



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager

From: Elaine Borjeson, Solid Waste Coordinator
Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director

Date: November 3, 2005

Subject: 2005 BUSINESS RECYCLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council recognize the Quality Food Center (QFC) located at 11224 NE 124th Street in Totem Lake as the 2005 recipient of Kirkland's Business Recycler of the Year Award.

BACKGROUND:

The City implemented a recognition award in 2003 to encourage Kirkland businesses to reduce waste and recycle. Funding for this program is provided by the King County Waste Reduction and Recycling grant. The goal of the award is to recognize businesses with particularly effective waste reduction and recycling programs that divert at least 50% of their waste. Earlier this fall, a newsletter with an application form was distributed to businesses throughout Kirkland (Attachment 1). Follow-up phone calls and on-site visits were made by the City's recycling outreach consultant, Olympic Environmental Resources, to promote the program and provide businesses with support in setting up or improving their waste reduction and recycling practices.

The application, site visit and audit of the Totem Lake QFC proved that they have an exceptional waste reduction and recycling program. The seventy employees at QFC recycle cardboard, wood pallets, shrink-wrap, PET plastics, paper products and organic materials. The store enthusiastically participates in Kirkland's pilot organics program to recycle commercial foodwaste. They encourage customers to recycle plastic bags (not currently offered in Kirkland's curbside recycling program) by providing a plastic bag recycling bin inside their store. All employees are trained to recycle materials as part of their on-the-job training. In addition, the Totem Lake QFC implemented a "Save 5 Program" that challenges each department to reduce energy and conserve resources by 5% each year. The energy conservation program includes using fluorescent lights, timers and sensors on switches, re-using packaging supplies from vendors, distributing information electronically, purchasing rechargeable batteries, tools and equipment and providing employees with durable dishes for use on work breaks. The Totem Lake QFC also "closes the loop" by purchasing products made with recycled content. Their envelopes, file folders, plastic garbage bags, cardboard boxes, weekly advertising brochures and flyers are all manufactured with recycled content material.

Store Manager, Ron Davidson, is committed to resource conservation and waste reduction, and his commitment is evident in the leadership he provides to QFC's recycling program. As a result, the Totem Lake QFC has helped the environment and reduced operating costs through their recycling and conservation programs. The Totem Lake QFC is an example to the Kirkland community of a company taking pride in environmental stewardship and is highly deserving of the 2005 Business Recycler of the Year Award.

Attachment: 1 – Business Recycling Program newsletter



SUMMER 2005

Business Recycling Program

RECYCLING FOODWASTE & HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT



Restaurants have been recycling materials like cardboard, paper, plastic, glass and aluminum for quite a while. Although recycling these materials decreases

garbage, more than 30% of trash is made up of old food or food-soiled paper. In an attempt to further reduce garbage volumes, King County and the City of Kirkland have partnered with Waste Management to pilot a food-recycling program for businesses.

In March 2005, about 30 Kirkland businesses started participating in a pilot program to recycle food scraps and food soiled paper. A variety of businesses are participating, including grocery stores, childcare centers, small restaurants, schools and fast food chains.

The program accepts a number of materials that have not been collected for recycling in previous food waste programs. Participants can recycle items such as raw or cooked meat scraps, dairy products, bones and paper napkins. Liquids, grease, metals, plastics or glass are not accepted in this program.

Food waste and soiled paper are collected in biodegradable bags that are made from corn. Materials are transported to the Cedar Grove Compost facility where they are mixed with yard waste from residents. Yard waste and food waste are shredded and put into large piles. The piles are covered with a thick fabric that helps to speed up the composting process.

Composted food turns into a valuable soil amendment after about eight weeks. The resulting compost can be purchased by local businesses and residents and used to improve soil health and provide nutrients for plants - thus further helping the environment! In the future, this program may be available to more Kirkland restaurants.

City of Kirkland

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Funding for this newsletter is provided by the King County Solid Waste Division and the Washington State Department of Ecology.



2004 KIRKLAND BUSINESS RECYCLER OF THE YEAR



Since the summer of 1989, Kirkland's Totem Lake neighborhood has been home to Larry's Market. It was at this location that Larry's Markets introduced their B.I.O. Department – natural, organic and environmentally friendly products. Last Fall, the Totem Lake Larry's Market was named the 2004 Kirkland Business Recycler of the Year.

