



## **King County**

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# ***News Release***

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## **King County announces second-annual 'Best Workplaces for Recycling' list**

King County's Solid Waste Division has named 50 local companies for the second-annual "Best Workplaces for Recycling" list – more than twice as many companies as last year. These businesses are being recognized for strong internal recycling programs and for their commitment to making recycling a priority for their companies.

The list encompasses a wide array of businesses in King County – companies as big as Google and Coca Cola, and some businesses that are just starting out. This year's list has seen growth in companies that have reduced waste through successful food scrap recycling programs such as The Herbfarm in Woodinville and the Seattle Airport Marriott Hotel.

"Food scrap recycling is an easy way for our business to reduce waste, save money and help the environment," said Carrie Van Dyck at The Herbfarm restaurant. "Now that we have a system in place, recycling is easy for employees and a source of pride for our business."

Each year, businesses in King County send more than 240,000 tons of recyclable materials to the landfill. By providing a recycling-friendly workplace, companies can dramatically increase their recycling rate, ultimately saving money on their garbage bill. For example, in some businesses, just providing desk-side recycling containers has increased recycling rates from 25 percent to more than 80 percent.

"As a call to action, we make every effort to educate and inform our employees of the advantages of recycling and the options available to them," said Mike Nolan, facilities manager at Google. "The ultimate goal is to empower the individual to make an informed decision."

To qualify as a Best Workplace for Recycling, companies must meet at least 10 criteria out of a list of 33 good business recycling practices—choices that range from placing recycling bins by every desk, to collecting food scraps for on or off-site composting.

List members share secrets to their recycling success on the King County Web site. Many cite the same fundamental practices that make their workplaces great recyclers:

- Educating employees on how to properly use the established recycling system
- Setting recycling goals
- Making it just as easy, if not easier, to recycle instead of throwing away used materials
- Designating a recycling coordinator to monitor and maintain recycling efforts

“It is encouraging to see more restaurants and hotels on the list this year. These businesses prove that you don’t have to be a traditional office to be a business that is good at recycling,” said Sharon Aller, King County program manager for the campaign.

“Incorporating environmentally friendly practices into the workplace means finding opportunities to conserve wherever possible – that means at desks, in kitchens, break rooms, warehouses and anywhere else where employees generate recyclable materials,” Aller said.

This year’s list of 50 local businesses is more than double the number from 2007. King County releases the “Best Workplaces for Recycling” list annually, and expects it will continue to grow. The goal of the list is to recognize the top recyclers and help motivate others in the local business community to improve recycling practices.

The “Best Workplaces for Recycling” list is part of a larger county educational outreach campaign to encourage businesses and residences alike to recycle more. To learn more about what these businesses are doing to improve recycling programs, visit [www.metrokc.gov/recyclemore](http://www.metrokc.gov/recyclemore).

The 2008 King County “Best Workplaces for Recycling” are:

Accents et cetera

Allyis  
American Classic Homes Real Estate  
AtWork!  
Cartridge World Issaquah  
Chameleon Technologies  
Champagne' Design  
CH2M Hill  
City of Bellevue  
Coca Cola Bottling Company of Washington  
Corporate Express  
Covington Water District  
CRISTA Ministries  
Dave's Diner & Brew  
ECO Cartridge Store  
Emerald Heights  
Expedia, Inc.  
Google  
The Green Car Company  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
The Herbfarm, LLC  
Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center  
The Home Depot  
Honeywell  
IKEA  
In Harmony Sustainable Landscapes  
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.  
Microsoft  
MulvannyG2 Architecture  
Northshore Utility District  
Otak, Inc.  
Outsource Marketing  
Overlake Hospital Medical Center  
PCC Natural Markets  
Philips Oral Healthcare  
Poggemeyer Design Group  
Port of Seattle – SeaTac Airport  
REI Kent  
REI Issaquah  
REI Southcenter  
Reprographics Northwest  
Roth Hill Engineering Partners, LLC  
Rowley Properties, Inc.  
Seattle Airport Marriott Hotel  
Shoreline Community College  
Summit at Snoqualmie  
Tailor Made Software, Ltd.  
TOPICS Entertainment  
WA State Parks and Recreation Commission, Puget Sound Region Office  
Yoga Centers

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