

# RECYCLING WORKS

*It's Good Business*

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# Earth month 2000

join the celebration!



**E**arth Day is coming this April and in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, a month full of activities has been planned! The King County Department of Natural Resources (KCDNR) is taking the lead. Here are some programs and projects offered by King County:

### Recycled Building Materials Exchange

This is an easy way to list, advertise and exchange reuseable building materials online. Visit the database online at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/rbme/index.htm>.

### Habitat Partners

Businesses, along with community clubs and schools, can adopt restoration sites throughout King County. It's an opportunity for employees to enjoy the outdoors and make a contribution to the health of their watershed by performing a variety of duties such as planting native trees and shrubs, controlling invasive weeds and monitoring wildlife use of the site at their own convenience. King County provides a selection of sites, a site visit, training and support to make the site thrive. For more information, contact Michael Murphy at 206/296-8312 or via email at [michael-wlr.murphy@metrokc.gov](mailto:michael-wlr.murphy@metrokc.gov).



Volunteers help plant native trees and shrubs to protect water quality and improve salmon habitat along Des Moines Creek/the Sammamish River.

### "What Makes It Green" Exhibition and Panel

on sustainable building and salmon recovery, sponsored by KCDNR and the American Institute of Architects Committee for the Environment, will be held on April 20 from 6pm to 8pm at the Arctic Building in downtown Seattle. The panel is part of the Earth Day 2000 conference that runs April 19-20. Architects and builders are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the AIA at 206/448-4938 or visit their website at [www.aiaseattle.org](http://www.aiaseattle.org).

### Green Business Directory

This annually published resource of businesses that protect the County's resources will be hot off the presses in time for Earth Month activities. To order your copy, call 206/296-8800 or email your request to [greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov](mailto:greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov)

# WANTED: Your Old Computer

**Got an old computer that's gone bad?** As computer technology improves, equipment is put out of service at an increasingly alarming rate. Used equipment is often stashed in storage rooms and closets. Between now and the year 2005, an estimated 350,000 computer systems will be in storage or headed for the trash in King County.



## It Seems Criminal to Waste Old Computers

Most old computers have little resale value, but they can be useful in the right hands. King County's Computer Recovery Project provides resources and information about where to upgrade, donate or recycle your old computer equipment.

- **Rehabilitate Your Old Computer.** Many computers can be upgraded to extend their usefulness for years. The following companies provide upgrade services.

|                                 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>2nd Byte Computer</b>        | Seattle                                       | (206) 860-4333   |
| <b>All Repairs All Networks</b> | Seattle                                       | (206) 364-3620   |
| <b>All Tech</b>                 | Federal Way                                   | (253) 874-6468   |
| <b>Computer Craft</b>           | Renton  | (425) 227-9513   |
| <b>Computer Renaissance</b>     | Federal Way<br>Kirkland<br>Seattle<br>Tukwila | (253) 941-0900<br>(425) 814-7000<br>(206) 448-9566<br>(206) 575-2225 |
| <b>PC Recycle</b>               | Bellevue<br>Kirkland                          | (425) 373-1456<br>(425) 825-5550                                     |
| <b>RE-PC</b>                    | Seattle<br>Tukwila                            | (206) 623-9151<br>(206) 575-8737                                     |

- **Some Computers Just Need a Second Chance: Make Them Do Community Service.** Working computer equipment can be donated to local charities. The following charitable organizations will take working computer equipment that are 486s or newer. Call them for details.

|                              |                           |                             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Computer Bank Charity</b> | King County               | donations@compbank.org      |
| <b>Powerful Schools</b>      | Seattle                   | (206) 505-1552<br>ext. 4627 |
| <b>Salvation Army</b>        | All King County locations | (206) 587-0503              |
| <b>Seattle Goodwill</b>      | All King County locations | (206) 329-1000              |
| <b>St. Vincent de Paul</b>   | All King County locations | (206) 767-3835              |
| <b>Trinity Technology</b>    | King County               | (425) 373-1877              |

It is especially important to properly manage broken computer monitors. Monitors that contain cathode ray tubes (CRTs) can introduce lead and other metals into the environment. Businesses can recycle their broken or non-working computer monitors for a nominal handling/recycling fee.

For a list of additional locations that repair and recycle used computers, visit the Reuse and Recycling Database at <http://www6.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/recycle/recycle.asp> or call 206/296-8800.

