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Memorandum Date: October 16, 2006  
Order Date: November 8, 2006

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**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works, Waste Management Division  
**PRESENTED BY:** Sarah Grimm, Waste Reduction Specialist, x4339  
**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** ORDER/IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING ANNUAL TRASHBUSTER AWARDS.

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**I. MOTION**

Move approval of Board Order awarding annual Trashbuster awards.

**II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Lane County has established through its Board of County Commissioners and its Resource Recovery Advisory Committee (RRAC) a process for recognizing individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community who make outstanding efforts in the area of waste reduction.

**III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION**

**A. Board Action and Other History**

The Board approved a Recycling Recognition Award program proposed by RRAC in 1992. RRAC subsequently renamed the award program "Trashbuster" to denote a wider spectrum of activity beyond just recycling. Typically, the Trashbuster awards are given around November 15<sup>th</sup>, which has been declared by the Federal and State governments as America Recycles Day.

**B. Policy Issues**

Lane County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), adopted by Ordinance 10-02, provides a roadmap of priorities and guidance for managing the County's Solid Waste Management system. SWMP 5.5 emphasizes the importance of strong County commitment to recycling and the need to increase Lane County's resource recovery in order to conserve limited, long-term capacity of the Short Mt. Landfill as well as to meet State requirements to reach 54% recycling rate by 2009 (SB) 3744.

**C. Board Goals**

Lane County's Resource Planning and Allocation chapter of the Strategic Plan emphasizes that Lane County "has placed as its highest priority on public health and safety services with a strategic eye towards prevention services." Recycling and conservation are preventative actions that result in safer water systems, prevention of air pollution, conservation of energy resources and increases in marketable commodities for a healthier local economy.

**D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations**

The financial costs of taking action on this item are negligible considering the valuable benefits of promotion and attention to business waste prevention efforts.

**E. Analysis**

The following individuals were nominated by various members of the community and selected by members of the Resource Recovery Advisory Committee. Their accomplishments are great in the realm of sustainability and the following information provides some highlights.

**Local Government, Gwen Farnsworth and the Dexter Post Office**

Address: 38880 Dexter Rd.  
Dexter, OR 97431

Recipient of award: Gwen Farnsworth

Commissioner: Commissioner Stewart

Accomplishments:

- Gwen Farnsworth has led the Dexter Post office recycling for many years. Due to her diligence and hard work, they now recycle all old and rejected mail from the back office and all discarded mail from the front lobby.
- They also collect and recycle a significant amount of shrink wrap film, bundle strapping, and other plastics.
- Recyclable materials are transported to the Glenwood Central Receiving Station by a staff volunteer because this rural post office is not big enough to get recycling services.
- The only thing left in the trash now is the backing to sticky labels and miscellaneous lunch wrappers.
- Gwen often makes displays of recycled crafts for the entertainment and education of post office patrons. Dioramas and curios made from recycled junk mail, plastic caps, strapping and a wide variety of bits and shards of trash are inspirational and thought provoking.
- Staff members reuse the recycling bags over and over until they quit and cardboard boxes from patrons are reused for storage or recycled.
- All of the office paper and adding machine tape that the Post Office purchases are made with recycled content.

## **K-12 School Trashbuster, Rachel Carson Center, Churchill High School**

Address: 1850 Bailey Hill Rd.  
Eugene, OR 97405  
687-3421

Recipient of award: Tim Whitely, Program Director

Commissioner: Commissioner Morrison

Accomplishments:

