate prospect for an unlucky passerby's shoe, but also for our local streams. Bacteria can be carried from the waste by rain runoff and into water sources, polluting water and causing harm to wildlife. The simple solution? Pick up after your pup! If you pledge to always pick up your pet waste, Green Neighbors will send you a dog bandana for your dedication. Send a picture to Green Neighbors of your dog wearing the bandana and you'll be entered to win a prize!

Natural Garden Tour

Wind your way through Clark County on a tour that showcases exemplary gardens that are maintained using sustainable techniques! Participants learn about earth-friendly gardening, get ideas for their own backyard, and exchange ideas with hosts and other gardeners. By keeping your own garden chemical free and using a variety of sustainable gardening methods, you can make your yard beautiful, while keeping the environment, your children, and your pets safe!

Pacific Park

One of the many treasures of the Green Neighbors is the Pacific Park Garden Demonstration Site and Community Garden. Located at 1515 NE 164th Street in Vancouver, the Garden Demonstration Site is made up of eight large garden plots, each boasting a different type of garden landscape. You can learn about each type from brochures and posted plant signs, and explore each type which includes: Edibles and Culinary Herbs, Wildlife Gardening, Beneficial Insects and Compost, Native Plants, Dog Friendly, Lawn Alternatives, Xeriscaping, and Rain Garden. Get ideas and apply them to your own garden, or reserve a spot in the adjacent community garden and grow your own plants right at Pacific Park! The garden is a relatively small community garden and only consists of sixteen plots. There is always a wait list so sign up early!

Recycled Arts Festival



Produced by Clark County's Department of Environmental Services, the Recycled Arts Festival is the largest event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Each year more than 35,000 residents and tourists flock to Esther Short Park for this popular, free community event where more than 100 vendors display and sell their artwork made from repurposed materials. Always entertaining, the Festival is packed with music, art, food and activities designed to make learning about recycling and reducing waste fun! Save the date for the last weekend in June to come out and peruse the artist's one of a kind creations, help your kids make their own recycled art, relax and listen to music and be inspired!

WasteBusters



Clark County has developed an online pledge where participants choose one of three waste-busting actions. For three weeks, they practice their new habit and give short reports to be eligible for prizes. In 2016, sign ups start in January and the pledge runs for 21 days in February. See www.wastebusters.green. It may be repeated at another point during the year. The three habit-changing actions are:

- Pledge to bring and use reusable bags when I shop.

- Pledge to bring and use a reusable beverage container for my “to go” drinks.
- Pledge to designate one day a week to use up leftovers.

In the past, WasteBusters has been a waste reduction competition where families competed to see who could most effectively reduce their waste footprint. Visit **clarkgreenneighbors.org** for more information.

WildWatch



Do you love to dig in the dirt or watch storm clouds roll in? Do your children love to feed birds and hunt ladybugs? If your family is curious about the outdoors, tell us what you see in your backyard! Join WildWatch, a family-friendly, citizen science initiative of the Green Neighbors program. You'll have fun counting bees, tracking storms, measuring snowfall or keeping vigil over birds' nests, all while advancing science with your observations.

Volunteer

Love to get out in your community and provide service while making connections with your neighbors? Of course you do, you're an MCR! You can also volunteer with Green Neighbors. Depending on the time of year, volunteer opportunities can range from planting in the Pacific Park Garden Demonstration Site, to helping out on the day of the Recycled Arts Festival. Contact Sally Fisher (sally.fisher@clark.wa.gov) at Clark County Environmental Services to learn more about Green Neighbors volunteer opportunities.

Clark County's Green Schools Program



Clark County Environmental Services partners with Washington Green Schools, Waste Connections, and City of Vancouver to provide education and technical support to all schools in Clark County. Our collaborative team aids in fostering sustainable and environmentally friendly habits in our school communities. Clark County staff and partners collaborate with schools to train, coach, audit, plan, execute, and sustain successful projects that schools and the community can be proud of.

Currently, Clark County has the largest number of green schools of any county in the state of Washington. Schools in this program have the opportunity to focus on one or all six environmental categories: waste, water, grounds, energy, transportation and healthy buildings. Being certified in a category entails understanding the system they have in place using the individual school data and trends, identifying opportunities to eliminate waste, and implementing projects based on the collected data.

To begin, schools create a cross-functional green team that includes students, teachers, administration, and community partners to lead the school in learning and implementing their projects. This program is a great way to learn about using the “lean” process to create a more sustainable environment and community. The “lean” process minimizes waste and creates more value by using fewer resources. The curriculum and assessments are designed by the Washington

Green Schools program to satisfy the state curriculum requirements. Additionally, there are various events throughout the school year for teachers and students, including the annual Student Summit. Some of the projects that have been implemented by schools are the following:



- Purchase and use reusable plates and flatware in the lunch room to eliminate paper plates (Camas High School)

- Students as well as staff separate food waste from regular trash to be collected by Waste Connections and hauled away to be composted (formally known as the Save Organic Scraps program)

- Gardening and onsite composting at LaCenter High School

Program Goals

As of winter 2015, there are 76 out of 136 public schools in the Clark Green Schools program. Our goal is to continue the momentum of currently participating schools and increase new enrollment of all schools in Clark County, including private schools.

Volunteer Opportunities



The Clark County Green Schools program is proud of the accomplishments that have been made and we are aware that even more is to be done and can be done. We depend on the collaboration with our partners and volunteers like the Master Composters/Recyclers to work with schools that are going through their waste certification or school grounds certification and lead them to success.

Contact info:

Bernadette Donald

Bernadette.Donald@clark.wa.gov

Links:

WAgreenschools.org

Clarkgreenschools.org

protective clothing meets your needs.

