



Overview of the SLC Master Recycler Program

Shannon MacMillan
On behalf of and courtesy of the
Salt Lake City Master Recyclers Program





“If it can't be **Reduced**, **Reused**, **Repaired**,
Rebuilt, **Refurbished**, **Refinished**, **Resold**,
Recycled, or **Composted**, then it should be
Restricted, **Redesigned**, or **Removed** from
Production” – Pete Seeger






Only 5% of plastic waste in the U.S. is being **recycled**, according to an Energy Department report...roughly 86% of the 44 million metric tons of plastic waste managed in 2019 was sent to a landfill. Of that, 9% was combusted and 5% was recycled.

[U.S. Recycles 5% of Plastic Waste, Studies Show - WSJ](#)





About the Presenter

- Avid recycler and composter and also community gardener here in the city. Background in Biotech/Science
 - Moved to Salt Lake City (SLC) in January 2020 from agricultural town of Hollis, New Hampshire
 - Married w/ 2 ‘kids’
 - Son is senior at Univ. of Utah (health/emergency rescue/Army ROTC)
 - daughter is a graduate of Univ. of Connecticut (sustainable plant & soil science); garden teacher at Emerson Elementary/community garden, member of Wasatch community gardeners
 - Hubby works for Small Business Administration
 - Part of a family of skiers/hikers/bikers/tennis/love the outdoors (love Utah)
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Previous recycle/ reuse /compost experience (i.e. Hollis, NH):

“Looks Deceive: This Destination Drew Too Well”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/13/us/13dump.html>



- Town transfer station to separate trash, aluminum, steel, certain types of plastic, newspaper separate from paper
- Still good items town collection table ‘a.k.a. outdoor boutique’
- Compost was done in yard with leaves/yard waste
- Chickens as a hobby for eggs, fed food scraps and to de-bug/scratch through compost before using it to amend garden soil



Required Courses for Master Recycler Certification

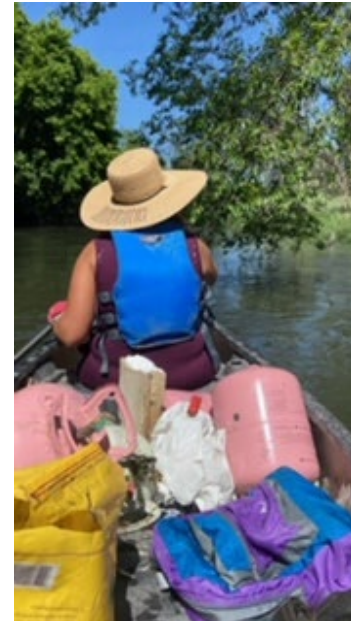
<https://slcmasterrecycler.com/> advertised in SLC Green

- **Waste and Materials Management I-** Discuss how historically “garbage” has been managed and what options we currently have available. Begin learning about waste diversion best practices. ✓
- **Waste and Materials Management II-** Understand how the recycling industry works and why that dictates accepted materials in your curbside bin. Learn the do’s and don’ts of recycling. ✓
- **Tour of the County Landfill** ✓
- **Tour of the Recycling Material Recovery Facility (MRF)** ✓

- **Minimum of 4/6 electives**

- **Glass Recycling/Momentum Tour** ✓
 - **Wasatch Resource Recovery/Food Waste** ✓
 - **Wasatch Resource Recovery Tour** ✓
 - **Living a Zero Waste Lifestyle** ✓
 - **Policy Making 101** ✓
 - **Special Events & Permitting** ✓
- **2/3 activities**
 - **Compost 101/ Vermicompost** ✓
 - **Jordan River Canoe Cleanup** ✓
 - **Tag Along – can Audits**

- **Complete a minimum of 12 volunteer hours (not including Jordan River cleanup)**



Ashley Bailey
Education & Permits Lead
Waste & Recycling Division
Department of Sustainability
SALT LAKE CITY
CORPORATION



