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## New OSPIRG program seeking to motivate students to recycle

By John McLaughlin  
Emerald Contributor

For the past month, the Oregon Student Public Interest Group (OSPIRG) has conducted a pilot project designed to increase students awareness of the importance of recycling within the University area.

The project, spearheaded by OSPIRG project leader Peter Drake, is designed to both educate students on the importance and ease of recycling much of their re-usable refuse discarded daily. It also is designed to better explain the Oregon Recycl-

ing Opportunity Act (ORO) of 1986 and, in doing so, Drake hopes to increase participation in the recycling effort.

The project centers around garbage samples from three apartment complexes housing a total of 400 students. Drake said he expects to gauge the success of the recycling project next month when the students return to their dwellings after spring break.

The ORO offers Oregon residents the opportunity to recycle goods via their present sanitation company, however this voluntary action is practiced by only 25 percent of Oregon residents nowadays, Drake said.

The Act requires sanitation companies, to collect and dispose of recyclable goods in a manner appropriate to the ultimate goal of decreasing unnecessary wastes by recycling them, he said.

These garbage hauling companies do not necessarily look upon the task as burdensome.

Recyclable goods are a source of profit for them, as there is a thriving market for reselling the goods back to refining companies such as Secondary Fibers, at 2070 Cross St. in Eugene, Drake said.

Secondary Fibers recycles the tin, aluminum, papers, etc., for resale back to the producers of virtually any business which requires these items on the market.

Presently there are 17 sanitation and recycling firms in the Eugene area that are responsive to this OROA.

The Eugene Mission, for instance, is a non-profit organization collecting and selling cardboard and newspaper to gener-

ate money used for charitable causes, such as feeding the poor and homeless in the area.

The Mission provides bins for flattened cardboard items around the University neighborhood on request. Unfortunately for the Mission, the price received for these recyclable goods dropped approximately 50 percent last month.

"Anything can be recycled," Drake said.

There has even been a growing market for the results of plastic products such as shampoo bottles, beer can binders and the like on the international market.

Recycling organizations such as Begin Recycling In Neighborhood Groups have even expanded the market for plastic goods to include trading with Asian countries.

Presently the OROA has only been effective at targeting private houses as recycling sources, but Drake is attempting to amend this situation.

Drake said he is joining other OSPIRG workers in attempting to build awareness of the importance of such recycling efforts in the apartment complexes around campus.

Many of the University students live in multi-unit dwellings and share common sanitation facilities. By educating these tenants, Drake believes they will get the landlords to organize curbside pick-up days with the sanitation company.

Unfortunately, due to the transitory nature of tenants staying in these complexes, organizing these people becomes

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