

Subject: FW: Zero Waste Vashon's July 2019 Newsletter
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From: Will Lockwood
To: Will Lockwood

Zero Waste Vashon Newsletter

July 2019 Edition

Zero Waste Vashon (Z WV) is a non-profit organization and is 100% volunteer driven. Our goal is to inspire the Vashon and Maury Island communities to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink."



Z WV EVENT RECYCLING ON VASHON

Z WV has heard repeated requests from the community that they would like to see more recycling and less waste at the many Vashon Island events. Z WV staff and volunteers have heeded the call and we started our waste reduction initiative at some of the smaller events such as Land Trust dinners, Heritage Museum Virginia V tour, Mukai Farm Japanese Festival and Rotary's Blues & Brews.

In 2018 Z WV tackled the Strawberry Festival by setting up 15 recycling stations, which diverted about a sixth of the trash from the landfill: converting over 250 lbs of food waste into compost and recycling over 400 lbs of clean glass, plastic, metal, paper and cardboard. This year Z WV is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to fund two recycling stations at the Strawberry Festival that will sort recyclables in order to minimize contamination.

Our aspiration is to generate the "Vashon Green Protocol"- advice and guidelines for Island organizations, such as using compostable or

reusable beverage containers, plates and utensils. These are all steps to make our events as waste free as possible, ultimately increasing Vashon's sustainability. We hear you!

ZWV ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Compost Facility Committee - Feasibility Study

King County Solid Waste Division (KCSWD) is requesting proposals to study the feasibility of building and operating a compost facility on Vashon Island (publicly or privately owned and operated) to provide local, on-island composting of organics including yard waste and food waste. Zero Waste Vashon has been invited to advise in the RFP process. The ZWV Compost Committee had our first meeting with KCSWD representatives about the Compost Facility Feasibility Study in mid May. We initially met at the Vashon Island Transfer Station and toured the vacant land around the facility including the adjacent "Borrow Pit" (origin of the dirt cap for the closed landfill). The meeting continued with a discussion about preliminary thoughts, concerns and ideas around this project. The county representatives were very interested in our input and ZWV received a draft copy of the RFP that described the scope of the feasibility study. The Committee members have provided written suggestions to KCSWD on the RFP and the RFP is expected to be released in July 2019.

Bring Your Own (BYO) Committee

During the month of April, ZWV along with all of the Island Coffee / Tea shops sponsored a "Bring your Own Mug" (BYOM) campaign to raise awareness of the large number of non-recyclable, single use coffee cups we use every day.

BYOM Participants were offered a special discount on their beverage of choice for To Go orders. The goal of the BYOM campaign was to change our habits as well as raise awareness of how small changes in our personal behavior can make a difference. By some estimates, we use over 110 million paper cups per day (!) in the USA.

We received positive feedback from both the Island community and the coffee shops. While estimating the impact of the one month BYOM campaign was difficult, anecdotal evidence indicates we kept a few thousand single use cups out of the landfill. Feedback from the coffee shops reveals that our local coffee drinkers are continuing to BYOM!

ZWV wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the Vashon Island Coffee Shop Participants including: Café Luna, Burton Coffee Stand, Vashon Bakery, Minglement / Roasterie, Thriftway, Anu Ranas Healthy Kitchen, AJ's, Snap Dragon & Wild Mermaid, and Vashon Theater.

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Committee

ZWV was honored to be invited to the ribbon cutting and unveiling of the Impact Bio-energy Anaerobic Digester at the Vashon Bio-energy Farm (VBF) located at Island Springs Organics (Tofu factory) in mid-April. The event was well attended by about 70 people and featured facility tours and lunch by Orca Eats. This demonstration project is slated for start-up in the near future as equipment set-up and commissioning is planned for later this month. The okara and whey waste stream from Island Springs Organics will be processed in the "Nautilus" unit which generates renewable natural gas (RNG), CO₂, heat, power and organic fertilizer (digestate). Discussions are also underway with the Vashon Island Land Trust to potentially utilize the liquid or solid digestate at Matsuda Farm.

Scholarship Committee

On May 29th, ZWV awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Destin Redeker during the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation Awards Ceremony. Destin has previously served as a volunteer to ZWV and will be pursuing a degree at South Seattle College. ZWV board member, Mike Riggs attended the ceremony and extended his personal congratulations to this worthy candidate.



Education Committee

Amy Borgard and the Chautauqua Green Team held "Earth Day in the Woods" on April 19. With the aid & support of volunteers, the 4th grade Green Team members welcomed other students as they arrived on buses. Green Team members divided into groups that hosted booths and instructed their fellow classmates about how to contribute to a healthier earth.

ZWV board members Julia Lakey (emeritus) and Nancy O'Connor were happy to be a part of the day: the "Habitat Team" displayed a variety of habitats that shelter and encourage beneficial bugs, bees and critters and explained the importance of gardens that provide homes and food for wildlife at their hands-on booth. The "Recycling Crew" highlighted the importance of composting & recycling in order to reduce what goes into landfills and had fun as they engaged their audiences with a quiz - What do we do with paper, plastic, food and other waste? Recycle? Compost? Garbage?



