

## The Puyallup Fair & Events Center is

# Giving Back

### for a More Sustainable Earth

The Puyallup Fair & Events Center is one of the largest rental facilities in the Pacific Northwest. Events of all sizes are held at this popular meeting, conference and convention center. The venue is a leader in the region in protecting the environment. In an effort to conserve natural resources, water and energy, the Puyallup Fair & Events Center has implemented various reduce, reuse and recycle programs.

A sampling of the ways the Puyallup Fair & Events Center is "Giving Back" to the community for a more sustainable earth include:

**Compostable Plates, Cups and Service Ware:** These items are made from a cornstarch- or potato-base product. They are sent to a compost facility with yard debris and typical waste streams for composting. This process keeps approximately 100,000 petroleum-base plastic cups, as well as other petroleum-base products out of our landfill.

**Aluminum Cans and Plastic Bottles:** Plastic bottles and aluminum cans are reclaimed and sent to recycling facilities; reducing the environmental burden of virgin materials extraction and the manufacturing process. In 2009, approximately 561,330 polyethylene terephthalate (plastic) bottles and 106,920 aluminum cans were diverted from entering our community's landfill.

**Cardboard Recycling:** Sulfur dioxide pollution released into the environment is halved when cardboard is recycled, versus producing new cardboard products. It takes 75% less energy to recycle cardboard.

**Energy Efficient:** In an effort to meet energy reduction targets, a program has been put in place to replace items such as lighting in buildings and parking lots, heat pumps, and other items with more energy efficient products. This program has increased the Puyallup Fair & Event Center's energy efficiency by 30% - 50%.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours, or a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.
- For every one ton of plastic that is recycled, we save the equivalent of two peoples' energy use for one year — the amount of water used by one person in two month's time and almost 2,000 pounds of oil.
- Nationwide, over 23 million pounds of plastic foam peanuts are recycled annually. This is enough to fill the Empire State Building.
- Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gas.
- To produce each week's Sunday newspapers in the U.S., 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- If all our newspaper was recycled, we could save about 250,000,000 trees each year.

**Universal Waste:** Mercury containing lamps, batteries, spent anti-freeze, and used oil are some of the waste streams managed through the facility's Universal Waste Program. An important goal focuses on encouraging resource conservation while ensuring adequate protection of human health and the environment.

**Storm Water:** In the fourth quarter of 2009 the Puyallup Fair & Events Center managed 230 storm drains and seven outfalls that discharge to the Puyallup Watershed. Implementation of education and Best Management Practices has significantly reduced pollution sources that may enter the storm drain system.

**Vegetable Oil and Cooking Grease:** Cooking oils have been recycled at the venue for over 20 years. The byproducts are then used in making cosmetics, soaps, animal feed, and bio-diesel petroleum.

**Grease Traps:** High concentrations of oil and grease introduced into the sewer system build up over time, resulting in restricted sewer flows and blockages. In an effort to reduce the loading of oil and grease to the sanitary sewer system, a grease trap disposal program has been implemented.

**Transformers:** The facility uses PCB-free (polychlorinated biphenyl) transformers. When they are replaced, they are reclaimed, rebuilt and reused, keeping them out of the landfill.

**Additional Efforts:** Steel, copper wire, concrete, lumber, asphalt shingles, and many other products are managed under the facility's reduce, reuse, recycle programs.

For additional facility rental information, please contact Debbie Baker at **253.841.5011** or visit [www.thefair.com](http://www.thefair.com). For information on the recycling program, please contact Michelle Maschner at **253.841.5042**.

**PUYALLUP FAIR**  
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*Events Center*