

## Seattle Conservation News

### *Increases Sought in Solid Waste and Water Rates*

To keep pace with inflation — including rising fuel and labor costs — and to retire debt incurred in the replacement of aging infrastructure, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has asked the City Council to approve an increase in water and solid waste rates.

Under the [proposal](#), water and solid waste rates would increase for commercial customers in 2009 and 2010.

Commercial customers can partially offset the proposed rate changes by becoming more water efficient and increasing their recycling and food waste composting.

Organics make up about one-third of commercial waste and provide a great opportunity for savings. By starting food waste collection, you may be able to reduce the size of your garbage collection container and your solid waste bill.

The [Saving Water Partnership](#) also offers several programs and incentives to help you install water efficient technologies and start saving water.

For more information, contact Resource Venture at (206) 343-8505 or [help@resourceventure.org](mailto:help@resourceventure.org).

### *LEED EB*

Obtain LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB): Address issues such as site maintenance, water conservation, indoor air quality, energy saving programs, recycling facilities and programs, purchasing practices, and green cleaning.

LEED-EB Gold-certification for the King Street Center in Seattle (King County's headquarters), led to energy and cost savings and an adoption of the standard by other county buildings.

For more information, please visit:

[U.S. Green Building Council: LEED for Existing Buildings](#)

Call Resource Venture at **(206) 343-8505** or e-mail [help@resourceventure.org](mailto:help@resourceventure.org) to get free advice on how waste prevention, recycling and composting can get your business points toward LEED EB certification— and improve your bottom line.

### *Climate Updates*

Measure your carbon footprint using the Seattle Climate Partnership [on-line carbon calculator](#) tool.

Why join the Seattle Climate Partnership?

Seattle Climate Partners commit to taking action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time cutting costs, improving the work environment for their employees, and improving their record of corporate responsibility. These Seattle-area businesses receive high-quality technical assistance, access to utility incentive programs, opportunities for cost-saving collaborations such as joint purchasing arrangements, and recognition for a job well-done.

To become a partner, download the Partnership Agreement, or feel free to contact Charlie Cunniff ([charlie.cunniff@seattle.gov](mailto:charlie.cunniff@seattle.gov)) or (206) 386-9748) at the Office of Sustainability & Environment. For more information on the Mayor's Green Ribbon Commission's recommendations, please visit [www.seattle.gov/climate/report.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/climate/report.htm).

## News & Upcoming Events

### **Hobart to Award \$5,000 for Best Foodservice, Sustainability Project**

Submissions are currently being accepted for the \$5,000 Hobart Center for Foodservice Sustainability (HCFS) grant to the individual or company judged to have the best-executed foodservice or food retail sustainability project of the year. The recipient will be announced at the 2008 Greenbuild Expo in Boston, November 19-21, 2008.

Applicants can enter by submitting a case study demonstrating how their program addressed sustainability challenges (e.g. reducing energy/water use; decreasing wastewater or solid waste; or implementing Farm-to-Fork programs). All submissions must be received by 5 p.m. EST August 29, 2008.

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## Case Study

### *Marten Law Group*

*As an environmental law firm, Marten Law Group felt they should look at their own operations and purchasing practices to look for areas of opportunity to introduce or expand sustainability initiatives.*



*Eve Rashby-Pollock*

*"A natural outgrowth of being involved in and aware of green issues is walking the walk ourselves," said Eve Rashby Pollock, Marten Legal Services Director and Chief Sustainability Officer. "We cannot overlook the importance of our own actions and how they affect our community and the environment."*

### *Highlights:*

- | *Through calculated paper reduction efforts, the firm reduced paper usage by 28 percent from 2006 to 2007 and continues to make significant reductions.*
- | *Marten Law Group was the first Pacific Northwest law firm to become a member of the ABA-EPA Law Firm Climate Challenge Program.*
- | *The firm is a member of the Seattle Climate Partnership working toward the program's goal of significant greenhouse gas emission reduction by the year 2012.*

*To learn more, contact Resource Venture at (206) 343-8505 or [help@resourceventure.org](mailto:help@resourceventure.org).*

To learn more or to access the official application, visit <http://www.hcfsforum.com/>.

### **Free Workshop! Water Efficiency: Driving Sustainable Buildings and Sites**

Take advantage of a free all day workshop on September 17 that will show you how to take advantage of sustainable building practices and site design and save water and energy while reducing your impact on climate change.