Congratulations on a fun and informative Earth Day Chautauqua Green Team!

Give Big 2019!

ZWV would like to extend our thanks to all of our supporters that participated in Give Big 2019 with donations to ZWV. Your generous donations allowed us to raise approximately \$2000 towards projects and programs that help reduce waste on-island and continue our outreach and education efforts.



ZWV ACTIVITY UPDATES

Recent Outreach Events

Vashon Rotary Blues and Brews Festival - ZWV attended the event and coordinated the Garbage, Recycling and Food Waste collection. In cooperation with the Rotary Club and Orca Eats, ZWV collected over 1700 "commercially" compostable cups, clam shells, bamboo plates, and food waste totaling about 250 gallons. These items were then dropped off at the Vashon Island Transfer Station. ZWV also collected Commingled recycling (85 gallons) along with mixed garbage (250 gals).



Upcoming Outreach Events

The following is an ever expanding list of upcoming events where ZWV will be appearing during the busy summer. Please drop by and say "hi" and catch up on the latest and greatest news from ZWV.

- Vashon Island Land Trust Big Sky Dinner, July 6th - ZWV coordinating Garbage, Recycling and Food Waste collection
- Styrofoam Recycling, July 7th - First Sunday of the Month, former Kimmco Building
- Health Care for Vashon Campaign Kickoff, Recycling and Food Waste collection, Mukai Farm and Garden, July 10th
- Heritage Museum Ice Cream Social, Recycling and Food Waste collection, Vashon Heritage Museum, July 19th
- Strawberry Festival, July 19, 20 and 21. ZWV Booth, Event Waste Disposal sponsored in part by ZWV in cooperation with Diane Emerson and Team.
- King County Solid Waste (KCSW) Big Recycle / Pick up Event at Vashon High School, August 10th - ZWV Information Booth at the Event
- Vashon Island Farmers Market, August 17th - ZWV Information Booth at the Event in cooperation with VIGA
- Styrofoam Recycling, September 1st - First Sunday of the Month, former Kimmco Building
- "Plastic China" Movie showing at the Vashon Theatre, September
- Annie Crawley Lecture, Award Winning producer, underwater photographer, author and motivational speaker, VAC, October 6th
- "Symphony of the Soil" Movie showing at Vashon Theatre, late 2019

HOW TO SUPPORT ZERO WASTE VASHON

If you are looking for other ways to support your local non-profit, check out the following programs:

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Thriftway Loyalty Club

As a Loyalty Club Member you receive coupons and discounts with your Loyalty Card at Thriftway. On a periodic basis, you will receive a coupon which allows you to donate \$5 to a local non-profit (hopefully you will select ZWV)!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Styrofoam Recycling Helpers Needed

The first Sunday of the month is Styrofoam Recycling Day. Thanks to Nadine Edelstein this popular program has been a great success, but she could use some helps to keep it running. She needs 2 volunteers to help with unloading the cars and loading the truck. It's easy work and greatly appreciated. Delivery drivers are also needed for Tuesday mornings following the Sunday collection.

The fast-paced run starts with picking up the truck on Sunrise Ridge and catching the 6:35 am ferry to Fauntleroy. The route includes stops at one to three Styrofoam and plastics processing plants in Kent and then stops to pick up food at two warehouses for delivery at the Vashon-Maury Food Bank.

For more information contact: marian.whited@zerowastevashon.com

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Algae: Single-Celled Savior Of The Climate Crisis

Research by a group of Cornell scientists has shown some promise in producing carbon-neutral fuels from algae. Their work led them to find that not only does it have the potential for a practical, employable solution to render the transportation sector carbon-negative, it also has the

potential to feed the world while reducing pressure on forests, fresh water and ocean fisheries. The protein value is so large that the fuel produced becomes just a by-product. The good thing is that these systems scale well. On an industrial scale the potential is huge and profitable.

This is the kind of hopeful, forward-thinking science the world needs to address the climate crisis. If you have time, watch the Stanford Energy lecture video at the end of the article. It shares a lot more details and reference.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2019/05/28/algae-single-celled-savior-of-the-climate-crisis>

Canada bans Single Use Plastics

Canada will ban "harmful" single-use plastics as early as 2021 in a bid to reduce ocean waste, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced. Products may include plastic bags, plates, straws, stir sticks and cutlery. This initiative is modeled on similar legislation passed last year by the European Union and other nations. Canada will also establish "targets" for companies that manufacture or sell plastics to be responsible for their plastic waste. Currently less than 10% of plastic used in Canada gets recycled.

2019 WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION - ONGOING BILLS OF INTEREST

See Zero Waste Washington web site for current updates
<https://zerowastewashington.org/legislative-work/>

Contact your Washington State Legislators

Senator Joe Nguyen (Joe.Nguyen@leg.wa.gov)

Representative Eileen Cody (Eileen.Cody@leg.wa.gov)

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (Joe.Fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all of our Board Members, Volunteers and Donors who contribute to the ongoing success of Zero Waste Vashon!

If you are interested in volunteering, getting involved, donating to ZWV, or simply have a question, let us know.

Web Page: www.zerowastevashon.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/zerowastevashon

Email: info@zerowastevashon.org



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE & RETHINK

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