- **If Reform is Out of the Question, Turn in Your Bad Computer. And Make Sure It Comes Quietly.** Broken computer equipment that can't be repaired may still be recyclable. Many elements used in computer manufacturing such as metals and some plastics can be recovered. Please call ahead to check which materials are accepted.

|                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>AAA Liquidating</b>      | Normandy Park                                 | (206) 824-3033   |
| <b>Computer Renaissance</b> | Federal Way<br>Kirkland<br>Seattle<br>Tukwila | (253) 941-0900<br>(425) 814-7000<br>(206) 448-9566<br>(206) 575-2225 |
| <b>Hallmark Refining</b>    | King County                                   | (800) 255-1895   |
| <b>PC Recycle</b>           | Bellevue<br>Kirkland                          | (425) 373-1456<br>(425) 825-5550                                     |
| <b>RE-PC</b>                | Seattle<br>Tukwila                            | (206) 623-9151<br>(206) 575-8737                                     |
| <b>Technology Recovery</b>  | King County                                   | (360) 923-0613   |
| <b>Vetco</b>                | Bellevue                                      | (425) 824-3033   |



## In Action: Distinguished Businesses in the Green

### Mountain View Gift Baskets



Mountain View Gift Baskets packs guilt-inducing goodies like “chocolate decadence” into their gift selections, but their packaging is guilt-free. Cushioning their attractive smaller displays are unbleached, recycled-content filler and Kraft boxes. When larger boxes call for packing peanuts, Mountain View uses only the recycled-content type. They always enclose a notice encouraging consumers to reuse or recycle the peanuts, inviting them to return these materials to Mountain View. Even baskets go around again: Consumers are encouraged to drop them off for re-use, or the company will also donate them to the YMCA.

Who doesn't “go postal” at being deluged with catalogs? The only direct mail Mountain View sends is a postcard. Catalogs are available by request, but the company's new web site catalog adds a quick, secure, and waste-free alternative.

The photo of Mt. Rainier on Mountain View's web site isn't just decoration; it's inspiration for the company to do its best to protect the region in Rainier's shadow. Mountain View's staff is careful not only about what they send out, but what they use at work. By choosing durable dishware, recycled-content office supplies, and double-sided copies, they keep their recycling rate high and their waste levels low—and that's a valuable gift to the environment. For more information, contact Jo Masterson at 425/453-7310.

### New Green Works Members

- ALSTOM ESCA Corp., *Bellevue*
- Alternative Health Remedies, *Redmond*
- Aromatherapy Skin Care Clinic, *Woodinville*
- Brookfield Veterinary Hospital, *Redmond*
- City of Bellevue - Fire Department, Station One, *Bellevue*
- City of Shoreline - City Hall, *Shoreline*
- Excalibur Cutlery & Gifts, *Bellevue*
- Fashion West, *Renton*
- Harding Lawson & Associates, *Bellevue*
- Insee, Best, Doezie and Ryder, PS, *Bellevue*
- Law Office of Ruth Laura Edlund, *Bellevue*
- Mt Peak Medical Clinic, *Enumclaw*
- Tall Fashions Northwest, *Renton*
- Washington State Liquor Control Board, *Kent*

### Perkins Coie LLP

Waste prevention? It's common law at Perkins Coie. This legal firm closes the “loopholes” in the recycling cycle by choosing recycled-content office products and low-waste methods of working.

With several hundred attorneys in its Seattle office alone, Perkins Coie is in a position to set precedents in waste prevention. Law firms run on paper, and Perkins' use of high-quality, recycled-content stationery and copy paper helps the firm—and forests—keep growing. The clerical staff at Perkins Coie keeps everyone on the same page about conservation by reminding workers to keep memos double-sided and to use single-sided printouts for scratch paper. They recharge laser cartridges and keep suppliers on the lookout for new recycled products. Thinking of throwing out a soda can or a cardboard box? Overruled! The area's largest law firm sends staff regular—and paperless—emails to keep everyone up to date on recycling tips and results. For more information, contact Karen Eggertsen at 425/881-7955.

PERKINS COIE LLP

## One Giant Upgrade Step For Old Computers With Powerleap

Don't throw away that old computer! Some older models with slow processors can now keep up with the newest computers, thanks to the new Powerleap upgrade. Many people are closeting their old Pentiums because the processor is too slow to run newer applications.

A computer's processor will determine how quickly and smoothly an application runs – so a slow processor can mean a long processing time as you work in a program. The Powerleap adapter, once installed onto your old computer's motherboard by an expert, can boost existing Pentium PCs with a 75, 83, 95 or 100 MHz processor to 400 MHz. With the adapter, your old computer can run processor-intensive

applications – such as 3-D gaming, speech recognition, image processing and CAD (Computer-Aided Design), a popular program used by architects to create floor plans – much quicker.

A Powerleap adapter costs between \$89 to \$350. This can be a great and affordable solution for some computer owners since Powerleap can extend the life of older computers by allowing them to run newer applications without purchasing entirely new systems. Many school districts have installed Powerleap as a cost-effective way to allow students to use the latest software on older computers.

