Environmental Coalition of South Seattle

ECOSS: Making a Difference

Charlie's Produce: Conservation and Savings

ECOSS provided guidance on energy conservation that will save this large scale wholesale warehouse and distributing company up to $40,000 per year. In partnership, Seattle Transportation paved the adjacent street, reducing sediment into the storm drain, and enhancing operations for Charlie's fleet.

"ECOSS provided education on energy savings for our warehouse and helped us develop a plan with area businesses and the city to help clean up the area."

– Kevin Hubbard, Charlie's Produce

Affordable Auto Wrecking

ECOSS was asked to provide environmental assistance to Affordable Auto Wrecking. Affordable was having regulatory difficulties over management of stormwater and hazardous materials at their site. ECOSS conducted a review of their operations and outlined a plan to deal with stormwater issues and management of regulated substances in their operations. Within four months of implementing the changes recommended by ECOSS, Affordable Auto passed inspections by city, county and state regulators.

"To us, Ecology's requirements appeared to be overwhelming until ECOSS provided us with technical assistance and a plan to address our environmental problems. It is quite possible that without this assistance, we would not be able to continue providing the city with the outlet for abandoned and derelict vehicles that it seriously needs."

– Ron Settergren, Owner of Affordable Auto Wrecking

MARALCO Cleanup

As a large industrial site in south King County, MARALCO had recycled aluminum by melting scrap in a salt bath rotary furnace, producing large quantities of aluminum dross, a salt and clay mixture. When the plant closed in the 1980s, ECOSS worked with a potential developer on the regulatory and technical aspects of eliminating the dross piles that were left. Currently, ECOSS is helping to identify brownfields assistance for site development.

ECOSS: Involved in Business and Community Organizations

ECOSS belongs to and participates in many business and community organizations, actively working as a liaison between groups such as:

The Greater Duwamish District Council.

The City Neighborhood Council.

The South Park Neighborhood Center.

The South Park Crime Prevention Council.

SODO, South Park and Georgetown Business Associations.

ECOSS has coordinated several joint efforts, including:

Neighborhood planning

The successful campaign to apply for the new South Park Library

A habitat restoration plan for part of the Duwamish River in South Park

Development of a community garden and P-patch

An environmental justice pollution prevention program that minimized the environmental impacts of businesses on surrounding neighborhoods.

APPLICATION FORM ON REVERSE SIDE

Executive Director

Charlie Cunniff was the first paid staff person at ECOSS. He came to us after graduating from The Evergreen State College and 13 years of experience in the energy conservation consulting business.

Business/Office Manager

Anita Dias is the new Business/Office Manager at ECOSS. Her 15 years experience as Senior Water Quality Planner for METRO and King County brings a wealth of experience to the ECOSS team.

Board Members

Tim Payne, President, Azurix North America
Mark Gonzalez, Senior, Global Intermodal Systems
Denica Atwood, [illegible]

Mike Bennett, Cadman/Tilbury Cement
Bill Chapman, Preston Gates & Ellis
Jennifer Daws-Hayes, South Park Resident
Roy Kuroiwa, R. K. Kuroiwa, P.E., Environmental Engineer
John Lenker, Mikkelborg Broz Wells & Fryer
Kyle McCleary, Duwamish Shipyards
Allen Rainsberger, Todd Pacific Shipyards
Patricia Serie, EnviroIssues
Celia Schorr, Schorr Communications Group
Chuck Whittlesey, Hart Crowser

Environmental Extension Service Staff

Emery Bayley, Geologist and Technical Services Manager, brings 30 years' experience as a geologist and project manager to ECOSS's Brownfields Program that deals with contaminated site and groundwater cleanup.

Kevin Burrell, Geologist and Environmental Extension Agent, applies his 10 years experience in private industry to help businesses deal with stormwater pollution and energy conservation issues.

Jack Scannell, Physicist and Hazardous Waste Reduction Specialist, focuses his 20 years experience as a chemist and physicist on programs to help businesses prevent pollution and reduce hazardous waste.

ECOSS at Home Staff

Mayra Ayala, Hispanic community
Steve Chang, Chinese community
Tien Duong-Le, Vietnamese community
Jeane Johnson, ESL and English language community
Tigist Negash, East African community

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Environmental Coalition of South Seattle

Business and Community Working Together

Environmental Assistance for Businesses and Residents

ECOSS serves as a non-partisan, environmental ambassador that promotes economic development and a safer, healthier, cleaner environment from Seattle to Kent.

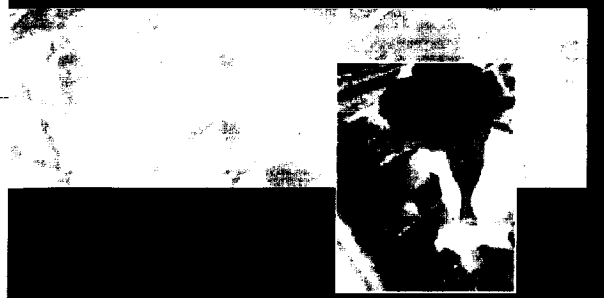
Through education and outreach, ECOSS helps businesses and individual residents – many of whom are not native English-speakers – prevent pollution, conserve energy, manage hazardous materials and protect endangered species.

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Established in 1994 as a free resource and referral service for businesses and members of the Duwamish community, ECOSS has grown significantly in response to community needs. As its staff expanded to 10 specialists, ECOSS has served more than 2,000 families and 1,000 businesses, saving them more than $1 million in environmental costs.

The majority of ECOSS's funding comes from economic development and environmental agencies, foundations, donations and memberships. Its services remain confidential, free of charge and independent of business or political affiliations.