- In addition to a standard recycling program for beverage containers (glass, metal, and plastic), printer cartridges and kitchen compost, a new cafeteria plastic recycling program has been implemented at Churchill High School (CHS).
- Polystyrene (#6 plastic) used in the school cafeteria's plates, bowls, and cutlery is recycled through an arrangement with The Recycling Professionals who are both the supplier of the new product and the recycler of the used product. Parent volunteers, custodians, and Rachel Carson students monitor collection containers, sort the material and transfer it to a bin. The Recycling Professionals pick up the used material weekly at the same time they deliver the new product.
- Rachel Carson students and staff visited other schools to teach them how to recycle the polystyrene cafeteria products. They helped them customize it for their cafeteria, provided containers for collection and sample signs to post. Arrangements with The Recycling Professionals were facilitated and they continue to serve as a valuable resource for the 8 middle schools and the other 3 high schools that have now joined the recycling effort.
- Purchases paper for printers and copy machines with 30% recycled content. Paper toweling contains recycled material.
- Students in the Rachel Carson Program educate Churchill's student body and staff with recycling presentations at the first staff meeting and by request. Morning announcements reminding students to recycle are given regularly and banners and posters throughout the school encourage recycling.
- Digital equipment runs on rechargeable batteries and fluorescent bulbs have replaced incandescent ones wherever possible.
- Staff is encouraged to minimize copying or to use the district copy service, and an in-house copy service run by trained students reduces copying mistakes and paper jams.
- Paper printed on one side is offered for use in copy machines and as scratch paper.
- A teacher and several students have established a used clothes rack where anyone can pick out clothes for free.
- To reduce toxics generated by the custodians, only 'green' cleaning supplies are used in the building.

### **Special Event Trashbuster, Saturday Market**

Address: 76 W. Broadway  
Eugene, OR 97401  
686-8885

Recipient of award: Beth Little, General Manager

Commissioner: Commissioner Green

Accomplishments:

- Throughout the market, recycling stations provide a separate bin for garbage, for compostables and for recyclables. Trash and recyclables are hauled by Sanipac.
- Purchases BioCorp clear compostable liners, using 10 cases (200 bags per case) in a year to ensure a clean compost stream.
- Market staff sort through all bags to capture the compostable portion. Last year, about 21,050 lbs of waste was diverted from the landfill to be composted at Rexius. This reduced waste from 256 in 2004 to 136 cubic yards in 2005.
- Requires food vendors to avoid Styrofoam serving items so these are not brought into the waste stream.
- Purchases office paper products with recycled content only.

### **Non Profit Trashbuster, Lane Community College**

Address: 4000 East 30<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Eugene, OR 97405  
463-5569

Recipient of award: Mike Sims, Recycling Coordinator

Commissioner: Commissioner Stewart

Accomplishments:

- Recycles paper, plastic, wood, all metals, food waste, cardboard, electronic material, construction and demolition wastes and beverage containers.
- Computes and publishes an annual Reuse and Recycling Rate Report to track and announce recycling and cost savings. Currently 60.167% of LCC's waste is being reused or recycled with an associated cost saving of \$60,374.27.
- Food waste is processed in a large Earth Tub composter that creates soil amendments for campus landscaping. 35 tons since March 2006.
- Educates students and staff with articles in newsletters, classroom visits, campus outreach for Earth Day and America Recycles Day, and annual waste audits.
- Purchases 30% post consumer recycled content paper products and remanufactured print cartridges as well as other office supplies with recycled content when available.
- Internally reused 7.1 tons of desks, whiteboards, filing cabinets, chairs, and office supplies through Surplus Property, a part of the Recycling Program. Donated 14.8 tons of material to organizations such as Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul, BRING Recycling, and other small non-profits in need of basic office furnishings.
- Housekeeping participates in Coastwide Cleaning Supplies reuse program where empty bottles of cleaning solution are collected and returned to Coastwide for reuse.

- Recent annual computer purchase successfully identified vendor which only used recyclable packaging materials (no more #6 Styrofoam!).
- Works with Food Services to increase the use of durable, reusable dishes and reduce disposable waste.

### **Individual Trashbuster, Dave Kayfes**

Address: 4745 Brookwood  
Eugene, OR 97405  
344-7612

Recipient of award: Dave Kayfes

Commissioner: Commissioner Sorenson

Accomplishments:

- A Master Gardener Compost Specialist program graduate of 2001, Dave has volunteered over 900 hours educating the public about recycling organic waste into soil.
- Dave was the original compost guru at the Churchill Community Garden, using vegetable waste from nearby Albertsons to build great soil for the gardens and educate local gardeners and students about benefits of composting.
- At Edgewood Elementary, Dave helped students do a cafeteria waste audit then set up a compost bin and helps monitor progress and composting.
- Dave built a garden at the St. John Bosco House (a Bethel area program for women in transition).
- Provided much needed help on the Lane County Fair recycling crew as well as at the Eugene Celebration.
- Spreads his enthusiasm for recycling nature's way at community events, at the schools, with articles for newsletters, in church groups and in his neighborhood.