The workshop will give you the opportunity to learn about current and future water efficient design and operations, emerging technologies that support sustainable buildings and sites, and work with experts in commercial/industrial water conservation, green building and low impact development.

The workshop, which will be hosted at Golden Gardens Bathhouse in Seattle, is presented by the Saving Water Partnership, Seattle Public Utilities and Resource Venture. To learn more or register, visit [http://www.savingwater.org/Water\\_Efficiency\\_Workshop.htm](http://www.savingwater.org/Water_Efficiency_Workshop.htm) or contact Heidi Siegelbaum at [wastenot@speakeasy.net](mailto:wastenot@speakeasy.net) and (206) 784-4265, or Phil Paschke at [phil.paschke@seattle.gov](mailto:phil.paschke@seattle.gov) and (206) 684-5883.

Seattle Public Utilities, provides free resource efficiency assistance to businesses. Please contact us at [resourceventure.org](http://resourceventure.org) or 206-343-8505. Thank you.

## **Paper Reduction**

Did you know that:

- | Printing, copying, mailing, storing and disposing paper can exceed the initial cost of paper by as much as 31 times! (Source: [http://www.edf.org/documents/2860\\_Citigroup\\_CopyPaper.pdf](http://www.edf.org/documents/2860_Citigroup_CopyPaper.pdf))
- | Despite technology advancements and online communication, the average office worker uses about 10,000 sheets of copier paper annually. (Source: Federal Network for Sustainability)

### **What can you do to save your business money and valuable resources?**

Top Ten Paper Use Reduction Strategies

1. Become conscious of your paper consumption. Do you have ideas about changes you can make to use less paper?
2. Print and copy on both sides of the paper (duplex).
3. Save space, paper, and retrieval time by storing your documents electronically.
4. Send, request and circulate electronic copies instead of paper.
5. Use Print Preview to only print the pages you need instead of an entire document.
6. Use the "Tools/Track Changes" function to edit and share documents electronically for review.
7. Team with your IT department to set computers to send and receive faxes electronically.
8. Give paper a "second chance" by using the back side of already printed paper for draft and internal documents, or to stock the paper tray in your fax machine.
9. Before printing, check to remove blank pages, consolidate with extended margins or smaller type-size, and print graphics on an "as-needed" basis.
10. Print multiple images per sheet for PowerPoint slides or drafts. For example 4 slides per side, double sided, instead of one slide, single sided will save 7 sheets of paper.

When purchasing paper, choose high post-consumer recycled content, 30 percent, 50 percent or 100 percent, and when possible, choose paper that is locally produced.

For more helpful tips on saving money and resources by conserving paper, please visit <http://seattle.gov/papercuts/>.

Have a great paper reduction tip or success story? We'd like to hear about it, email [info@resourceventure.org](mailto:info@resourceventure.org).

## **Water Conservation**

### **Upgrade Your Urinals**

Consider upgrading the urinals in your building or facilities from common 1.5 gallon per flush to new, super-efficient pint per flush models. Potential savings for average use (18 flushes per day) could be as much as 6,400 gallons of water per urinal per year.

Rebates are available on efficient urinals and toilets, visit <http://www.savingwater.org/rebates.htm> to apply.

### **Get up to 50 Percent Back on Sprinkler System**

## Improvements

Simple, low-cost maintenance and upgrades on the irrigation system at your business can easily trim 20 percent or more off summer water bills—and improve the appearance of your landscape. The Saving Water Partnership offers rebates for up to half of the cost to make efficiency upgrades.

For more information, visit [www.savingwater.org/rebate3.htm](http://www.savingwater.org/rebate3.htm) or call (206) 684-5955.

## Planning a Car Wash Fundraising Event This Summer?

Community and charity car washes are a great way to raise money for a good cause, but can often be harmful to our local environment. To minimize the impact on the storm drainage system, consider hosting the event at a professional car wash, such as Brown Bear and members recommended by the [Puget Sound Car Wash Association](#) (PSCWA) that apply environmental practices at their facilities.

If you're planning an event, call Resource Venture to request a car wash kit.

- | They help the environment by redirecting polluted water, full of soap, grime, and oil, away from the storm drain and into a hose that connects to a toilet, sink, or drain where water is sent to a water treatment plant
- | They're free and easy to use for local businesses and community organizations

Contact Resource Venture for more information or assistance, (206) 343-8505 or [help@resourceventure.org](mailto:help@resourceventure.org).



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