

Environmental Update March – April, 2009



Celebrate Earth Month throughout the month of April! Get involved by attending an activity or an event. This year, **Choose to Reuse**, and make a difference in our world! Make a pledge to reduce the amount of trash you generate – you **choose** how you are going to **reuse!** Start by refilling water bottles, reuse grocery bags, repair broken items and reroute useable items. For more information on Earth Month or how you can Choose to Reuse – visit www.earthmonthmc.org.

This month's **"Eye on our Earth"** program is a production from **EarthTalk Today**, an environmental talk show in Los Angeles. The 30-minute program **discusses how to turn a community toward environmental sustainability, from city, state and national levels to what an individual can do.** Richland's CityView is rebroadcasting the program in partnership with EarthTalk Today producers. The program airs on Richland cable channel 13, and Kennewick cable channel 12, every Monday at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Friday at 10 p.m., and Sunday at 10 a.m. It is also available for check out by contacting the Environmental Education Office at 942-7730 or by watching on-line at www.earthtalktoday.tv.

Volunteers are invited to attend the fourth annual cleanup of Amon Basin on Saturday, March 7 at 9 a.m. Volunteers should dress according to weather, wear sturdy shoes and gloves, and bring your own water. Restoration work in specified areas will also occur. Meet at Claybell Park in south Richland off Boadmoor Street or Bellerive.

The **Bonneville Power Administration provides educational resources free of charge to teachers** within its Pacific Northwest service territory. These resources are developed for grades K-12 and focus on the topics of electricity, energy efficiency and conservation, and fish and wildlife. Educational resources include curricula, hands-on activities, storybooks, posters, and videotapes. BPA also participates in a variety of education programs for K-12 students in the four-state service area. These programs include science competitions, mentoring and tutoring, environmental education, summer science camps, worksite visits, and career-based learning experiences. The Bonneville Power Administration has a Teachers Resource link to help educate on a variety of issues. For more information visit www.bpa.gov, link to Education and then Teachers Resources.

The **Department of Ecology plans to hire about 100 teens** in Eastern Washington this summer to help clean up area roadsides, parks and schools. Ecology Youth Corps

(EYC) members also will learn how to better care for the environment. Youths, ages 14 to 17, who live in Eastern Washington counties, apply through April 1. Crews will work Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for four-week sessions. Sessions this year run from July 6 to July 28, and again from July 29 to Aug. 21. Participants will be paid \$8.55 an hour. Applications are available through area school counselors and online. Visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eyc/ or call (509) 329-3434.

Celebrate the first day of spring by hiking Badger Mountain! On March 20, watch the first sunrise of the season at 7 a.m. or the first sunset at 7:10 p.m.

Hurry to reserve your space for the upcoming **Sustainable Energy & Environmental (SEE) Expo**. The Sustainable Energy and Environmental Network (SEE^{net}) invites area businesses and groups to participate in this year's Expo (formerly the Alternative Energy Expo), Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at Columbia Basin College in Pasco. The public event is free and will include various exhibits and demonstrations on environmental issues, alternative energy sources, conservation, current and emerging technologies, and a solar and Electrathon race. If you would like to be an exhibitor, visit www.seenetwork.us or www.earthmonthmc.org or call 531-5677.

Scientists at the University of Nevada have **made diesel fuel from used coffee grounds** and the exhaust even smells like coffee! The grounds contain 10 to 15% oil by weight with average extraction/production requirements. Researchers estimate that biodiesel can be produced for about a dollar a gallon. The *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* says that several hundred million gallons of biodiesel could be made annually from the waste product. For more information, see the article in the New York Post, http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/16/science/16objava.html?_r=2&ref=earth.

Start **saving your aluminum cans for the annual Earth Month Can Contest** and donate them in the name of your favorite school from March 16 to April 17. Basin Recycling, 1721 Dietrich Road in Pasco and Pacific Recycling, 1615 E. Chemical Drive in Kennewick, will accept aluminum can donations beginning March 16. Participating schools, listed on the Earth Month website, will be eligible for cash prizes. For more information, visit www.earthmonthmc.org and link to "Earth Kids."