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Interview with Jim Quinn, Metro's Hazardous Waste Program, 2009 (audio)

Jim Quinn

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: Jim Quinn

Interviewer: Sean Quigley

Date: December 2, 2009

Location of Interview: Metro, 600 NE Grand, Portland OR 97232

Research Assistant: Esther Harlow

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN
EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time	Notes
:00	Intro – names, date, locale, project
:28	Permission
:35	Intro bio question – living in Portland
1:00	Higher ed bio – BA @ Reed, Masters in SF
2:20	Early motivations in waste mgmt
2:57	History working with Metro
3:30	Metro makes Portland a better place
4:10	Always new challenges at Metro
4:45	Worker advocacy background prior to Metro
4:57	Zero Waste Systems in California
5:30	Focussed on recycling hazardous waste before it was “trendy”
6:08	Interests outside of work: Berkeley Advisory Committee, Berkeley laws
6:57	Berkeley Ecology Center – info about hazardous waste, guide
7:30	Earth First!, Redwood forest actions
7:45	Definition of sustainability
8:07	Hazardous waste is subset of sustainability
8:50	Protect current environment and into the future
9:15	Metro’s progress towards sustainability and hazardous waste

9:40	Previous focus was disposal, evolved to reducing waste, evolved to product stewardship
10:43	Works closely with Scott Klag
10:55	Best hazardous waste collection in the country
11:22	1 st Paint Stewardship program in the country
11:40	Successful project: convenient collection serves over 60,000 people
12:40	2/3 of collected items are recycled
13:28	Product stewardship is the wave of the future
13:55	3 full time employees to educate
14:10	Paint recycling program is national model
14:40	Paint requires more energy to produce; 20k-50k tons of CO2 saved by Metro Paint
15:30	Metro partners with Miller paint – will have many benefits
17:10	Is Metro providing national technical assistance?
17:45	Metro loves to advise other localities
18:06	Risks of VOCs in recycled paint
18:50	Metro paint is not No- or Low- VOC but is within safe ranges
19:40	Other hazardous waste challenges?
19:55	Challenges: education, industry, advertising
21:20	Marketing of recycled paint is challenging
22:00	Few color choices
22:15	Statewide recycling bill
23:00	Unique system working with paint industry
24:00	Unique advocacy model & interviewee's role in it
24:40	Future hopes nationally for paint recycling
24:50	Rollout to all 50 states
25:10	Wants similar model for all other waste
25:55	Top 10 Green Product: Metro Paint – does it motivate Metro?
26:40	Green Building, catching on here and nationally
27;55	Long term hazardous waste goals?
28:20	How does Metro fit in? Long term goals: full slate of product stewardship, cont'd role for government, “one-stop shop” for disposal

29:42	Continuing role for Metro even with product stewardship
30:00	Conclusion