



# Blue's News

Summer 2008

## Idaho Green Expo

Written By:  
Megan Kershner

They built it and thousands of Treasure Valley residents came to the first ever Idaho Green Expo.

Nine months ago a grass roots group of citizens decided to hold a forum where local residents could learn more about sustainability and green practices. Their goal was to attract 10,000 participants. Instead, 15,000 people streamed through the doors of The Boise Centre on the Grove May 17th & 18th to learn more about topics ranging from reducing energy consumption and green construction, to alternative fuels and recycling.



Dozens of speakers and more than 150 vendors participated in this free event. Seminars covered everything from “\$ Green \$ Your Home” to “Create an Urban Farm in Your Yard.” Visitors found multiple ways to reduce their carbon footprint and loaded up re-usable bags with eco-friendly promotional items.



The Idaho Green Expo had a zero waste goal, but with no composting facilities in the area, all efforts were put into recycling. Bins for commingled plastic, cans and paper were located indoors and out. Cardboard, wood, and glass were collected separately. It was an amazing effort by event organizers, exhibitors, and attendees. Recycling was successful because: Expo officials made it a priority; Boise Centre on the Grove employees assisted the effort; Boise City staff provided recycling bins and technical support; and Green Expo volunteers collected the recyclables throughout the event.

“People are interested in sustainability,” said Greg Otero, executive director of the Expo. “We want to create some foresight and planning, something the human race has not been good at in the past.”

The City of Boise was the presenting sponsor of the Idaho Green Expo. “From a community perspective, people want to learn more about living a more sustainable lifestyle. They are interested in being environmentally sensitive, but don’t know how,” said Public Works Community Relations Supervisor Vince Trimboli. “This was the perfect event—Locals came together to share tips and information.

Events like Idaho Green Expo are one of the many reasons why Boise is the most livable city in the Country.”



For more information about this year's event  
visit: [www.IdahoGreenExpo.org](http://www.IdahoGreenExpo.org)



# Boise Parks—Beyond GREEN Fields

Boise Parks and Recreation officials took resident feedback to heart and added RECYCLING to several area parks this spring. Park officials played it smart by placing the bright yellow recycling bins near park trash cans. Their intention was to capture the plastic bottles and cans that normally stuff park trash cans during the spring sports season.

Simplot Sports Complex, Fort Boise and Willow Lane served as the City “guinea pigs”. Recycling bins were sprinkled around the soccer and baseball fields. What happened next was beautiful—players and spectators filled them! Over and over pop cans and plastic bottles that would have been thrown away were recycled.



*Yellow Recycling Bins at Fort Boise*

Almost two tons of cardboard, plastic and aluminum have been recycled to date... And we've only begun! In the months ahead, more city parks will be anointed with the bright yellow bins. Be sure to look for a recycling bin next time you visit a city park—it's up to you to fill them!

Hats-off to Boise's Public Works and Parks Departments for stepping up to make park recycling a reality!

*Questions? Contact Rachele Klein at Allied Waste 685-7739 (rachele.klein@awin.com) or Boise Public Works at 384-3901.*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.awidaho.com](http://www.awidaho.com)

## Hazardous Waste

Written By:  
Angela Deckers

You may know that paints and solvents are considered hazardous waste, but did you know the following items are also hazardous and should not be thrown in the trash?

- Fluorescent tubes & compact fluorescent lights (cfls)
- Thermometers and thermostats with mercury
- Electronics
- Outdated or unused medicines
- Household Batteries



**Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site**



These items should be taken to any of Boise's Household Hazardous Waste Collection sites or the Ada County Landfill's Hazardous Waste Facility for proper disposal. For collection site locations visit the City of Boise's web site at [www.cityofboise.org/departments/public\\_works/services](http://www.cityofboise.org/departments/public_works/services) and click on “household hazardous waste” or call Boise Public Works at 384-3901.

