

Policy addresses issue of campus material use

By Marcelene Edwards
Managing Editor

Graduate students in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management drafted an environmental policy for the University and are now seeking comment from the campus community.

The draft policy, which is one of only a few in the country, includes issues such as energy use, environmental education, environmentally responsible purchasing, waste, and sustainable design principles, said Carol Rosskam, who works on the project.

The one-page policy statement, which was initiated by President Dave Frohnmeyer's office, is an important step for the University, she said. Colleges all over the country use a lot of materials and have a lot of waste. An approved policy will affect everyone on this campus and in the Eugene community.

"How we choose to include or exclude environmental concerns on this campus will show whether we want to be a leader,"

Rosskam said. "This university has decided to be a leader."

The group, part of the community planning workshop, took data from research on the University's use of water, electricity and other utilities and figured out a per-student cost.

These data were used to design a set of guidelines that will help streamline the University's material use.

Laurie Matsen, who manages the energy department on campus, helped the group with the project and provided the data from the surveys her office conducts.

The idea was generated in 1989 when students approached the administration about addressing environmental issues on campus. The president's office established the Environmental Issues Committee, which is made up of students, faculty and staff members.

For the past two years, graduate student groups have worked on. This year's group drafted the statement from their work.

You, too, can help the planet

By Nicole Krueger
Entertainment Editor

Waste is one of the largest environmental issues facing us today. In an age of disposability, the world generates 50 billion tons of solid waste each year.

This amount could double every 15 years.

Recycling is a popular way to keep garbage at a minimum (see pages 4B-6B); however, there are many other ways to not only reduce waste, but to conserve resources and prevent hazardous materials from corrupting the environment. Here are a few:

Household Hazards

Many everyday products in your home contain ingredients that are toxic, corrosive or flammable. Not only do such products threaten the safety of families in the home, but if they are not disposed of properly, they could be hazardous to the environment. When these wastes are dumped in landfills, they can seep through the soil into groundwater.

Would you drink water out of an empty Windex bottle?

To eliminate this problem, use safer alternatives to these products.

- Use salt or baking soda instead of oven cleaner. Cleaners are harmful to the skin, eyes and internal organs.

- Use a flea comb instead of flea powder on your pets. Flea powders are considered hazardous insecticides.

- Grow indoor house plants that help eliminate hazardous waste. English ivy absorbs benzene (paint) and aloe vera and chrysanthemums absorb many

WASTE FACTS

Number of mail pieces handled by the US Postal Service in 1992:

166 billion

Number of tires thrown away each year in the U.S.:

200 million (nearly one for every U.S. resident)

Number of trees to produce Sunday newspapers for one week:

500,000

Amount of pantyhose women throw away each week
Enough to stretch from New York to Los Angeles five times

Number of grocery bags provided by one 15-year-old tree:

700

Amount of paper consumed per person per year in the U.S.:

600 pounds (as opposed to 326 in Japan)

Time it takes for a magazine to decompose in a landfill:

40 years

Energy saved per glass bottle recycled:

Enough to light a 100 watt bulb for 4 hours

Number of jobs provided by every 1 million tons of solid waste recycled:

1600

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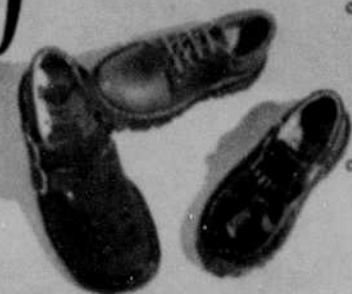
"We don't own this place, though we act as if we did. It belongs to the children of our children's kids."

-Robert Hunter

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River clean-up opportunities offered

Brooke Bryant
Freelance Reporter

Flood waters have receded and much of the damage has been repaired, but Oregon is still feeling the effect of the heavy rains that swept the state last February.

Many rivers are still littered with garbage and debris, creating both aesthetic and environmental concerns for the ecologically minded.

For residents, the lingering damage lends special significance to the upcoming National River Cleanup Week, which will take place from May 11-18.

Concerned community members will have the chance to do their part restoring damaged waterways during National River Cleanup Week, and at the same time have a little fun and gain valuable river skills in the process, thanks to Al's Wild Water Adventures.

The rafting company will be conducting combination cleanup trips and white-water workshops on several occasions during that week. Participants will pick up trash along the river and learn

other toxins.

A Water World

Water can be used in a multitude of ways, but its most important use is as a beverage. People need to drink water to survive.

There are many simple ways to conserve water.

- Install a faucet aerator. This device slows the flow of water from your tap, instilling air into the stream and reducing the amount of water used. If every American utilized this device, we could save more than 250 million gallons of water every day.

- Cut down on watering your

lawn. During dry periods, leave the grass clippings on your lawn after you mow. These will reduce the amount of water your lawn needs. Also, water early in the morning or in the evening to reduce the amount of water that evaporates.

- Replace your shower head with an energy efficient model. This will cut down on the amount of water wasted when you shower.

There are countless other ways to protect the environment. With a little research, you can learn enough to make a difference.

WHITEWATER ADVENTURE DATES

Al's Wild Water Adventures offers outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to gain rafting experience and help the environment.

The following is a list of the trips available:

■ Deschutes River - May 10-12

- Rafting from Warm Springs to Maupin

- Cost: \$195

■ Deschutes River - May 11-12

- Rafting from Buck Hollow to Columbia River/Heritage Landing

- Cost: \$129

■ Rogue River - May 17-19

- Rafting from Grave Creek to Foster Bar

- Cost: \$249

■ John Day River - May 16-19

- Kayaking from Service Creek to Clarno

- Cost: \$195

Contact Al's Wild Water Adventures at 1-800-AT WILD H2O.

padding and rafting skills.

"We have extra heavy-duty garbage bags. We'll be scouring the banks looking for trash, stopping at areas where the things that float down river accumulate and picking that up and just inspecting for damage," said Melinda Allan, operations manager for Al's.

The company is offering these special cleanup/workshop trips at a reduced rate as an incentive to get involved. Anyone inter-

ested in helping out should contact Al's Wild Water Adventures at 1-800-AT WILD H2O.

National River Cleanup Week is a project in cooperation with federal partnerships like the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

"This is our way of giving the rivers a helping hand," Allan said. "It also increases the public awareness that we need man power to help clean things up."

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