Sustainable Landscaping Cookbook

Resources, Tools and Opportunities
In the Landscape Profession
Doctors Do It
Lawyers Do It
Carpenters Do It
Almost All Professions Do It
But The Landscape Profession Does NOT.........
A Professional License and Having Oversite of our Operations

Lawyers, Doctors, Plumbers, Carpenters, Teachers……..
We are the only ‘professionals’ that do not
All other professions must show competency before they can do business

But not landscapers.............
Anyone can start a landscape business
(all you need is a truck, mower, and a card)
But would go to a doctor if you did not know if he/she was licensed?
EVEN IF IT WAS CHEAPER!!!!
How about a level playing field?

• How many companies have a business license?
  • How many are properly bonded?
• How many are properly insured? (1 million min.)
  • How many pay fair wages?
• How many pay living wages & health benefits?
  • How many are getting paid under the table?
  • Not paying any taxes at all??
But are we in a race to the bottom?
We want to be called landscape professionals

But with so many landscape amateurs, how can we differentiate ourselves from all the others???
The Path To Glory
Why a Path to Glory?

To find the path to the two things that our field needs and wants:

BETTER WAGES & MORE RESPECT
Landscapers take pride in what we do, not what we know
WHY, WHY, WHY??

To get better customers who are interested in quality work not just cost
To get paid more for what we know, not just what we do as routine
To be seen as professionals and not just businesses
We need to show that we ARE professionals, want to be PAID like professionals and that hiring the best professional service will pay long term dividends for customers and the environment
SO .......

What is available for the practitioner or company as **Recognition and Incentives**

And what **Resources** are available for the company or individual to grow their knowledge?
80% of residents surveyed across 5 Puget Sound counties said they preferred to support environmentally minded businesses

www.envirostars.com
A program that helps small businesses get better and get recognized for their continued efforts

The more proactive your efforts to reduce hazardous materials and waste and to incorporate green business best practices, the more benefits you can receive:

- Website listings and links
- Highlights in radio advertisements
- Profiles in local newspapers
- Achievement award nominations
- Promotion at community and trade events

There are more than **700 EnviroStars** businesses – From Seattle to Spokane
Certification Process

Step 1: Eligibility
Step 2: Apply
Step 3: Consultation
Step 4: Finalize Process

Ratings System:
2 Star EnviroStar
3 Star EnviroStar
4 Star EnviroStar
5 Star EnviroStar
EPA—Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly on our natural environment.

Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.
Washington State Sustainable Landscape Professional Certification

Offered by WSNLA and WALP to certify landscape professionals who work within Washington State, prove knowledge of and practice voluntary sustainable best landscape practices

The program promotes the certified sustainable landscape professional with a recognized credential that enhances employment as a landscape designer, landscape contractor, and landscape maintenance professional

WALP
Washington Association of Landscape Professionals
Washington State Sustainable Landscape Professional Certification

**Methods**

- Publish best practices for sustainable landscape
- Administer a training program that prepares professionals for certification
- Offer professional accreditation recognized throughout Washington State
- Certify individuals who demonstrate knowledge of best landscape practices
- Renew certified individuals

**BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS**

- Soils Best Practice Standards
- Irrigation & Stormwater Best Practice standards
- Air Quality and Prevention of Noise Pollution Best Practice Standards
- Practice Standards for Habitat Protection, Creation, & Management
- Energy Management Best Practice Standards
- Sustainable Practice Standards for Plants
- Suggested Materials for Sustainable Landscaping
- Practices to Avoid in Sustainable Landscaping
Other Programs Available

Oregon Tilth Accreditation

Society for Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL)
Salmon Safe – Corporate and University campuses can get certified

www.salmonsafe.org
Sustainable Sites Initiative
American Society of Landscape Architects
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
United States Botanic Garden
Creation and implementation of clear and rigorous design, construction, operations and maintenance criteria
The **Sustainable Sites Initiative** envisions that sustainable land practices will enable natural and built systems to work together to protect and enhance the ability of landscapes to provide services such as climate regulation, clean air and water and improved quality of life.
Sustainability is defined as land practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- The goal of a sustainable site is to protect, restore, and enhance ecosystem services whenever possible through sustainable land development and management practices.
- Global climate regulation
- Local climate regulation
- Air and water cleansing
- Water supply and regulation
- Erosion and sediment control
- Hazard mitigation
- Pollination
- Habitat functions
- Waste decomposition & treatment
- Human health and well being
- Food and renewable non food products
- Cultural benefits
Pesticide Free Places

Database of pesticide-free and pesticide-reduced parks around King County

If you work at a park or public place (i.e. school) and are pesticide free, get yourself some recognition!
Pesticide Free Places - Where kids and pets play worry-free
Rain Garden
Handbook for Western Washington Homeowners

Designing your landscape to protect our streams, lakes, bays, and wetlands

Washington State University Extension
Low Impact Development
Natural Landscaping
Sustainable Landscaping Resources
KING COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE - Voucher Incentive Program
Monetary assistance for products and equipment
Get reimbursed for purchasing items that helps cut use of pesticide products, reduces waste or reduces energy. King County is pretty flexible.
Helped pay for goat weed control on our property
Join a Professional Organization

**WALP** - Washington Association of Landscape Professionals

**WSNLA** – Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association

**APLD** – Association of Professional Landscape Designers

**ISA** – International Society of Arboriculture

**WASLA** - Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
A guide to lawn and garden products
Stormwater Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW)

Detailed stormwater requirements

2012 manual is out, but still in draft form

Final should be in place by October 16th, 2012
Seattle Public Utilities “ProIPM” website

• Sample maintenance guides and specs
• Post Construction Soil Management Guidelines
• Seattle’s Green Stormwater Infrastructure requirements
• Irrigation tips and rebates
• IPM Fact Sheets
Maintenance guides and specs
Free hotline for home gardeners and gardening professionals