Roger
Horne
Manager
Materials
Recovery
(Recycling)
Facility



The Leader & Managers

Patrick Craig Executive Director Salt Lake
County Solid Waste Facility



Jason Utgard
Momentum Glass Recycling
[Jason Utgaard Gains Momentum
with Career in Recycling
\(waste360.com\)](#)



Tour of the Landfill (SLC Waste Division)

6030 West California Avenue (1300 South)

- Shuttled in shuttle van with manager in attendance
- [Salt Lake County Solid Waste Facility Fact Sheet: Salt Lake Valley Solid Waste Management Facility \(SLVSWMF\) Class I - Utah Department of Environmental Quality](#)
- 2065? is the estimated 'life' of the current landfill (43 yrs; range could be extended to 60-80 years with better education on recycle/reduce/reuse/recycle, etc). This is based in part that every person that contributes to the collected waste produces approx. 4.5 pounds of household waste every day.
- Overview included the landfill 'technology' and partnerships to ensure leachate capture/isolation and gas/methane capture for further use
 - Approx. 20% of human caused methane comes from landfills
- Improvements in composting at the landfill has reduced contaminants resulting in a better product that is more marketable for farm/further reuse; otherwise, it is use as part of landfill 'fill' if not sold outright
 - Hence, there is some 'recovery' collection with composting. In addition; mattresses are also collected for reuse via partnership

Landfill



Composting section aerial view (google earth)



Tour of the Recycling Facility part of the MRF

A new, advanced recycling facility (known as a Materials Recovery Facility or “MRF”) opened in Salt Lake City in July 2020. For a great summary of the facility, you can read more:

<https://slcgreenblog.com/2020/08/13/new-mrf/>

We were able to ask direct questions to the general manager, Roger Horne, about what was recyclable and/or accepted (i.e. cardboard, aluminum cans, plastics 1-7) and see their finished ‘products’.



Example of Aluminum recovered product

						
PETE	HDPE	PVC	LDPE	PP	PS	OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate	high-density polyethylene	polyvinyl chloride	low-density polyethylene	polypropylene	polystyrene	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass
soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruit juice container, cooking oil	milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps	trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff	crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly-resistant sacks and most of the wrappings	furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars	toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, CD cases, vending cups	

[Plastics by the Numbers | Eartheasy Guides & Articles](#)



Roger Horne, general manager and recyclables at various stage of separation

Tour of Momentum Glass Recycling

The tour group also met with Jason Utgard of Momentum glass recycling. We learned that glass recycling is still not at full capacity, and they need to get the word out to recycle more glass.



Example of Silica (glass)
recovered product

Tour of Wasatch Resource Recovery/Food Waste Facility

New Food Waste Collection; Carbon based food fermented into methane for energy

- [Residential Public Drop-Off - Wasatch Resource Recovery](#)
- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CjBAqT0AVwN/?igshid=MDJmNzVkMjY=>



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Conclusion

SLC is cutting edge in sustainability but just needs to spread the word to get more people involved!



Further Links for Volunteerism

<https://jordanrivercommission.com/volunteer/>

[HEAL Utah Action Alerts](#)





Thank you
for your
attention!

Community Garden behind
Rowland Hall School on
Guardsman Way in SLC



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[Shannon \(Hallenbeck\) MacMillan](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Some Q&A

- Do you have to cut up your cardboard box before you put them in the blue bin? **They need to fit into your bin in such a way to prevent emptying once the can is inverted. This may or may not require being broken into smaller pieces.**
- I heard you do not need to clean your plastic food containers. Is that true? **TRUE**
- Can I recycle aluminum cans that have plastic lining? **No mixed recycling but tin and aluminum cans are not considered mixed.**
- Can we recycle food bags such as bags for frozen vegetables or large pet food bags? **Plastic shopping (film) bags can be recycled at the grocery/department stores (i.e. Smith's Harmon's, Walmart, Target, Kohl's)**
- I have been throwing away items that have two different materials such as hard plastic and soft plastic or plastic and paper. Do I still need to do that? **Correct, no mixed recycling**
- What happens to the material that is put in the brown bins? Does it become mulch? Can we get some of it? **Yes, and Yes**