Outstanding Washington Recyclers to Receive Awards May 1 in Spokane

The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) will honor organizations, businesses and individuals for outstanding recycling achievements at their annual Recyclers of the Year Awards Banquet on Tuesday evening, May 1, 2012, a highlight of the WSRA annual conference at Spokane’s historic Davenport Hotel, April 29 – May 2.

Recyclers of the Year are selected by a panel of WSRA members representing a variety of aspects of the recycling industry, including collectors and processors, government agencies, businesses and non-profit organizations.

The 2012 WSRA Recyclers of the Year include these outstanding honorees:

Mark Tveit has demonstrated an impressive commitment beyond his position as recycle center lead for the City of Tacoma in order to improve and increase recycling. He has taken the initiative to find more efficient ways of reclaiming and recycling items brought to the Recycling Center, Household Hazardous Waste Facility and White Goods Building. Mark’s efforts have added approximately $7,000 in revenue and almost 14 tons of material diverted for higher use.

The Bellevue School District and City of Bellevue partnered to implement an aggressive organics recycling program for all sixteen Bellevue elementary schools, resulting in increased recycling, a 30% decrease in garbage collection, and significant savings in avoided disposal fees. More information: Nancy Larson, larsonn@bsd405.org

The Fairmont Olympic Hotel has embarked on an intensive heart-of-the-house recycling program, as well as implementing organics recycling. With a high level of commitment to environmental stewardship, the hotel’s recycling rate has increased from 32% in 2008 to 57% in 2011, with solid waste costs reduced by 40%. More information: Joanne Day, joanne.day@fairmont.com.

Gonzaga University formed an Advisory Council on Stewardship to review energy use and propose ways to increase environmental awareness and education. As a result, Gonzaga has achieved a 25-30% reduction in garbage by recycling, composting, and implementing innovative waste reduction policies, including banning bottled water and using online course evaluations. More Information: Tim Hatcher, hatchert@gonzaga.edu; Charles Faulkinberry, Charles.Faulkinberry@sodexo.com.

Harborview Medical Center established an Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee with representatives from each division and service area. The committee’s mission is to implement environmentally sustainable practices that promote healing and well-being for patients, employees, visitors and the broader community. Through extensive staff training and a
commitment to find new opportunities and approaches to recycling, Harborview increased recycling by 236% and food waste collection by 496% in one year. More information: Brenda Nissley, bnissley@uw.edu

**Microsoft** has created a pervasive culture of sustainability with multi-faceted encouragement of employee, custodial, and vendor education and involvement. Extensive efforts like carpet recycling, compostable food service ware, a Sustainability Champion Program, and labeling trash cans “landfill” resulted in diverting 80% of Microsoft’s waste from landfill disposal in 2011. More information: Kim Wynes, v-kiwyne@microsoft.com.

**The City of Newcastle and Waste Management** instituted a “Waste Less, Recycle More, Win Big,” neighborhood recycling challenge to encourage Newcastle residents to recycle more, reduce what they sent to the landfill, and lower the community’s carbon footprint. Two neighborhoods competed for a $5,000 neighborhood improvement grant. The well-publicized campaign resulted in a citywide recycling increase of a whopping +22.8%. More information: Robert Wyman, RobW@ci.newcastle.wa.us.

**Stevens Pass Mountain Resort** recognizes that protecting and restoring the natural resources that have provided their livelihood for 75 years is the least they can do. They have committed to incorporating a genuine environmental ethic into all day-to-day actions. They provide recycling in all public and staff areas, collect organics for composting, and reuse a wide variety of items, including pallets, cooking oil, and even old ski lift towers. More information: Ross Freeman, ross.freeman@StevensPass.com.

**Tetra Pak Materials, L.P.** made major organizational changes to implement an integrated environmental management approach. All employees are trained and work together toward environmental goals. As a result, Tetra Pak achieved an impressive 98% recycling rate in 2011, with a 64% reduction in landfill disposal over the last five years. More information: Robert Baker, robert.baker@tetrapak.com.

**The US Environmental Protection Agency Consumption & the Environment** year-long webinar series provided information and resources to increase understanding of issues associated with sustainable consumption and to support those who want to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create more sustainable patterns of consumption. Webinars included speakers from a wide range of organizations and engaged over 3,000 webinar attendees. More information: Viccy Salazar, salazar.viccy@epa.gov.

Spokane’s Bruce and Pam Gallaher, founders of **Zip 2 Water**, invented a mobile water filtration system that provides drinking water at outdoor events, reducing the waste associated with single-use water bottles. Since the units were introduced in 2010, they have brought “bottled water taste without plastic waste” to more than 100 events. Over 50,000 people have taken advantage of the fresh, filtered water, keeping more than 100,000 plastic bottles out of the waste stream. More information: [www.zip2water.com](http://www.zip2water.com), 747-224–9472.

An additional highlight of the May 1 WSRA awards event will be the induction of three outstanding long-time Washington State recyclers into the **WSRA Recycling Hall of Fame**:
- **Russ Nobbs**, Spokane community recycling activist
• **Dave Peters**, Retired Kitsap County Recycling Coordinator
• **Steve Spence**, partner, Sutta Company

For more information about the WSRA conference and awards presentation, visit [www.wsra.net](http://www.wsra.net) or call 206-244–0311. Award applications are available each November at [www.wsra.net](http://www.wsra.net).

The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA), formed in 1976, provides leadership, networking, advocacy and education to foster the expansion, diversity and economic vitality of recycling as part of sustainable resource management. Its 280 member organizations and over 700 individual members include private, community and government recycling agencies, generators of recyclables, collectors, processors, transporters, broker, commodity markets, recycled content product manufacturers, and others. Contact Washington State Recycling Association, 206-244-0311, [www.wsra.net](http://www.wsra.net).

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