In addition to recycling cardboard, wood pallets, shrink-wrap and paper products, the store specializes in waste reduction and reuse. In the mid-1990's, store personnel became frustrated with the amount of packaging material going into the garbage – much of which came from the waxed covered cardboard boxes used to ship their produce. Because of the wax coating, the boxes were not recyclable. To prevent this waste, the store insisted that their vendors ship products to them in durable plastic containers. After each use, the containers are returned to the vendor and used again and again. Since the implementation of this program, countless waxed cardboard boxes have been kept from the landfill. Similarly, Larry's encourages their vendors to use durable plastic shipping pallets. They also donate day-old bakery goods to local food banks; provide produce scraps to local farmers to use as animal feed; supply durable dishes for their employees to use while at work; and, to cut back on paper waste, distribute information to staff electronically.

To encourage their customers to reduce the use of disposable grocery bags, the store donates \$2.00 from every purchase of a Larry's durable shopping bag to FareStart and YouthCare. FareStart empowers homeless men, women and families through training and employment in the food service industry and YouthCare provides outreach to homeless and runaway youth in the greater Seattle community.

Furthermore, Larry's Market is "closing-the-loop" by purchasing many products made with recycled content.



City of Kirkland Solid Waste Coordinator Elaine Borjeson congratulates Larry's Market Store Director Dave Washburn for becoming the 2004 Kirkland Business Recycler of the Year.

Their stationery, business cards, brochures and flyers are all produced on recycled content paper. Taking this a step further, Larry's encourages their customers to use recycled content products by providing many of these items for purchase.

Congratulations Larry's Market! Your waste reduction, recycling and buy recycled efforts are superb and your company is a great example to all Kirkland businesses.

“If we can reduce waste and help others in the community, we feel this is a good mutual benefit.”

Larry's Market Store Director Dave Washburn

2003 KIRKLAND BUSINESS RECYCLER OF THE YEAR: PCC NATURAL MARKETS



PCC Natural Markets is a true leader in green business practices. The Kirkland store recycles close to

135 tons of material each year! The PCC philosophy is to operate in an environmentally friendly way. They strive to stock their shelves with items produced in a manner that helps sustain the environment and they encourage their customers to shop this way too.

GET THE RECOGNITION YOU DESERVE!

Becoming the Kirkland Business Recycler of the Year can be a powerful marketing tool in a region that supports environmentally responsible businesses. To be considered for the 2005 award, complete the enclosed application and submit it by September 16, 2005.

CONTACT US

The City of Kirkland has created this newsletter to provide our businesses with information on waste reduction and recycling.

By using this information, you are contributing to Kirkland's success in reaching aggressive recycling goals and helping our community maintain its reputation as an environmental leader.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact a Recycling Consultant at (206) 852-5831 or e-mail us at recycle@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

2004 EVENT KEEPS 18 TONS OF MATERIAL OUT OF THE LANDFILL

2005 EVENT: September 15, 2005 (businesses will be notified by mail), Totem Lake Mall Parking Lot

Thank you to all of the businesses that helped make Kirkland's 2004 Recycling Collection Event such a success. The Event, held September 16th at the Totem Lake Mall, attracted 124 Kirkland businesses and collected 18 tons of material.

Some of the volumes and materials collected include:

- 9.5 tons of scrap metal and electronic equipment
- 5.8 tons of pallets and scrap wood
- 1.3 tons of cardboard
- 1.4 tons of office paper
- 804 fluorescent lights



Kirkland businesses bringing materials to the 2004 Recycling Collection Event for Businesses.



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123 Fifth Ave
Kirkland, WA 98033
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

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Business Customer ECRWSS

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ALL-IN-ONE-RECYCLING - NO MORE SORTING!

Kirkland businesses that have recycling service with Waste Management no longer need to sort their recycling. All Kirkland business customers are eligible to recycle up to 150% of their garbage container size with Waste Management at **no additional fee**.

Businesses that currently have recycling do not need to get new recycling containers and do not need to contact Waste Management to arrange the service. Businesses can start commingling materials immediately, using the containers already in place.

Cardboard, mixed paper, tin, aluminum, glass and plastics all go into one container!

To get free All-In-One stickers for your recycling containers or to start a recycling program, call Waste Management at (800) 592-9995.

Businesses that do not have recycling service through Waste Management should contact their recycling hauler for program details.



