## Go Green Tri-Cities

The Educational Component of Living Sustainably

Gail Everett

**Environmental Educator** 

## The Importance of Education

"If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed."

► Thomas Jefferson, United States President

### Who is ALSC?

### Board of Directors - 2018 Officers

- President : Steve Mallory
- Vice President: Ed Frost
- Secretary: Carl Berkowitz
- Treasurer: Alison Cable

### At Large Directors

- Amy Person
- Bob Spaulding
- Adam Fyall
- Bob Rosselli
- Lora Rathbone
- Jim Wise
- Gloria Boyce
- Richard Badalamente

### **ALSC Members**

- City Representative Emily Estes Cross
- City Representative Miles Thomas
- SeeNet/GGTC Representative Gail Everett
- Regional Planning Representative Stephanie Seamans
- BF Health Representative Rick Dawson
- Chamber Representative Karen Livas
- ► TRIDEC Representative Carl Adrian
- Attendee Ginger Wireman
- Attendee Jenny Harper

### **ALSC Affiliates**

- Benton Franklin Community Health Alliance (BFCHA)
- Benton Franklin E3 (BFE3)
- Friends of Badger Mountain (FoBM)
- Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges (FOMCRWR)
- Go Green Tri-Cities (GGTC)
- Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (LCBAS)
- Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network (RROSN)
- Sustainable Energy & Environmental Network (SEENet)
- Sustainable Living Center (SLC)
- Tapteal Greenway (TG)

### Who is Go Green Tri-Cities?

- Non-profit organization founded in 2008 (SEENET)
- ▶ New subcommittee of ALSC in 2018
  - ➤ Volunteers educate on environmental issues Highlight green businesses, organizations, resources, and events in the Mid-Columba (12 month eco-calendar)
  - ► Funded by financial donations and in-kind contributions
  - **▶** <u>www.gogreentricities.org</u>
  - www.facebook.com/gogreentricities/

### 2018 Activities

- Website Updates & FB Social Media Growth
- Classroom Outreach & Partnership
  - Pasco Chiawana HS Ecology/Go Green Club
  - ► Pasco's Enterprise Week at CBC Sustainable Businesses
  - Reach Museum Programs
  - Film Screenings (SEED the Untold Story)
  - Library Programs STEM
  - Event Participation and/or Tabling
  - Science Celebration

### Local Environmental Issues

- Where do YOU get "local" environmental information?
  - Word of mouth
  - Your 'news' choices
    - ►TV/Newspaper
    - ► Online Sites or other subscriptions
- ▶ But... Where does the local news media receive their information?

If it's not a "problem" or breaking news, it's a low priority.

### Go Green Tri-Cities

- Educates, Choices and Solutions
- Serves as a valuable contact with Media

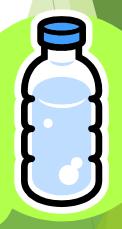
### Did you know...

Microplastic Contamination is Found in Most Bottled Water
-March 2018 TIME Magazine

http://time.com/5200680/microplastic-water-bottleorb-study/

### Plastic Water Bottle Facts

- ► Americans buy 29 billion bottles a year
- Only 1 out of 6 are recycled
- ▶ 90% of the cost is in the bottle, lid & label
- Most water comes from a filtered tap
- ▶ Huge use of oil



### Think about it...

## Life Cycle of a Plastic Bottle



### Tap Water

Regulated and most often healthier than bottled.

- ► Tested & Reported Hourly
- Inexpensive
- Convenient
- Choose to Reuse!

Bottle your OWN



### Did you know...

- 380 billion used yearly
- Less than 8% are recycled
- Plastic does not biodegrade, it photo-degrades - small bits.
- Plastic bags make up 9% of marine debris.

One reusable bag keeps 1,000 plastic bags out of landfills



## Do you know... What Happens in a Landfill?











This 20-years old garbage was taken from the HR landfill. Trash is covered for health and safety and changes very little

## Did you know... 3R's - What is most important?

- Reducing Avoid the waste in the first place
  - Avoid disposables, single serving
  - ► Reusable bottles, mugs, refillable
  - Compost, mulch grass clippings,
  - Use sponges, cloths, -paper towels only when needed
- https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-and-reusing-basics
- Reduction and reuse are the most effective ways to save natural resources, protect the environment and save money.

## Eliminate Plastic Bag Use

If approx. 57,500 Tri-City families avoided taking 6 plastic bags each week:

- 49,286 bags per day
- 345,000 bags per week
- 1,495,000 bags per month
- 17,940,000 bags per year

Nearly 18 million bags a year!

# Another Fact: Transportation is Washington's largest source of air pollution and greenhouse gases.

https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Air-quality/Vehicle-emissions

State and Federal laws regulate:
Business and Industry emissions

WE regulate ourselves

Consider your driving habits and transportation decisions

## What can you do?

- Drive less
  - ► (Walk, Bike, Carpool, BF Transit, etc.)
    - ► BFT Transportation Survey online
- Drive wise
- Choose fuel efficient vehicles
- Don't idle
- Use efficient lawn and gardening equipment

## "Tri-Cities has a Pollution Problem" -TCH 4/18

When traffic increases in the Tri-Cities, particularly on hot summer days with a slight breeze, so do harmful ozone levels. -Tri-City Herald file Annette Cary - April 2018

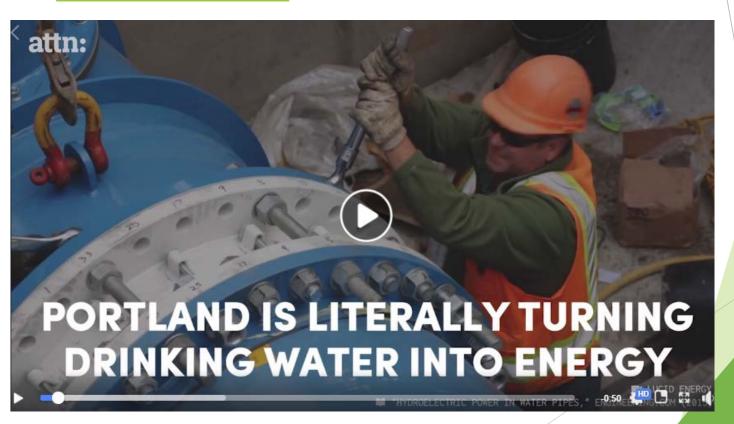


https://www.tricityherald.com/news/local/article208298664.html

## **Exciting Development**

Harvesting Energy from Portland's Drinking Water

https://www.facebook.com/OurPlanetbyattn/videos/18 39545069683779/?t=3



## I wonder what will put us on the map?

Whatever we do, let's do it together!

P.S. Be sure to support your local ecoorganizations!

Gail Everett

Go Green Tri-Cities

gail@gogreentricities.org or 509-539-6453



### Thank you 2018 Sponsors!

For your support in sustainable living and eco-education in the Mid-Columbia

### Tri-City Herald



### **Waste Management**



#### **Atkins Global**



#### **US Linen and Uniform**



#### **Bechtel**



United Way Donors Alternative Gift Fair Donors Numerica Credit Union