



King County

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King County announces 2011 Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction

89 local companies recognized for exceptional recycling efforts

King County's Solid Waste Division (SWD) has named 89 local companies to its fifth annual "Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction" list, and introduced a new business honor roll for companies that have made the list for five years in a row.

As award winners, each business has put exceptional recycling programs into place and shown commitment to reducing the amount of waste their company sends to the landfill. Their actions help reduce the impacts of climate change and feed recycled materials back into the economy.

The 2011 list spans a wide array of businesses in King County including hospitality, medical services, professional services, retail, finance, government, arts and entertainment and others. Innovative recycling and waste reduction strategies also run the gamut, from McMonigle Veterinary Hospital's electronic computer records to Honda of Kirkland's cell phone recycling program and T-Mobile's elimination of ink and toner cartridges for printers.

"We're elated to see such a wide variety of businesses on the list, each with their own custom programs for dealing with the types of waste they generate," said Karen May, who administers the program for King County SWD. "From food scraps to packaging, to printer cartridges, medical supplies and light bulbs, the companies on our list are employing innovative strategies and creating company cultures that encourage the prevention and recycling of waste."

King County created a business Honor Roll this year to give recognition to companies who have been consistent champions for recycling and reducing waste in the workplace since the Best Workplaces recognition program was created in 2007.

Honor Roll companies include American Classic Homes Real Estate, CH2M Hill, ECO Cartridge Store, Emerald Heights life care community, HDR Engineering, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants Inc., Outsource Marketing, PCC Natural Markets, Port of Seattle- Sea-Tac Airport, and Yoga Centers.

"It's an honor to be an inaugural member of the Honor Roll," said Larry Cutting, owner of American Classic Homes Real Estate. "We found that making recycling convenient for our employees was the key to our success, taking small steps can a big impact and we'd love to see more businesses do the same.

"The best way for a business to be successful is to make it easy on the employees," Cutting said. "They want to do the right thing but often times have only a garbage can under their desk and have to get up to go to the recycling bin. The better way is to offer recycling bins both under the desk and in common areas."

Last year, businesses in King County sent more than 200,000 tons of recyclable materials to the landfill. At 27 percent, the largest percentage of material heading to the landfill from businesses is food scraps and food-soiled paper.

Recycling has been a big focus for list newcomer Salish Lodge and Spa over the last two years. They outfitted their hotel with recycling bins in every room and began composting food scraps in their restaurant kitchen. Salish Lodge & Spa's director of rooms Ben Olin advises other in his industry on the importance of keeping recycling and waste reduction top of mind.

"You must provide the resources for your team to successfully sustain the recycling program and make awareness the number one priority," said Olin. "We send out a daily email with a green topic of the day; this is meant to educate and keep recycling at the forefront of our team members minds. It works!"

All businesses operating in King County outside the City of Seattle are eligible for the list. To secure their spot, businesses were required to meet the same five basic criteria, as well as 10 additional waste reduction and recycling criteria, such as using reusable or compostable dishware in kitchens, collecting batteries for recycling, or sending electronic invoices.

King County releases the Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction list annually. The County's goal in establishing the list is to recognize the top recyclers

and waste reducers, and help motivate others in the local business community to improve recycling and waste reduction practices.

To see the complete list of 2011 Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction and to learn more about what these businesses are doing to improve recycling programs, visit www.kingcounty.gov/recyclemore. The 2011 King County Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction are listed below. To learn more about this program, contact Karen May at 206-296-4353, or karen.may@kingcounty.gov.

The 2011 King County Best Workplaces for Recycling are:

Accents et cetera Gift Baskets	HDR Engineering, Inc.
Allied Group, Inc.	Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center
Allyis	Honda of Kirkland
AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc.	Hyatt Regency Bellevue
American Classic Homes Real Estate	In Harmony Sustainable Landscapes
Applus Technologies, Inc.	Issaquah School District
Bastyr University	Jeffrey Schur DDS MSD Orthodontics
BECU	Keeney's Office Supply
Bellevue School District	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.
BladeGallery Inc/Epicurean Edge	Kenworth Truck Company
Bothell Pet Hospital	Lake Washington School District
CDM	Lutheran Community Services Northwest
CH2M Hill	Marlene's Market & Deli
Chameleon Technologies, Inc.	McMonigle Veterinary Hospital, PLLC
CHOICE Insurance, LLC	Neil Levinson Enterprises
CHS Engineers, LLC	Noetix Corp.
D'Amico Photography LLC	Northshore Utility District
Dave's Diner & Brews	Outsource Marketing
David Evans and Associates, Inc.	Overlake Hospital Medical Center
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport	PACCAR Parts
DYNACRAFT, a PACCAR company	Pacific Software Publishing, Inc.
Eastside Community Aid Thrift Shop	Pagliacci Pizza
Eco Cartridge Store	PCC Natural Markets
Emerald Heights	Pogacha Restaurant and Bar in Issaquah
Evergreen Healthcare	Port of Seattle: Sea-Tac Airport
FCS Group	Printex Press
Federal Way Naturopathy	Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art
Food Lifeline	Roth Hill, LLC
Frito Lay, Inc.	Rowley Properties, Inc.
Green Apple Events & Catering	Safeway Beverage Plant
Harmony Massage	Safeway Inc - Distribution

Salish Lodge & Spa
Seattle Airport Marriott Hotel
Shoreline Community College
Simplicity Decor
Sound Intellectual Property PLLC
Starfire Sports
Symetra Financial
The City of Bellevue
The City of Bothell
The City of Burien
The City of Issaquah
The City of Kent
The City of Redmond
The City of SeaTac

The City of Tukwila
The Herbfarm
The Summit at Snoqualmie
The Westin Bellevue Hotel
thinkspace
Timber Ridge at Talus
T-Mobile
TOPICS Entertainment
Torklift Central
Twelve Baskets Catering
Voldal Wartelle & Co., P.S.
Willows Lodge
Yoga Centers