Unfortunately, Powerleap adapters are available

only for certain computers such as Pentiums, so check their website to see if there is an upgrade suitable for your system. It is always a good idea to consult an expert when making changes to your computer and be aware that most manufacturer warranties become void when any alterations are made by the owner.

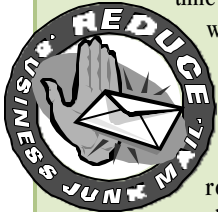
For more information on Powerleap products, visit [www.powerleap.com](http://www.powerleap.com) or call 877/287-5327. •



## Get Rid of the Junk

### Reducing Junkmail is Good for Business

**Many businesses are inundated with unwanted mail every day:** unsolicited ads for products and services, duplicate catalogs, and mail addressed to former employees. Most businesses recycle unwanted mail, but it still costs time and money to handle. At one large Seattle-area office, a six-week study showed that the mailroom staff spent 25 percent of their time just sorting advertising mail!



Now there's a way for businesses to stem the tide of junk mail. The National Waste Prevention Coalition has launched a new "Reduce Business Junk Mail" website. While there are many resources to help residential households reduce junk mail, this may be the first resource designed specifically to help businesses - and individual employees - with this pervasive problem.

The website includes:

- Instructions to remove your business from two major business mailing lists, Dun & Bradstreet and InfoUSA.
- Examples of companies and organizations that have set up successful programs to reduce their unwanted mail and save time and money.
- Contact information for the National Waste Prevention Coalition's new Business Junk Mail Complaint Bureau.
- A sample postcard for companies to send to mailers to get off lists.
- Steps businesses can take to keep from getting on mailing lists in the first place.

To visit the website, go to <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/nwpc> and click on "Reduce Business Junk Mail." Please note that the website only advises on the reduction of paper mail, not junk electronic mail.

Founded in 1994, Seattle-based National Waste Prevention Coalition is coordinated by the King County Solid Waste Division. The Coalition, whose members consist of solid waste management professionals from around the nation, aims to prevent waste from being created and to reduce the use of resources.

If you have questions about the Reduce Business Junk Mail project or the National Waste Prevention Coalition, please contact Tom Watson at [tom.watson@metrokc.gov](mailto:tom.watson@metrokc.gov) or call 206/296-4481. ●



## Recycler Profile



### Hallmark Refining Corporation

**There's GOLD in them-thar' mountains of old equipment!** And Mt. Vernon-based Hallmark Refining Corporation is helping companies reap the benefits. Many companies use Hallmark's services to recover precious metals from various waste materials. The recovered metals are then resold and reused.

Since 1972, Hallmark has been developing metal refining and recovery systems that allow companies to recover precious metals from old equipment and certain industry wastes such as silver-laden film-processing solutions. Photo labs, printing shops, electronic and glass manufacturing companies and X-ray labs have all used Hallmark's recovery equipment to reclaim precious metals such as gold, silver and copper from various materials.

Hallmark sells the extracted precious metals for the companies that have sent materials for refining. The recovered metals are often sold to manufacturers of photographic products, electronic components, silverware, jewelry and sometimes even made into coins and bullion bars used for investment purposes.

Hallmark also recycles used computer equipment such as broken monitors and hard drives. Old broken monitors, after the glass lead shielding is removed, are shredded and then processed to extract and recover any base metals as well as precious metals. The aluminum and steel components of computers are sorted and sold to local scrap metal companies.

Hallmark is currently installing equipment to process and granulate several different types of plastics, including some plastics recovered from computer equipment. Once the plastics processing equipment is installed, Hallmark will sell the granulated plastic to plastic recyclers such as Interstate Plastics, located in Vancouver, Washington, or other brokers that specializes in processed plastics.

For more information, please contact Hallmark at 800/255-1895, or visit their web site at [www.hallmarkrefining.com](http://www.hallmarkrefining.com). ●

# Using Certified Forest Products is a **Sound Alternative**

Courtesy of the Collins Companies.



Certified hardwood forest, Kane, PA, that has been in continuous production for 150 years.

**Are you planning some new construction or a remodeling project,** putting in new wood flooring or buying new office furniture? You might consider purchasing “independently certified forest products.” These products originate from sustainable forests that have been certified by an independent third-party certification organization.

Forest certification is site-specific. This example of best management practices to on-the-ground operations can ensure the long-term health of a forest ecosystem. The only standards that currently meet the criteria established by the Certified Forest Products Council are those of the Forest Stewardship Council. The Council is an independent, not-for-profit organization that advances forest stewardship through certification of forest management practices and marketplace labeling of certified forest products.

