

# RECYCLING WORKS

*It's Good Business*

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thinking outside the

# BOX

## Albertsons Designs New Reusable, Recyclable Produce Boxes

Every business must deal with the mountain of packaging waste that comes with inventory deliveries. But grocery stores and produce departments have a special challenge. Fruits and vegetables come delivered in a variety of packages: wooden crates, waxed and unwaxed cardboard boxes, some with ice, some with paper or plastic product organizers, in a variety of sizes. Separating and recycling these different materials can be expensive and challenging.

Faced with this disposal challenge, Albertsons stores decided to think outside the box. Albertsons approached the Fibre Box Association to design a stronger, dry (unwaxed) cardboard box to replace waxed produce boxes. To make waxed boxes, paraffin wax is added to regular corrugated cardboard to increase strength and durability. The new unwaxed, recyclable cardboard box was designed with interlocking tabs to provide stability and to help secure pallet loads.

The durability and attractiveness of the new boxes also allow for multi-purpose use – the produce can now be displayed in the box it came in. The picker in the field may be the last person to handle a piece of fruit until the customer makes their selection from the box displayed on the store produce table. The new boxes eliminate the need to re-stack the produce, which saves valuable staff time and reduces damaged goods.

Albertsons, Inc. and the Fibre Box Association are encouraging produce growers, packagers and other grocers to use these new, improved recyclable boxes. And why not? They reduce waste disposal costs, decrease labor and keep materials out of landfills. The new produce boxes are just one of many waste reduction strategies Albertsons practice in its King County stores.

“Our company is always looking for ways to prevent waste, recycle and use recycled products,” said John Gillespie, store director of the Mercer Island Albertsons. “Getting the support of growers and suppliers to use these boxes is a win-win situation for everyone. It saves us time because we can reuse them and we can be good neighbors in helping prolong the life of our landfills.”

All 24 Albertsons stores in King County are Distinguished Green Works Members and boast a recycling rate of 60 percent or higher. In 1999, Albertsons recycled more than 246,000 tons of cardboard and 160,000 pounds of plastic grocery bags and pallet wrap. The plastic materials were sold to make plastic lumber products. To close the loop, Albertsons, Inc. purchases benches made of the recycled plastic lumber for its new and remodeled stores.

For more information on Albertsons waste reduction strategies, contact John A. Bernardo, Manager of Resource Conservation, at (208) 395-4990. For more information regarding the new produce boxes, contact Jim Nolan at the Fibre Box Association at (847) 364-9635 or visit [www.fibrebox.org](http://www.fibrebox.org). For information and assistance with packaging reduction, call Green Works at (206) 296-8800. ●



John Gillespie

# Built Green™

*Certification program for environmentally-friendly buildings*

Introducing **Built Green™**, a new program designed to assist King County homebuyers who want an environmentally friendly house that reflects attention to our Northwest environment.

The Master Builders Association in partnership with King County and Snohomish County, created the Built Green Program to provide builders with a market-based program that embodies the idea that there is a cost-effective way to build quality homes and preserve the environment at the same time. A team that included Master Builder members and public agency staff developed the Built Green Program over the course of the last year, launching it at a June Builder Kick-Off.

## What Does it Mean to Build Green?

The Built Green program addresses six categories:

- **Green Codes** – there are many existing codes that builders must meet regarding water efficiency, stormwater management, energy, etc. Built Green gives you credit for meeting these existing codes.
- **Site and Water Protection** – Built Green offers a variety of site protection, water protection and development techniques to earn points.
- **Health and Indoor Air Quality** – Promote good indoor air quality before, during and after construction and earn points for the health and safety benefits of your actions.

- **Energy Efficiency** – Go beyond the minimum energy requirements and earn points for your project!
- **Materials Selection** – Reducing job-site waste and practicing job-site recycling are two ways to lessen the impact of building. Using resource-efficient construction materials presents numerous other options for credits.
- **Environmentally Responsible Home Maintenance** – This is where homeowner education comes in. Homebuyers need to know how to keep their home green by using the proper lawn and garden products and other home maintenance products.

## Why Build Green?

Surveys have shown a rapidly growing interest among consumers in environmental or 'green' home features like those in the Built Green program. Today's homebuyers want increased durability and the satisfaction of knowing they are protecting the environment. Evidence of this trend is found in Denver's Built Green program where over 4,000 homes have been certified since 1997.

Not only is green building a selling point for con-

sumers, it is a recognition of the salmon listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Built Green program has more than 150 items tied directly to salmon protection and preservation. These proactive and cost-efficient practices can be incorporated to protect salmon habitat for years to come.

