

The 2022 Portland Monitor

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Next level twofer problem solving: A plan to solve Portland's homeless emergency and out-of-control plastic waste crisis...

Charlie Abrams has an excellent plan to solve Portland's homeless emergency and our out-of-control plastic waste crisis.

The Portland Cleveland High School student is an accomplished climate activist, animator and now engineer/maker/designer.

Thousands of homeless Portlanders are living on the street in tents, among ever-mounting piles of trash, most of it dirty, discarded, unrecycled plastic that so often ends up in our natural areas.

Abrams' idea is to create construction bricks made from a wide variety of recycled plastics, materials that currently are not being recycled by the current system, to make housing for the homeless. The process involves three machines: a shredder, a heater and a compressor.



Bricks made from recycled plastic for homeless housing. Recycled Living - Let's solve homelessness. https://youtu.be/_mUw8Sj5B7o.

His video for Recycled Living, the non-profit organization he founded, is where you can learn about his plan to create bricks for housing the homeless out of repurposed and reconstituted plastic waste. Abrams has also received many accolades for his video "*Walking With Trash.*"

<https://youtu.be/5nR3yD5pYZc> (more)



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There is growing concern about the pollution of our oceans, waterways and soil from the toxic leaching of microplastics into the environment from unrecycled plastic. These toxins are ultimately absorbed by plant and animal life, including humans, leading to untold health issues.



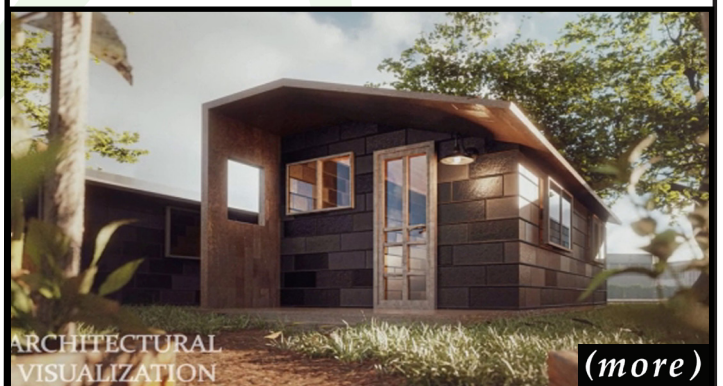
Recognition and outrage about the short and long term environmental degradation caused by these improperly handled petroleum-based products has ignited a grassroots movement of innovation and experimentation with the creative reuse of plastic.



Abrams' concept is to recycle discarded plastics currently not being recycled. Unfortunately, discarded plastics can now be gleaned from anywhere: waterways, roads, landfills, restaurants, grocery stores, retail outlets, homes, industry and any other place plastic detritus is found.

Through a special process, these plastics can be turned into bricks to construct housing for the homeless. Similar methods are being successfully utilized around the world, but the basic idea is the same.

From Europe to Africa to Asia, there are many amazing examples of this on the internet. Specific processes and design concepts are unique from country to country based on their individual needs and circumstances.



(more)

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At the moment, conventional recycling only handles certain types of plastic, but several types are not recycled, reportedly because there is no current market for them. Abrams wants to keep more plastics out of the landfill by using his machines, which can process anything from hard plastic crates to thin plastic bags. This does not include PVC products which contain high-toxicity components. Low density and some high density polyethylene is shredded into flakes and mixed. Next, the flakes are heated to 110 degrees Fahrenheit in a heating chamber, softened and pressed into a steel form. A dense plastic brick is created, containing just over 20 pounds of recycled plastic, with holes to accommodate rebar during the building process.

But Abram's vision is larger than simply providing storage boxes made of these "bricks" to warehouse the homeless. He cites the barebones models that seem to be the "go to" alternative to tents favored by some municipalities, such as the Los Angeles model of building eight-by-eight-foot sheds with padlocks and no amenities. The video posted by his nonprofit Recycled Living depicts an architectural visualization of attractive dwelling units in a park-like setting surrounding a community garden and shared common areas.



