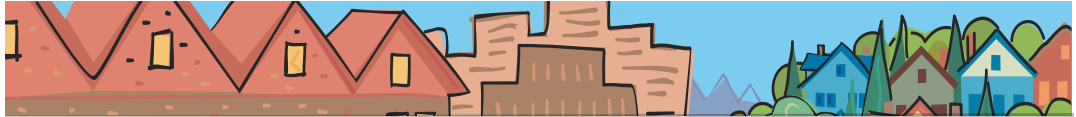


Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

Carl Hosticka represents District 3, which includes portions of Washington and Clackamas counties and the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville.



Congratulations and a challenge

Our region has one of the highest recycling rates in the country. We currently recycle 59 percent of our waste, and our goal is to recycle 64 percent by 2009. I'd like to both personally congratulate you and challenge you to recycle even more.

One way to improve our recycling rate is to separate materials properly, so they don't end up in the landfill. You can help by following the new curbside recycling guidelines. (See related article.)

In addition to residential recycling, we have also been working to identify other recycling opportunities with businesses and organics. Metro awards \$600,000 each year to local cities to pay recycling experts to develop customized recycling programs for businesses in their area.

A second ongoing Metro initiative is to keep more organic material, especially food, out of the landfill. Metro provides assistance for area businesses to donate edible food. The "Fork it Over" campaign has 64 businesses providing food to food rescue agencies.

For inedible food, Metro has piloted a composting program in Portland. Currently 112 businesses contribute 800 to 900 tons each month of inedible food and food-soiled paper for composting. Gresham recently approved a composting pilot project, and we hope to see such projects expanded to other parts of the region.

With your help, I am confident that we will achieve our recycling goal of 64 percent by 2009. We want to ensure that everything that can be recycled does get recycled. It is part of living consciously in a place we love, and doing our part to contribute to the health and vitality of the region.

— Carl Hosticka

Together our efforts won't go to waste

Metro area residents do a remarkable job of recycling. Our recovery rate of 59 percent is one of the highest in the country. The Metro Council's goal of 64 percent by 2009 is attainable, but to help, Metro has recently launched a new public education campaign to remind residents about proper recycling guidelines.

Every day in our region, an estimated 20 tons of recyclables have to be sent to the

landfill because they are contaminated, especially with glass and plastic bags.

Glass can be placed at the curb, but it must be kept separate from other materials. When glass gets mixed in with other materials such as paper, it breaks, and causes problems for the recycling facilities that sort the material. Labor costs go up, equipment breaks down, and tons of otherwise recyclable materials—now contaminated with broken glass—have to be sent to the landfill.

continued

Won't go to waste

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Starting this summer, all area residents are asked to not put glass recycling in their regular recycling bins, but instead put it in a separate rigid container (a bucket, box, crate, etc.) and place it beside their regular curbside bins. Residents who write "glass only" on the pail help to show their neighbors how to recycle glass properly.

Plastic bags are recyclable at grocery stores and recycling depots around the area, but they should not be put in the curbside recycling bins. They tangle up recycling equipment and cause it to break down, resulting in costly equipment repairs and delays. Plastic bottles are still welcome in curbside bins—just no bags.

"Many people assume that the recycling process is the same for all items," said Metro Council President David Bragdon. "We want residents to understand that the recycling process is different for different materials, and that is especially true for glass and plastic."

By separating recyclables properly, residents' efforts will not go to waste.

For more information on recycling and any of Metro's waste-reduction programs, go to www.RecycleAtHome.org or call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000.

A New Look at Regional Choices

Our region is admired the world over for its approach to planning for the future. A decade ago, we adopted a groundbreaking plan, the 2040 Growth Concept Plan, to define what we want to be.

But now, with our region expecting to grow by about a million more people in the next 25 years, we need to create stronger investment strategies that will actually fulfill the vision and make it a reality. To do this, the Metro Council launched its "New Look at Regional Choices" project, to find ways to implement our long-range vision.

On June 23, the Metro Council hosted a New Look Regional Forum to introduce the project to nearly 300 citizens, elected officials, business leaders, planners, and

environmental advocates. In order to understand the impact of one million more people, attendees were reminded of the many changes in the region during the last time the region grew by that much—between 1968 and 2006: I-5 was new and never filled to capacity, TriMet did not exist, the suburbs were much smaller and large farms separated outlying cities.

Participants were then challenged to make hard choices about building a great region that lives up to the vision. Look for results of that work in future newsletters.

Unwind at Twilight Tuesdays

Summer offers a variety of outdoor activities for residents of our region, and one of them is watching other residents—meaning our abundant wildlife. Twilight Tuesday at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area with Metro Naturalist James Davis offers a relaxing walk, a way to unwind after work and the opportunity to easily view animals native to our region.

Dusk is one of the best times to see wildlife, and is about the only time you can see most mammals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, raccoon, deer and bats. Birds also are more active than during the hot days.

Take advantage of the long summer days and join one of the walks, which take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. August 8 and 22. All ages are welcome, but participants must be able to be quiet, sneaky and patient. Bring your binoculars or borrow a pair of Metro's. Payment of \$5 per adult is required in advance; children are free. Call (503) 797-1715 to register and for more information.

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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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