## Green Mortgages

Fannie Mae is another partner in the Built Green effort. They and other lending institutions have begun pilot loan programs that offer 'green' mortgage financing to consumers whose homes meet specific 'green' criteria and are enrolled in a recognized green building program.

## How Builders Participate

Homes are qualified using the Built Green self-certification checklist organized into the six categories listed above. To view the checklist, and find out more about Built Green, visit the Built Green web site at [www.mba-ks.com/builtgreen](http://www.mba-ks.com/builtgreen).

To enroll, contact Doug Lengel, MBA Education Foundation, Master Builders Association at (425) 451-7920, or [dlengel@mba-ks.com](mailto:dlengel@mba-ks.com).

For more information, contact Theresa Koppang, King County at (206) 296-8480 or via e-mail: [theresa.koppang@metrokc.gov](mailto:theresa.koppang@metrokc.gov)

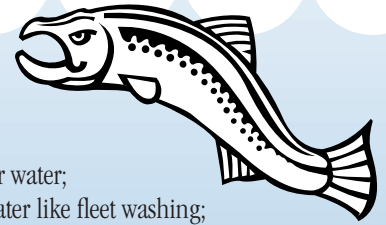


◀ This home, built by **Specialized Homes LLC**, uses **Built Green** practices such as using resource efficient materials and appliances, (finger jointed wall studs, recycled content drywall, built-in recycling bins, low water usage dishwashers and toilets). Good indoor air quality is also assured, thanks to the use of water-based hardwood finishes, formaldehyde-free cabinet finishes, water-based adhesives used in flooring, and linoleum flooring. These are just a few of the environmental building practices that will qualify this as a 3-Star Built Green Home when it's completed.





# endangered species act



## What is the 4(d) Salmon Rule?

You're probably aware that local salmon have been listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. What's probably not clear is what this will mean for you and your business.

Puget Sound chinook salmon were listed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in 1999 as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (or ESA). This year, NMFS released the protective regulations that make it illegal to harm or "take" protected chinook salmon. However, a local effort led by the executives of King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties has been underway to develop a local plan that would apply to most activities instead of the federal rule.

The federal "4(d) rule" (named after a section of the ESA) that specifies it is illegal to "take" or harm protected salmon or their habitat also provides examples of some types of activities that may lead to a "take" of salmon, and outlines several categories of activities that are granted limited exemptions to this "take" prohibition. The 4(d) rule will not take effect until January 8, 2001.

In the 4(d) rule, NMFS lists 16 types of activities that are likely to result in "take." These activities are not prohibited; rather, actual impacts to protected salmon or habitat are prohibited. Unfortunately, this does not provide very specific guidance to individuals on how to avoid running afoul of the ESA.

The types of business activities that have the most impact on salmon, and that are potentially most likely to lead to "take" include:

- property development, especially near water;
  - operations that contaminate stormwater like fleet washing;
  - removing water from streams, rivers or wells connected to surface waters.
- Even if you have a current permit for an activity, you are not necessarily off the hook for ESA compliance. In addition, the ESA allows for any citizen to sue the government or a private party to force compliance.

The Tri-County ESA Response Effort, led by local governments, businesses, tribes, and others, has developed a proposal for a local plan that will satisfy the requirements of the ESA while providing specific guidance and certainty to local governments and businesses. Tri-County leaders are currently in discussion with NMFS on the details of this proposal. NMFS is expected to publish the proposal this fall for public comment, then adopt it as an addition to the coast-wide 4(d) rule.

The Tri-County proposal includes immediate changes to land development and stormwater regulations, as well as improved road maintenance practices. If it is approved, the proposal will mean increased restrictions on clearing or construction near streams and additional stormwater requirements, but compliance with a local development permit will also mean compliance with ESA. The proposal also calls for the development of long-term watershed-based salmon conservation plans, which are expected to replace the immediate actions in five years.

For more information, visit the Salmon Information Center web site at [www.salmoninfo.org](http://www.salmoninfo.org) or call 1-877-SALMON-9 (1-877-725-6669). •

## New Regulations for Fluorescent Lamps

### Universal Waste Regulations Adopted

There are new "Universal Waste" Regulations for handling waste fluorescent lights, high intensity lamps (e.g., sodium vapor, metal halide, mercury vapor) and neon lamps. If your company uses these types of lamps, the new regulations apply to you. The following summary provides information about what you need to do when replacing these lights at your business.

**What is the concern?** Fluorescent lights and some neon lamps contain mercury at concentrations that exceed hazardous waste criteria. For high intensity lamps, lead in the solder and lamp glass is the primary concern.