In order for products to receive the certification, two types of certification audits are conducted. A “forest management audit” reviews management plans and on-the-ground management practices to assure FSC standards are being met or exceeded. The second type of audit, called “chain-of-custody audit,” reviews procedures for tracking certified wood from the forest to the end-use consumer.

Home Depot, the world’s largest home improvement retailer, announced last August that it will stop selling wood products from environmentally-sensitive areas by the end of 2002 - including certain lauan, redwood and cedar products - and give preference to “certified wood.” Home Depot hopes to use its purchasing power to dramatically increase the supply of certified forest products and improve forest management around the world. Although their policy is rooted in environmental responsibility, Home Depot also believes that the decision makes good business sense, and will ensure an ample supply of forest products for generations to come. Visit Home Depot’s web site at [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com) to find out more about their commitment to certified forest products.

A growing number of interior designers, architects, furniture and cabinet-makers are discovering the durability and dependability of lesser-known wood species. These independently certified forest products offer both aesthetic and environmental benefits. To learn more about certified forest products, visit the Certified Forest Products Council web site at [www.certifiedwood.org](http://www.certifiedwood.org), or visit your nearest Home Depot Store. •

## Certified Forest Products Resource List

The following locations carry or have access to a variety of “Certified Forest Products”:

- Edensaw Woods  
Seattle.....1-800-745-3336\*
- Environmental Home Center  
Seattle.....206-682-7332\*
- Mount Baker Plywood  
Bellingham.....360-733-3960\*
- Randall Custom Lumber  
Shelton.....360-426-8518\*
- Windfall Lumber & Milling  
Olympia.....360-556-0894\*
- W.A. Smith Woodworks  
Bellingham.....360-398-7201\*
- Dunn Lumber, (various locations)  
Bellevue.....425-643-4400
- Home Base Home Improvement Warehouse  
Kirkland.....425-821-1161
- The Home Depot, (various locations)  
Bellevue.....425-451-7351

\*SmartWood© certified



Courtesy of Colonial Craft.

Kitchen and dining room that use certified wood.

## So What is Green Works?

Green Works is a waste prevention and recycling assistance program for businesses. It is sponsored by the King County Solid Waste Division, the Business and Industry Recycling Venture of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and King County suburban cities. If your business needs help reducing waste or finding a company to recycle your office paper, aluminum cans or even used office equipment, give us a call.

Businesses can become Green Works Members by recycling at least 40 percent of their waste, using three waste reduction practices, and using three recycled products in the work place. Each Green Works Member receives free, positive publicity in this newsletter, on the radio, and in local newspapers and publications. For assistance or to become a Green Works member, you may call us at 206/296.8800; email us at [greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov](mailto:greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov); fax us at 206/296-4475; or visit our web site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/greenworks>.

### Recycling Works

Recycling Works is a quarterly newsletter written and produced by the King County Solid Waste Division. Inclusion of a business, product or service in this newsletter does not constitute an official endorsement or sponsorship by the Solid Waste Division or King County. Send us your questions, story ideas or suggestions!

### Receive Recycling Works by Email

Cut down on waste and receive Recycling Works via email. We'll send it to you in Portable Document Format (PDF) that's read with Adobe's Acrobat Reader. Email your name, company name and your email address to: [greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov](mailto:greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov). You may also fax your request to 206/296-4475, or call us at 206/296-8800; 800/833-6388 (TTY Relay).

## Proposed Rule on Fluorescent Lamps Will Affect Businesses



Recently proposed regulations from the Washington State Department of Ecology will affect how businesses handle the disposal of their fluorescent lamps. When the regulations are officially adopted, fluorescent light tubes and some other types of lighting will be classified as Universal Waste.

Universal Wastes are "Dangerous Wastes" that are generated by businesses and individuals that do not typically produce these materials. Universal waste rules are easier to comply with than Dangerous Waste regulations. The rules still protect the environment and encourage recycling by relaxing the requirements on companies that process and recycle the materials.

The lamps included in the Universal Waste rule are fluorescent tubes, mercury vapor lamps, metal halide lamps, high-pressure sodium lamps and neon tubes. Many of these lamps contain heavy metals, particularly mercury, and are a source of mercury contamination and possible worker exposures when disposed in the municipal waste stream.

Both the City of Seattle and King County plan to ban disposal of regulated Universal Waste lamps from commercial generators when the Department of Ecology's new regulation goes into effect. Commercial generators may dispose of lamps in the municipal waste stream only if they show that the lamps do not designate as Dangerous Waste through the Waste Clearance process.

To review the complete contents of the proposed regulation, visit Ecology's web site at [www.wa.gov/ecology/leg/activity/wac173303.html](http://www.wa.gov/ecology/leg/activity/wac173303.html). For more information on Universal Waste Rules, please contact Leslie Morris, Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxic Reduction Department at 360/407-6000. •

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