

The Newsletter of WSU Snohomish County Extension Sustainable Community Stewards



May 2016
Volume II, Issue 7



The Newest in Certifications

Energy Stewards 2016!

By Stephanie Leeper

The new program, Energy Stewards, graduated its first class of 8 dedicated volunteers on May 4th. These volunteers went through four weeks of training on topics including: energy 101, sustainability, peak oil, bioenergy, energy efficiency, and alternative energy. The volunteers also trekked to the Stanwood Pilchuck Poplar Field Demonstration Site and to the Qualco Bio-Digester to see local implementations of alternative energy.

These volunteers will go out in to the community and share information through several different methods.

Some of the avenues and venues for this educating process are:

1. Giving live presentations to local groups,
2. Educating local policy makers about energy choices in the county,
3. Meeting the public and explaining the issues at booths at events , and
4. Informing through a social media marketing campaign.

I look forward to sharing their accomplishments with you as the year progresses!



The Edmonds Waterfront Festival is quickly approaching

Your help is needed!

Once again, we will be doing our scientific study to determine people’s behaviors when it comes to garbage, recycling, and composting. We have three treatments that we are using, and they are the following:

1. Three-bin system without signs or volunteers:

We will implement this treatment on Friday night where we will stick the three-bin systems out — with no signage or volunteers to educate and monitor the bins.

“Compost” and “Recycling” will be labeled on the containers, and will have green and blue lids respectively. We want to see if people know what is compostable (or not) and recyclable without any prompting.

2. The three-bin system with signs, but without volunteers:

We will implement this treatment on Saturday. We will put out the three bins again, but add signage as well. Hopefully, the additional

prompting from the signs will bring an increase in properly sorted items — and an increase in the diversion rate from the landfill.

3. Lastly, we will do our business as usual with signs, volunteer educators, and the bins:

we will implement this on the final day of the festival, Sunday. With volunteers and signs to help festival goers sort their waste, we expect to see little to no contamination and a high diversion rate from the landfill. In the past when we’ve educated, we see very little contamination and boast that almost all of the waste from the food court is diverted!

This data is very valuable to us in the long run in order to continue bringing volunteers out to festivals to educate at the decision point. Most festivals will only provide the three bin station, and sometimes add signs. I hope that you can join us for a fun festival!



Here’s Your Opportunity

Find your favorite time slot — Sign Up Today — Email [Stephanie Leeper](mailto:Stephanie.Leeper@wsu.edu)

Saturday June 4th		Sunday June 5th			
	Waste Characterization		Waste Educator		Waste Characterization
11am-2pm	1. Betsy Siedsik	11am-2pm	1. Troy Enright		1. Courtney Siebken
	2. Ed Siedsik		2. Genevieve Heuer		2. Volunteer Needed!
	3. Volunteer Needed!		3. Volunteer Needed!		3. Volunteer Needed!
2pm-5pm	1. Volunteer Needed!	2pm-5pm	1. Volunteer Needed!		1. Volunteer Needed!
	2. Volunteer Needed!		2. Volunteer Needed!		2. Volunteer Needed!
	3. Volunteer Needed!		3. Volunteer Needed!		3. Volunteer Needed!
5pm-8pm	1. Volunteer Needed!	5pm-8pm	1. Volunteer Needed!		1. Volunteer Needed!
	2. Volunteer Needed!		2. Volunteer Needed!		2. Volunteer Needed!
	3. Kathy Bowman		3. Volunteer Needed!		3. Kathy Bowman

Styrofoam Recycling in Everett

Now there is an actual recycler in Everett. They are located at 101 E Marine View Drive, and they are open business days 8:00 to 3:00. There are helpful people there who help you unload.

The recycling takes place right there at the plant. If you ask for a quick tour, you will see the machines where the magic takes place. The styrofoam is fed into the machine, and comes out in 60-pound bricks. The bricks are loaded onto pallets, into shipping containers, and hauled off to China to be used again. It's pretty slick to see how it works.

Just a couple of things to help keep in mind when you



take yours in:

1. They want all tape removed and the styro should be clean. Food stains are ok — but no food please.
2. They take Peanuts, Foam Wrap, Colored Styrofoam, and of course Rigid Styrofoam — from cups to rigid packaging.

If you don't have time to take yours to north Everett, just call Kathy or email. 206-510-9554. katsbow@gmail.com

Set Up Your Own Waste Warrior Event

Call or email [Laura Kelly](#) to check out the Clearstream system for your event. We use them at our society's potlucks. By doing this, we are bringing awareness to the group, and they are taking the ideas to *their* other group events. So far our group has become very aware of the differences in plates and cutlery. They purchase with recycling in mind. They wash plastic cutlery. People really want to do the right thing. Sometimes they just need a little "education."

How it works:

1. **Contact Laura Kelly in the City of Everett.** The Clearstream system is available for events in Snohomish County. She'll have it all ready for you

when you arrive., and she'll answers any questions. She's very helpful.

2. **Transport the system in your car.** It breaks down into manageable components.
3. **Set up at your event.** It helps to put up extra signs and even sit next to the containers. Sometimes people need help knowing how to sort their trash.
4. **Dismantle when the event is over.** I use the Society's trash and recycling containers but take the compostables home to put in our yard waste bin for pickup.
5. Once you do this, it's hard not to!



Shown here: Waste Warriors at the National Night Out last summer.

You too can use the Clearstream containers at your own group's event.

Contact [Stephanie](#), [Kathy](#), or [Laura Kelly](#) for **How to Do It.** It's easy!

Sustainable Community Stewards News

From the WSU Snohomish County Extension

Class of 2016 in Review



Energy Stewards visited the Qualco site, where they make energy from waste.

How good can it get!?

Volunteers sort the waste — Compostable, Recyclable, Trash — at the Mukilteo Light House Festival.

They learned that people like to do the right thing, but need guidance!



Sustainable Community Stewards News

From the WSU Snohomish County Extension

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Energy Stewards Program	5	6	7 9:00 am-12:00 pm Master Gardener Plant Sale
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 2:00pm – 3:30pm Climate Change & Health
15	16	17 6:30 Potluck at McCollum	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 9:30-10:30 Green Cleaning at Erin E School — VO	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Edmonds Waterfront Festival VO	4 Edmonds Waterfront Festival VO
5 Edmonds Waterfront Festival VO	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

*VO — Volunteer Opportunity
 **VH — Counts as Volunteer Hours

Sustainable Community Stewards News

From the WSU Snohomish County Extension

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 14th — Climate Change and Health

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm *Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett*

Dr. Ken Lans, a retired physician and Climate Leader with the Climate Reality Project, counts the present and future health costs of human-induced climate change. www.climaterealityproject.org/

Tuesday, May 17th — Potluck with the Stewards

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm *McCollum Park — You know the place*

Come enjoy the companionship of people who feel passionately about the things you care about.



Thursday, May 26th — Green Cleaning

9:30 am to 10:30 am *Erin Elementary School*

1-2 volunteers needed to assist! Email Stephanie if you can help.

Friday, June 3rd to Monday June 6th — Edmonds Waterfront Festival

See [Page 2](#) for Volunteer Time Slots

This is a great Waste Warrior event — Come take part in a scientific study to track people's recycling habits and knowledge.



Wednesday, June 8th -- Green Drinks

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm *Location TBA*

See greendrinkssnoco.blogspot.com/ for details.