**Who issued these regulations and where can I get a copy?** The regulations were issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology and are effective as of June 2000. The Regulations are codified under WAC 173-303-573 (b), available online at [www.wa.gov/ecology/biblio/wac173303.html](http://www.wa.gov/ecology/biblio/wac173303.html).

**How does it apply to me?** Waste lamps must be managed as a Universal Waste unless the gen-

erator can demonstrate that these lamps do not exceed the leachability tests for mercury and lead. Most generators are regulated as small quantity handlers. You are a small quantity handler if you:

- 1) store less than 2,200 pounds (approximately 4,000 lamps) of waste lamps at one time;
- 2) dispose of lamps within one year of generation;
- 3) do not intentionally crush lamps; and,
- 4) train your workers to safely clean up broken tubes and follow these rules.

**What are the rules?** The rules for small quantity generators are fairly simple:

- 1) train your workers on the hazards of these lamps and the procedures described below;
- 2) store lamps out of the weather (indoors or in weather-resistant containers);
- 3) mark the words "Waste Lamps" (or similar) and the date that you added the first lamp on the container;
- 4) recycle the lamps (or send to a permitted hazardous waste facility) within one year of the date that you first started to fill the container; and

- 5) promptly clean up broken lamps and place in sealable containers (e.g., 5 gal. bucket with lid).

**Where can I recycle lamps?** Listed below are some of the companies that provide these services:

- EcoLights, Seattle, WA (206) 343-1247
- Earth Protection Services, OR (503) 620-2466
- Allied Technology Group, CA (800) 227-2840
- Mercury Technologies, Int'l, CA (800) 628-3675

**What if I do not fit the criteria of a small quantity generator described above?**

You must receive a permit as a large quantity generator. Contact the Department of Ecology for permit information and applications. The Northwest office phone number is (425) 649-7000.

**I've heard that there are 'green' lamps that may be disposed as ordinary solid waste. Is this true?**

Disposal rules vary by jurisdiction. For the King County landfill, you must obtain a special waste clearance. To obtain a clearance, you will have to provide evidence that the lamps are not hazardous. Contact Marilyn Monk of the King County Solid Waste Division at (206) 296-4418 for more information on waste clearances at Cedar Hills landfill. •

# old cell phones offer *Lifelines* to others

## The Call to Protect Program

The popularity of cellular phones has brought to light a number of issues ranging from the safety concerns of chatting while driving to the proper etiquette of using them in restaurants and other public places. What to do with old cell phones is one more concern. With newer, sleeker models coming out every day, it is estimated that there are over 24 million inactive cell phones currently sitting in closets and drawers in the U.S. today.

Now there's an alternative to storing or trashing your old or broken cell phones. GTE Wireless has joined in the national "Call to Protect" program, which donates cell phones and airtime to potential domestic violence victims. GTE Wireless will accept all makes and models of wireless phones, along with any available batteries and chargers. Simply drop off your phone and accessories to any of the five participating GTE Wireless locations in King County. All donations are tax-deductible and paperwork will be provided for documentation upon request.

"GTE Wireless and its employees are committed to making the community a safer place for all. This program is one way that we are able to help support a program that provides a safety net for those in danger. I encourage every person that has an unused wireless phone to donate it to support the effort," said Mike Millegan, GTE Wireless Area President.

The newer phones are refurbished and programmed to connect to several local shelters or to dial 911, allowing victims to quickly call for help in threatening situations. Older or damaged phones will be sold, with proceeds used to support the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and other domestic violence programs.

So keep your cell phone out of the trash and put them into the hands of someone whose life might depend on it. For more information on the Call to Protect program, visit [www.donateaphone.com](http://www.donateaphone.com) or call Gaylé Morrison, the Administrator of Marketing Communications, at GTE Wireless (425) 895-7034.

**committed to making  
the community a safer  
place for all**

## Location of GTE Wireless Collection Sites

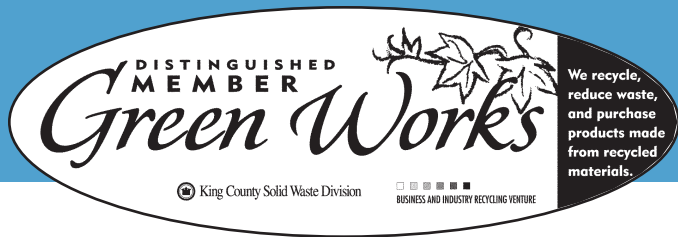
City	Address	Phone	Store Hours
Redmond	17181 Redmond Way, #A-5 Redmond, WA 98052	(425) 558-0325	M-F 9am-8pm Sat. 9am-6pm Sun. 12pm-5pm
Issaquah	1151 NW Sammamish Rd., #105 Issaquah, WA 98027	(425) 837-1910	M-F 9am-8pm Sat. 9am-6pm Sun. 12pm-5pm
Seattle	Harvard Market, 819 E Pike St. Seattle, WA 98122	(206) 720-0907	M-F 9am-8pm Sat. 9am-6pm Sun. 12pm-5pm
Tukwila	387 Strander Blvd., Suite 1 Tukwila, WA 98188	(206) 575-4507	M-F 9am-8pm Sat. 9am-6pm Sun. 12pm-5pm
Bellevue Headquarters	2445 140th Ave. NE, #202 Bellevue, WA 98005	(425) 895-7000	M-F 8am-5pm