### **Business Trashbuster, Weyerhaeuser Recycling, Lorena Young**

Address: 3425 East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Eugene, OR 97403  
744-4119

Recipient of award: Lorena Young

Commissioner: Commissioner Stewart

Accomplishments:

- Through Lorena Young's tireless optimism and hard work, Weyerhaeuser Recycling provides Lane County with plastics recycling opportunities that few others have.
- Found and developed markets for plastic strapping and wrap generated at local lumber and wood products businesses, as well as the cores the wrap comes on.
- Developed recycling opportunity for plastic bag and film recycling previously only available at grocery stores, now available at many Lane County Transfer Stations.
- Assists local businesses and non-profits in recycling large quantities of specific plastics, i.e., Rexius can now recycle poly mulch bags, LCC and Computer Reuse and Recycling Center can now recycle computer plastics, local nurseries and farms can now recycle

agricultural plastics such as row covers, pots and trays, Burley Design can now recycle discarded manufacture molds, grass seed growers and processors can now recycle poly bags, IB Roofing can now recycle PVC sheeting scrap, A-1 Coupling and Hose can now recycle their scrap and Jerry's now recycles their shrink wrap.

- Worked with City of Springfield to offer extended recycling options at annual clean up days.
- Because of Lorena's tenacity and determination, Weyerhaeuser's recycling operations in Glenwood now recycle over 200 different grades of plastics!

### **Construction Project Trashbuster, Royal Caribbean Call Center**

Address: 1000 Royal Carribean Way  
Springfield, OR 97477  
285-9283

Recipient of award: Cheryl Lauderback

Commissioner: Commissioner Dwyer

Accomplishments:

- More than 97 percent of project construction waste was diverted from the landfill.
- 10 percent of the building materials came from recycled materials; 20 percent of the materials were manufactured within a 500-mile radius in order to reduce the use of transportation-related fuel; and 10 percent of the materials used for the construction were extracted or harvested locally.
- The building operates on about 35 percent less energy than is allowed by code due to high-performance windows, upgraded insulation, and efficient lighting, fans and pumps.
- 35 percent reduction in water use is achieved through low-flow urinals, lavatories and showers.
- Exterior was also designed with waste reduction in mind. To reduce irrigation, fertilizer and mowing needs, most grass areas have been planted with "Eco-Turf," a blend of native grasses. For areas that require irrigation, monitors and control devices turn on the water when the site is least likely to be affected by sun or wind.

### **Product Manufacturer: Bike Friday**

Address: 3364 W. 11<sup>th</sup>  
Eugene, OR 97402  
687-0487

Recipient of award: Hanna Scholz

Commissioner: Commissioner Sorenson

Accomplishments:

- Recycles glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, aluminum, and metal from both employee and shop areas.
- Uses Lane County's programs for disposal of Florescent light bulbs, batteries, and donates outdated computers to Computer Reuse and Recycling Center.
- Reuses all incoming vendor packaging such as boxes, bubble wrap and newsprint to pack and ship their product to customers.

- Inventory is closely monitored to avoid waste of outdated parts and minimal packaging is sought.
- Bike tires from Schwab made from 100% recycled material.
- Power purchased from EWEB is 100% wind.
- Use 100% recycled content office paper and toweling products; bike manuals contain 30% recycled content.
- Shop rags are reused t-shirts from St. Vincent de Paul, cartridges by using Rapid Refill
- Offers a used bike program to customers allowing them to upgrade and improve their existing bike rather than purchase new.

#### **F. Alternatives/Options**

The Board may choose to award Trashbuster Awards to the proposed recipients or the Board may choose not to award to the proposed recipients.

#### **IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION**

A time certain agenda placement is requested at 10:00 am so the Board can present a plaque to each award recipient selected for recognition.

#### **V. RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of the Trashbuster Awards as proposed by the Resource Recovery Advisory Committee. The potential recipients meet all award criteria established by the Committee.

#### **VI. FOLLOW-UP**

None.

#### **VII. ATTACHMENTS**

Board Order