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Kirkland Business Recycler of the Year 2005

RECYCLING HAS ITS REWARDS

BECOME THE KIRKLAND BUSINESS RECYCLER OF THE YEAR AND GET THE RECOGNITION YOU DESERVE

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THE REWARDS

- Plaque
- Certificate
- Company Profile in the Business Recycling Program Newsletter

To be considered for the Kirkland Business Recycler of the Year award, your business must demonstrate all of the following:

- Practice at least six waste prevention activities.
- Have a disposal rate of no more than 40%.
- Use at least six recycled products.
- Conduct at least two activities that involve employees, customers, suppliers and/or the general public in preventing waste, recycling and using recycled products.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Send the completed application to:
Solid Waste Coordinator
City of Kirkland Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033-6189
- Applications are due no later than **5:00 P.M., September 16, 2005.**
- Call a Recycling Consultant at (206) 852-5831 if you have any questions.
- Award will be given in conjunction with America Recycles Day in November.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date:

Telephone:

Contact person (name, title):

Company:

Facility mailing address:

Facility street address, if different:

Number of employees at this location:

How did you hear about the Business Recycler of the Year award?:

Has your organization been able to decrease its garbage collection service as a result of recycling?

Yes No Do not know

A City of Kirkland representative will verify all information provided in this application. Meeting the criteria outlined in the application is a prerequisite to being considered for the Business Recycler of the Year award but does not ensure the award to the applicant. The Business Recycler of the Year will be determined by a City of Kirkland representative after all applications have been reviewed and the information verified.

PREVENTING WASTE

Waste prevention is any activity which eliminates or reduces solid waste that would otherwise be thrown out or recycled. Check those waste prevention activities practiced by your organization. List any additional activities in the space provided for "other". To be considered for the Business Recycler of the Year award, your business must practice at least six waste prevention activities.

- Make double-sided copies
- Avoid cover sheets for faxes
- Circulate or post one copy of memos and reports
- Reuse packaging supplies
- Use outdated letterhead for in-house memos
- Provide employees with durable dishes

- Purchase durable, reusable and rechargeable products
- Store information electronically instead of hard copies

Other:

-
-

RECYCLING

Check the materials collected in your recycling program. List any additional materials in the space provided for "other". To be considered for the Business Recycler of the Year award, your business must recycle at least fifty percent of solid waste.

Paper:

- Mixed paper
- White paper
- Newsprint
- Corrugated Cardboard

Organics:

- Yard trimmings
- Food scraps (includes cooking oils)
- Wood debris (includes pallets)

Metals:

- Aluminum cans
- Tin/steel cans
- Ferrous metals

Glass:

- Glass bottles and jars

Plastics:

- PET (includes bottles, coded #1)
- HDPE (includes bottles, coded #2)
- Stretch wrap
- Other industrial plastics

Other:

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-
-

DISPOSAL RATE PER EMPLOYEE

Please calculate your disposal rate using the formulae below.

Definitions: "Waste generated" includes all solid waste materials that a facility must dispose of as either garbage or recyclables.

"Waste disposed" includes only the portion of the waste that is being disposed of as garbage (going to a landfill).

Formulae: lbs. of waste generated (garbage + recycling) ÷ # of employees = waste generated per employee.

lbs. of waste disposed (garbage) ÷ # of employees = waste disposed per employee.

Example: 1,000 pounds of waste generated per month ÷ 25 employees = 40 pounds generated per employee monthly.

Of that 1,000 pounds, 400 pounds is garbage. $400 \div 25 = 16$ pounds waste disposed (garbage) per employee monthly.

$16 \div 40 = .40 \times 100 = 40\%$ disposal rate. The lower the number, the better.

Disposal Rate Per Employee for Your Organization:

USING RECYCLED PRODUCTS

Recycled products are made with materials that have been collected for recycling. When you purchase recycled products, you support recycling by creating a market for recyclable materials.

Check those products you use which are made with recycled materials. List any additional recycled products in the space provided for "other". To be considered for the Business Recycler of the Year award, your business must use at least six recycled products.

- Copy paper
- Letterhead
- Envelopes
- Cardboard boxes
- Toilet paper
- File folders
- Brochure/flyer paper
- Garbage bags
- Business cards

Other:

-
-
-

INVOLVING EMPLOYEES, CUSTOMERS, SUPPLIERS AND THE PUBLIC

To be considered for the Business Recycler of the Year award, your business must conduct at least two activities that involve employees, customers, suppliers and/or the general public in preventing waste, recycling and using recycled products. Use additional paper if necessary.

Examples:

Waste Prevention: Provide incentives to suppliers, customers or employees to prevent waste.

Recycling: Establish a recycling committee to promote your recycling program.

Recycled Products: Inform suppliers in writing that you want to buy recycled products whenever available.

1.

2.