## More Members

### Renewals, continued

- City of SeaTac - City Hall
- ColorWright Printing, *Kent*
- Columbia Winery, *Woodinville*
- Curran Mendoza P.S., *Kent*
- Custom Pure, *Seattle*
- Doug Fox Travel Service, *SeaTac*
- Fashions By Freilah, *Renton*
- Financial Consulting Solutions Inc., *Redmond*
- Finkbeiner Development, *Bellevue*
- First Choice Business Machines, *Redmond*
- Fruit Lady Produce Delivery, *Shoreline*
- GreenDisk, Inc., *Redmond*
- King County - Dept. of Transportation Information Distribution, *Seattle*
- Midas Auto Service Experts, *Bellevue*
- Midas Auto Service Experts, *Bothell*
- Midas Auto Service Experts, *Issaquah*
- Midas Auto Service Experts, *Kirkland*
- Norman Brook Farm, Inc., *Snoqualmie*
- North Creek Analytical, Inc., *Bothell*
- Nutri Lawn, *Kirkland*
- Panasonic Services Company, *Kent*
- Peterson Russell Cofano PLLC, *Bellevue*
- The Pop Shoppe, *Seattle*
- RH2 Engineering, *Redmond*
- Rubber Soul, *Redmond*
- SAVI, Inc., *Bellevue*
- David A. Skvorak DDS, *Maple Valley*
- Smith & Zuccarini PS, *Bellevue*
- Stride Rite Children's Shoes, *Bellevue*
- Stroum Jewish Community Center, *Mercer Island*
- Sweet Spirit Candles, Inc., *Renton*
- SYSCO Food Services of Seattle, *Kent*
- Torr Technologies, Inc., *Auburn*
- Treacy Law Group PLLC, *Bellevue*
- Value Village, *Redmond*
- WA State Liquor Control Board, *Kent*
- WESTHILL, Inc. Building Contractors, *Woodinville*
- Weyerhaeuser Recycling Division, *Kent*



# In Action: Distinguished Businesses in the Green

## Onyx Software

Onyx Software in Bellevue develops software to help companies keep track of all of its dealings with customers simultaneously in order to offer more responsive, streamlined service. Onyx keeps the same close tracking of its recycling program. Employee awareness is key, and Onyx has used their Reuse and Recycling Stations to their advantage with new signs instructing staff on the proper recycling of paper, aluminum, cardboard, plastic, toner cartridges, and glass. The station also serves as an exchange site for unused office supplies.

This hi-tech firm harnesses the waste prevention pluses of electronics—all employees use Palm Pilots and download information onto their computers, saving reams of paper. Any paper used contains recycled-content, as are many of its other office product purchases. Onyx keeps its suppliers scouting for new recycled-content products to replace less resource-efficient ones. With its continued commitment to waste prevention, Onyx shows how the software business can tread softly on the environment. For more information, call Nicolas Chavez, Sr., Facilities Coordinator, (425) 451-8060. •

## Rockwell Collins

The aviation business brooks no dead weight, and for Rockwell Collins, aviation electronics repair thrives on the same efficiency. When it comes to recycling and overall waste prevention, this large company's Renton Service Center is the leanest among the seven service and manufacturing facilities of the Iowa-headquartered firm. According to Steve Tilton, Environmental Safety and Health Manager, recycling is part of the waste awareness that gives Rockwell an edge.

Packaging is already at a 90% reusable rate since the communication and navigation instruments Rockwell receives for repair come in special reusable containers. Rockwell employees regularly clear out and recycle old inventory; the company is committed to knocking off another one percent from its waste rate to qualify for its ISO 14000 certification, and the Renton site is already at a

two percent reduction. Janitorial staff are vigilant about weighing trash to keep on track with recycling goals.