Abrams has partnered with over a dozen grocery stores, retailers and large companies to reclaim their unrecycled plastics. One Portland company

that manufactures street signs provides Recycled Living with hard plastic waste that would otherwise be discarded in landfills, providing raw materials for its bricks. Grocers and clothing stores provide thin plastic wrap that currently cannot be recycled by normal means.

Currently working out of a warehouse in Northwest Portland, it takes several hours to make a brick. Abrams is working to streamline this process to create a system that would require less manual labor. He is running a successful crowdfunding campaign and working with the city of Portland and private donors to acquire improved equipment and worksite.

Abrams sees an analogy between the current way we treat the homeless and discarded plastic: moving people and waste from one location to another. Just as people in tent camps are moved around, discarded plastic is endlessly deferred. Having grown up in Portland, he's seen how homelessness and plastic pollution have gone from problems to crises. On the informational video for his nonprofit Recycled Living, Abrams says this plan will work well here, as well as in other countries.

CreativeOutletPortland.org will host a special town hall event featuring Charlie Abrams and Recycled Living at Palio Dessert and Espresso cafe in Portland's beautiful Ladd's Addition neighborhood. This event will be podcasted on the internet and on the CreativeOutletPortland.org YouTube channel. To participate in the town hall, please contact us at 503-984-0163 or at CreativeOutletPortland@gmail.com.

For more information about this groundbreaking, problem-solving project, and to directly support Abrams' mission, visit the Recycled Living crowdfunding site: www.gofundme.com/fl/recycled-living.

Portland Classic:

Multnomah Village Commercial / Mixed-Use Property Office / Professional / Retail / Residential Ideal Live / Work Creative Space



Features:

- Commercial/Mixed-Use (CM1) Zoning
- Extra-wide lot w/75 ft road frontage
- Tons of storage + exterior storage unit
- Excellent Multnomah Village dining, shopping, medical, dental, professional offices
- Near Multnomah Arts Center, Gabriel Park & SW Community Center
- Adjacent to desirable Hillsdale neighborhood
- 10 min to OHSU, 7 min to Lewis & Clark College
- On bus line to downtown Portland, Ida B. Wells HS, PSU & PCC Sylvania
- Landscaped front & back
- Fenced back yard with gazebo, 2 decks and patios
- Excellent live/work opportunity
- Easy maintenance
- 3 Off-street parking spaces



**7435 SW Capitol Highway
Portland, Oregon 97219**

Patti Shmilenko, Principal Broker Premiere Property Group, LLC 503.807.9868





Additional Features

- 1,928 sq ft bldg, built in 1925
- Natural light
- Serene interior & exterior
- Bamboo flooring
- Full unfinished basement

Portland Classic:

Multnomah Village Commercial / Mixed-Use Property
Office / Professional / Retail / Residential
Ideal Live / Work Creative Space



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Portland Classic:
Sellwood Neighborhood
Commercial Mixed-Use Property
For Sale



Retail/Office/Professional/Residential



Ideal Live/Work Opportunity
1405 SE Tacoma St.
Portland, Oregon 97202

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Sellwood Commercial Mixed-Use Property For Sale Retail/Office/Professional/Residential



Features

- Open spacious retail display areas
- Upstairs loft/bedroom includes sky windows, built-ins & ample storage space
- Fenced back yard, patio & garden areas
- Very large remodeled kitchen with loads of tile/counter space & 6-burner range
- Zoned CM-2 w/ Design Overlay

Investment Opportunity in the Heart of Sellwood. Zoned CM-2, perfect Owner/User Retail/Office/Professional/Residential space. Oak and fir wood floors, spacious kitchen, fireplace, loft bedroom w/ skylights and ample built-ins. Includes 3 floors, 3033 sq ft., backyard, patio, garage & driveway parking. Next to Columbia Sportswear. Bike Score 84, Walk Score 95.



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Raleigh Hills Home For Sale

Beautiful Bauman-built home in the Broadmoor neighborhood, 3 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, “granny flat” finished basement with separate entrance, large yard with fruit trees, mature landscaping, 2 driveways, 2 garages.

1963 Classic Portland Home
Minutes from downtown.

Walk to schools, library, park, Planet Fitness and excellent shopping:

Fred Meyer, New Seasons, Walgreens.
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