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**Contact: Gaelen McAllister
Resource Development Manager
503-581-1984 x3117
gmcallister@garten.org**

Garten Services Receives Federal Investment for Recycling Facility

Garten Services, Inc will be modernizing their recycling facility thanks to a \$1.58 million grant from the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. This project creates a \$2.18 million investment in the North Salem materials recovery facility. The new equipment will provide 60 additional jobs and preserve 160 existing jobs in Salem. The new equipment will allow Garten to sort local commingled recycled materials.

The new system allows more efficient processing at higher volumes. Once sorted at Garten, these materials feed paper, metal, and plastic manufacturing processes. Recycling these materials and turning them into new products will save 1.2 million of trees, 16 million gallons of gas and 720 million gallons of water a year.

“We are proud to work with our local partners to bring this significant investment to Salem,” announced Tim Rocak, Garten CEO. “It’s exciting to turn local waste into job opportunities for local people, with and without disabilities.”

The EDA funding requires a local match, which was secured through grants from the City of Salem Community Development Block Grant program and the Meyer Memorial Trust.

Kathy Moreland, Garten Board President expressed how important the leverage is to the project: “These federal grants only come to communities who have demonstrated local support. We are very thankful for local donors stepping up to help bring this investment to Salem.”

Garten Services was established in 1970 to provide vocational and retirement opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and long-term mental illness. Today, Garten serves more than 500 people with disabilities each year from five facilities in North Salem, South Salem, Dallas and Eugene. Garten’s program and business services support people with disabilities in their effort to contribute to the community through employment, career, and retirement opportunities, increasing society’s awareness of human potential.

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