Simply put, ECOSS helps the community be environmentally responsible, whether addressing contaminated property issues or translating hazardous materials labels for these multi-cultural communities.



"ECOSS provides the business community with vital resources to evaluate environmental situations such as the one we faced at the former North Coast Chemical site. With their help, this property is now on the way to becoming productive again."

– Travis M. Hale, Development Manager, McConkey Development Company, Inc.

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Business and Community Working Together

ECOSS For Business:
Environmental Extension Service

The Environmental Extension Service (EES) is ECOSS's business assistance program. It helps small- to medium-sized businesses access technical information to address their environmental concerns. The goals of the EES are to prevent pollution and to assist with the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites.

Is your business sited on "brownfield" property? EES can help you clean up and redevelop contaminated sites. We guide owners and operators of contaminated properties through the maze of regulatory, financial and technical assistance.

Is your business aware of the new stormwater drainage codes? EES can help you plan and implement solutions to bring your business into compliance for stormwater pollution prevention.

Does your business use high levels of electricity? EES teams up with Seattle City Light to arrange energy audits that can help you determine whether you need to replace or upgrade your system to reduce energy consumption, and if so, whether you qualify for a grant to do so.

"When I needed to find an answer to a Department of Ecology request I called ECOSS and they got me the answer in less than one day."

– Grace Boyd,
PYROMEDIA, INC.

Does your company use or store hazardous materials? EES can help you understand the requirements for record keeping, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), and on-site storage, as well as advise you on how to replace hazardous materials with safe alternatives.

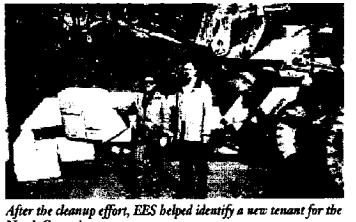
Could your operations be affected by the Endangered Species Act or the Duwamish River Superfund designation? EES can determine whether your stormwater or construction activities will adversely affect salmon or their habitat, and will suggest options for remedial action.

Our Staff

The Environmental Extension Service staff includes experienced scientists, managers and technical experts who apply their wealth of experience and practical problem solving skills to your environmental and business concerns.

North Coast Site Cleanup

The North Coast Chemical Company had operated on the same site since the 1920s, manufacturing industrial products such as solvents, degreasers and soaps. When the business shut down in the 1980s, site assessments revealed trichlorethylene (TCE) and perchlorethylene (PC) contaminants in the groundwater. The new property managers approached ECOSS to help identify procedures and contacts to redevelop the site. ECOSS pulled together historical site assessment records and helped obtain a "brownfields showcase technology screening study," enabling the property managers to proceed with an independent site assessment and cleanup. ECOSS also was instrumental in locating a new tenant for the site who has established a manufacturing business that created new jobs in the community by recycling concrete blocks.



After the cleanup effort, EES helped identify a new tenant for the North Coast site.

"ECOSS has demonstrated the capability to provide unbiased information and connections to the regulatory and environmental communities that benefit all of us."

– Dale F. Frank, Jr.,
Dale Frank & Associates, Inc.

ECOSS At Home:
Multicultural Environmental Education

Imagine buying cleaning or gardening products, but not knowing English well enough to recognize their environmental or hazardous effects. The Environmental Ambassadors in the ECOSS At Home program work one-on-one with hundreds of immigrant and English speaking populations, from Seattle to Skyway, conversing in their native languages about a variety of environmental issues. They –

Suggest alternatives to toxic cleaning products.

Distribute Green Cleaning Kits.

Show how to reduce solid waste through recycling programs

Teach organic and green gardening.

Help non-English speaking residents to understand the labels on hazardous materials and to recognize and select environmentally friendly alternatives

Assist individuals in making choices that will save money while enhancing their health and safety and that of the environment.

Our Staff

ECOSS At Home staff includes community-based specialists who are fluent in many of the languages spoken by Seattle's newest residents, including those in our Hispanic, Asian, East Asian and African neighborhoods, and others who speak English as a second language.

ECOSS At Home staff playing the Recycling Game with neighborhood children at the Cinco de Mayo festival.

I have learned which products are better to use at home, which ones are the best for my health and my family's health as well."

– Pedro Pineda

"I belong to the Spanish Club and have learned many things, like how to recycle. Also, we share opinions about environmental issues. It has been a nice experience."

Gineth Pineda Junco

El Planeta Encourages Young Environmental Leaders

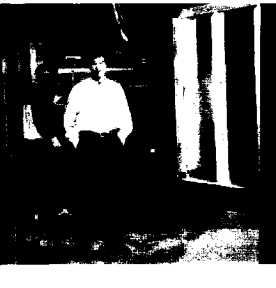
The Hispanic club, El Planeta, is creating young leaders who care about – and address – environmental problems. These teenagers educate their families, friends and neighbors about environmental issues and initiate Spanish speaking environmental programs in their schools. El Planeta members meet every Friday evening to learn, work on projects, listen to guest speakers – and to have fun.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor

ECOSS works with service providers in the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia) community to provide information and advice about environmental issues such as recycling and using environmentally friendly products

"The efforts of ECOSS in providing oversight on our environmental cleanup has not only saved us money, but has been helpful in giving me an education on the subject matter too."

Brian C. Thomas, Owner,
Kvichak Marine
Industries, Inc.



Kvichak Marine took full advantage of ECOSS's array of services: stormwater management, energy conservation and cleanup assistance. This manufacturer of ocean going aluminum boats approached ECOSS for help developing a stormwater management plan. ECOSS provided training in energy conservation and stormwater pollution prevention. Then helped to locate an appropriate consultant to help remediate contamination left by the previous owner of the site.

Call for free environmental assistance at

206-767-0432

www.ecoss.org

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