

PEDAL COOPERATIVE

February, 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

How does it all work?

Single-Stream Recycling



Each week the Pedal Co-op deposits hundreds of pounds of commingled glass bottles, plastic containers, cardboard boxes, and unwanted credit card solicitations at the Blue Mountain Recycling center in south Philadelphia. You may ask yourself, "how does all of this stuff get sorted?" Well here's the short of it. Blue

Mountain is a single-stream material recovery facility, which means we pass the dirty work of sorting recyclables onto the machines (...until they revolt). The mixed mass is unloaded at the top of the facility and passed into what's called a V-Screen (pictured), named for its striking resemblance to the letter V. The screen is made of rotating disks, which allow small and heavy materials to pass through onto another belt below, while stuff like magazines, newspapers, and cardboard get carried along the top, where they're blown out of the V-screen onto a separate conveyor. Overhand magnets and eddy currents process the stream that falls through the V-screen, picking out ferrous materials and aluminum, respectively. The plastic materials are identified with optical scanners which trigger bursts of air, blowing the plastic out of the stream. In areas where the single-stream system is used, environmental scientists have seen nearly a thirty percent increase in the amount of recycling that homeowners do. The single-stream approach allows Blue Mountain to process up to 12,000 tons of recycling a month, which is more than double the amount they were able to process using the dual-stream system.

Message from the Director

We almost made it through the Philadelphia Winter. There was some snow dreary cycling days. Matthew, Jason, and Steve slugged through those days. Furthermore, there is a new addition to the crew, and 2 week old baby girl (she is going to start pedaling before she can even walk). We have increased our residential compost clients to 17, started to pickup the recycling for Trader Joes, delivering croissants to local coffee shops every morning for Four World Bakery, delivering the Grid Magazine on a monthly basis, and will start picking up the compost and recycling for Essene Food Market. Little by little the Pedal Coop is making a change in Philadelphia. We want to thank everyone for participating in our Christmas Tree recycling program, we collected 80 trees.

Cheers,

Woody

In the News

Two new pedal pushers, eager for the pain, have joined the cooperative

Matthew Plourde

Most of the time Matthew would rather be on his bicycle. But he also likes bonfires and playing music. Matthew is currently pursuing a degree in Mathematics at Drexel University.



Peter Frey

New to Philly, Peter's originally from Ketchum, ID. He's into photography and cooking, and looks forward to having a garden this year.

Peter was a Finisher of Leadville 100, 2007; winner 2 man team, 18 hrs, Fruita, 2007; winner 4 man team, 24 hrs, Grand Targhee, 2008, and 2nd team over all.



"Bike Cupid," a short to be entered in the Filmed by Bike Film Festival, is set to premiere at Fiume this Saturday (2/21) at 7 PM. You can find Fiume upstairs at 45th and Locust, across from Green Line Cafe.

Warm Bread, Cold Snow

Matthew delivers Four Worlds bread, against his better judgment.

