

# Recycle At Work

## Certification program available for landscape and automotive companies

Program has been certifying businesses for over 14 years

EcoBiz, short for Eco-Logical Business, is a certification program recognizing businesses that reach high standards in environmental protection. The completely free and voluntary program is designed to prevent and minimize solid waste, air and water pollution.

There are EcoBiz programs for two types of businesses: LANDSCAPE SERVICES and AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES (see details below).



EcoBiz certified companies must use a suite of approved best management practices and meet standards for employee education and training, in addition to passing an on-site visit. Customers benefit from EcoBiz by being able to easily find companies that are using the most environmentally safe and healthy practices.

The EcoBiz certification is developed and administered by the Pollution Prevention Outreach Team (P2O), a group of pollution prevention experts from eight agencies in the Portland metro area: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Cities of Portland and Gresham, Clackamas and Washington Counties, Metro, Clean Water Services and the Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC).

EcoBiz certified businesses benefit by receiving free marketing and advertising and being recognized as leaders in their industry. For more information on how to become EcoBiz certified, call 503-823-7807 or visit [www.ecobiz.org](http://www.ecobiz.org) for more information.

### The Landscape Services Eco-Logical Business Program



recognizes landscape design, installation and maintenance service contractors that reach the highest standards in

environmental protection. This is the first landscaping services certification program in the nation that addresses air, water and solid waste. This program is sponsored by the Pollution Prevention Outreach Team.

### The Automotive Services Program



recognizes vehicle service and repair businesses and shops that reach the highest standards in minimizing their environmental

impact. The goal of the program is to prevent and minimize pollution generated by small businesses statewide. This is the first automotive services certification program in the nation that addresses air, water and solid waste.

## PGE offers free energy efficiency consultations to business customers

Portland General Electric is committed to Clackamas County businesses. For more than a century, PGE has helped power the local economy. Today, about 50,000 Oregon businesses rely on PGE for safe, reliable electricity. PGE is committed to helping Clackamas County businesses save energy, thrive and grow.

### Free energy-efficiency consultations can help you save

A focus on energy efficiency can help you control energy use, boost your bottom line and reduce your carbon footprint. You'll save money in your operations and help the environment at the same time. PGE offers free, no-obligation energy-efficiency consultations for business customers.

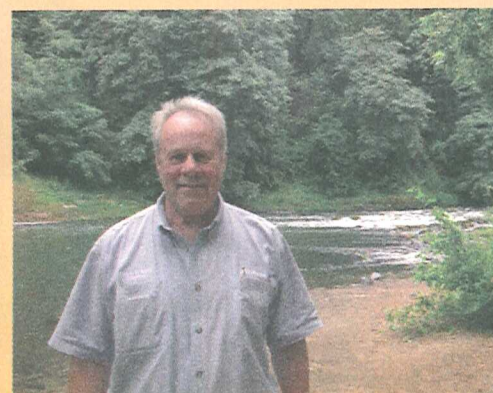
During the consultation, they'll help you identify energy-saving opportunities and prioritize your efforts based on your budget and goals. PGE will also connect you with Energy Trust of Oregon incentives – including special fall bonus incentives – as well as trusted contractors. To request your free consultation, visit [PortlandGeneral.com/EnergyExperts](http://PortlandGeneral.com/EnergyExperts) or call the Business Services Team at 800-822-1077.

### Clackamas County business receives eco-certification, helps homeowners save on water bill

**Down to Earth Irrigation**, a Clackamas County business for almost 40 years, has received the EcoBiz Landscape Certification by the Pollution Prevention Outreach (P2O) Team.

To become certified, Down to Earth demonstrated its knowledge and use of more than 120 different best environmental business practices in its areas of specialty. These practices relate to all of the ways the business could impact the air, water and soil, and release greenhouse gases and toxic substances. A specialty service of Down to Earth is "smart controllers," which often cut irrigation bills by 25-30 percent and produce better watering results for yards and gardens. The company also uses drip irrigation and rotary nozzles to reduce water consumption on its customers' properties. According to the U. S. General Accounting Office 50 percent of all irrigation in the Western United States is wasted.

"Homeowners have been surprised about how much we could impact their water bills," Phil Severson, owner of Down to Earth says. He also notes that since he often works on properties that border the Tualatin River it is important to him to make sure his work has a positive impact on the environment.



Down to Earth Irrigation owner Phil Severson

## Supply Our Schools expands to social service agencies



Does your business have spare paper, office supplies, equipment, furniture, clothes or blankets that local schools and social services agencies could use?

With schools and agencies strapped for cash, now is the time to clean out your supply closets and use the newly updated and expanded Supply Our School (SOS) website – [www.supplyourschools.com](http://www.supplyourschools.com) – to donate items. Your cast-offs can make a real difference to teachers, providers, students and families.

Business owners and property managers have been happy with the simplicity of the program, which started in 2002. "This program has been a blessing for us," said one local property manager. "We've had tenants move out and leave everything."

Many thousands of pounds of materials have bypassed the landfill to reach people who can put them to work. For example, one high school outfitted its career center with donated furniture and supplies.

Donation is easy. Go to [www.supplyourschools.com](http://www.supplyourschools.com) to register and to post your items. Teachers and social service providers can register and sign up for automatic email notifications for frequently needed items. When those emails show up, teachers contact the donors and make pick-up arrangements.

Clackamas County recently finished rebuilding the website and is in the midst of promoting Supply Our Schools. Please be patient if you do not immediately get a request for your item from a school. We are currently focused on business outreach in order to populate the website with reusable items.

Questions? Contact the Clackamas County Office of Sustainability at 503-742-4463 or [wasteinfo@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:wasteinfo@co.clackamas.or.us)

