



Carbon Master Project Proposal—Waste Recycling/Composting

2009 Project: Develop and implement a waste recycling/composting pilot project

Organization: Bellingham Gluten Intolerance Group (BGIG)

What: 8th Annual Community Awareness Event (CAE); 300 attendees

When: November 7-8, 2009

Where: St. Luke's Education Center, Bellingham, WA

Target Behaviors (2009)

- Conference attendees and vendors will place waste into the correct barrels to recycle, compost, or landfill
- Manufacturers' cardboard boxes will be 100% recycled, either by St. Luke's, BGIG's Green Team (GT), or conference leadership.

Potential Barriers (2009)

- Restrictions from St. Luke's regarding barrels and/or locations
- Perception of BGIG leadership that project detracts from the conference focus
- Perception the CM project siphons energy from members/leadership
- Difficulty finding adequate number of GT members
- Attendees non-or-partial compliance
- SSC's specialized barrels availability for conference dates
- SSC/Barrel cost/service might exceed BGIG budget

Developing Strategies & Planning Process:

1. Meet with BGIG-CAE leadership to outline project and solicit their support.
2. Estimate 2008 conference recycling and composting levels for 300+ attendees.
3. Meet with St. Luke's to determine their current policies re: recycling, composting, location of event barrels.
4. June 2009: Contact Dr. Jean Layton regarding possible involvement of her Girl Scout troop to assist in monitoring barrels.
5. July 2009: Contact SSC regarding cost and availability of their event barrels.
6. September 2009 BGIG member meeting: Establish a GT with BGIG members, Dr. Layton's Girl Scout troop, interested Carbon Masters, community members.
7. Develop materials for and provide training to GT, including details for each type of barrel, handling non-compliers, necessary gear e.g. gloves, shift schedule.

Conducting Pilot on Conference Days:

1. Strategically locate barrels for most efficient use.
2. Station GT members to help ensure compliance.
3. Examine barrels periodically to determine success rates.
4. Record content information, time, and feedback from GT.
5. Evaluate barrels at the end of the conference.
6. Listen and record GT and attendees' feedback.
7. Acknowledge Green Team members/others for their contributions and efforts.
8. Unknowns?

After Conference Completion:

1. Compile feedback and formulate recommendations.
2. Report back to BGIG leadership.
3. Listen to board members feedback, concerns, and recommendations.
4. Contact GT members with thanks and compiled recommendations, listen to 20/20 hindsight observations.
5. Incorporate findings into planning 2010.
6. Send CM report to Joyce Jimerson at WSU Extension office, Bellingham, WA
7. Anything else?

To meet my goals, I could use the following assistance/information:

- Meet periodically with Mariah Ross, who has experience with "Greening" events, and who has offered her assistance.
- Communicate with other Carbon Masters interested in waste and solicit their involvement, input, feedback.
- Seek advice/information regarding SSC's services to organizations.
- Consider soliciting sponsorship to incorporate reusable and Official GT t-shirts into 2009 timeline (see 2010)
- Anyone and anything else!

It's all about the future! Current thinking:

- **2010:** Select additional target behaviors, e.g. vendors will use compostable/paper cups, types of plates, containers for distribution of their samples.
- **2010:** Secure sponsorship of reusable bags for distribution of product samples, and for volunteer t-shirts to add an Official GT presentation to the monitors.
- Additional?

2011: Implement broad scale effort:

- "Green" will be second only to gluten in terms of conference focus.
- Manufacturers will send sample products in compostable or recyclable packages.
- Offer assistance to other organizations who want "Green Events".
- Additional?