And committed to finding good "homes" for materials they don't need, computer paper and office supplies are donated to local schools. For more information, please call Steve Tilton, Environmental Safety and Health Manager, at (425) 226-1550. •

## Bastyr University Natural Health Clinic

Known world-wide for its holistic approach to health, Bastyr University also promotes environmental health in its Natural Health Clinic. Clinic staff recycle over 75% of solid waste and use more than 20% recycled-content products. Clinic Operations Manager Mike Ard-Kelly makes sure his suppliers ship health care supplies in minimal or reusable packaging. Bringing their environmental commitment indoors, managers chose low-toxicity and recycled-content building materials when the clinic was remodeled.

The Natural Health Clinic knows that personal health and environmental health are connected, and is doing its best to be a positive influence on both. For more information, contact Mike Ard-Kelly at (206) 834-4100. •

## SAFECO Graphics and Printing

Recycling 60 tons of paper a month is just "green" business as usual for SAFECO Graphics and Printing's Redmond facility. With one of the largest private print shops in the state, it produces reports, brochures and all the business materials for SAFECO's 150 insurance offices nationwide.

Unlike printers who still use toxic chemicals, SAFECO has maintained a zero hazardous waste record for two years. Using "waterless" presses, soy-based inks, and a silver reclamation system for film gives them the non-toxic edge. Graphic designers are encouraged to print from computerized images to further cut down on use of film and developing chemicals.

SAFECO uses its size to good advantage by running nationwide recycling programs for batteries and computer equipment. The print shop used its substantial buying power when they purchased a special baler that collects paper waste directly from machines, shreds and processes it for a 92% recycling rate. It's paper they'll meet again through their purchase of recycled-content printing papers and office materials—and it's solid insurance for the environment. For more information, contact Katherine Bridwell, Environmental Risk Manager at (206) 545-5082. •

## New Members

- Boxwood LLC, *Seattle*
- Complete Business Solutions, *Bellevue*
- Comsys, *Bellevue*
- Front Street Market Red Apple Grocery, *Issaquah*
- GoTech, Inc., *Seattle*
- Jones & Stokes Associates, *Bellevue*
- The Nature Consortium, *Seattle*
- Roth Hill Engineering Partners, Inc, *Bellevue*
- Sierra On-line, Inc., *Bellevue*
- Silverbrook Limited, *Federal Way*
- Washington Casualty Company, *Bellevue*

## Renewals

- Alpha One Corporation, *Redmond*
- Avenues Outdoor Products, *SeaTac*
- Bastyr University, *Kenmore*
- Bellevue Square Managers, Inc., *Bellevue*
- Bernard Imports, *Tukwila*
- Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, West Region, *Seattle*
- Brandrud Furniture, Inc., *Auburn*
- City of Auburn - Maintenance and Operations Division
- City of Bellevue - Fire Dept., Station One
- City of Bellevue - Fire Dept., Station Two
- City of Bellevue - Fire Dept., Station Three
- City of Bellevue - Fire Dept., Station Six
- City of Bellevue - Fire Dept., Station Seven

continued on page 4



# 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 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay); visit our web site at [www.metrokc.gov/greenworks](http://www.metrokc.gov/greenworks); fax us at (206) 296-0197; or email us at [greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov](mailto:greenworks.swd@metrokc.gov).

## **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) 296-0197, or call us at (206) 296-8800; 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay).

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request.

# this year, give » **experiences** instead of **STUFF**

**W**ith the holiday season fast approaching, it's a perfect time to take advantage of the King County Solid Waste Division's fifth annual Waste-Free Holiday program. Started in 1996, this year's program has changed from the previous years' Waste-Free Fridays. This holiday season, from the day after Thanksgiving until December 31, discounts to local entertainment and sporting events will be offered every day instead of only on Fridays.

Businesses can take advantage of discounted ticket prices offered by other businesses. Consider giving employees "experiences" in lieu of a box of chocolates or scarf as a perfect way to add a personal touch to the gift-giving season without adding the waste of wrappings to our landfills.



Waste-Free Holidays is a unique partnership program between the County and businesses that provides consumers with ways to conserve resources in their gift-giving and rewards them with financial incentives to purchase "experiences" instead of "stuff." Tickets to entertainment and sport events, movies, and museums provide mountains of memories without the piles of packaging.

For more information about the Waste-Free Holidays program and a list of participating businesses' discounts, call the King County Waste Reduction & Recycling Information Line at (206) 296-4466 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay). And beginning November 24, call 206-NO-STUFF (206-667-8833), or visit [www.metrokc.gov](http://www.metrokc.gov) and click on the Waste-Free Holidays link. •

♻️ Printed on Sundance Vellum in bright white 70 lb. stock. 100% recycled content, with 30% post-consumer content.