





# WINEWISE

THE WASHINGTON STATE GUIDE  
TO SUSTAINABLE WINEMAKING  
PRACTICES

# Whither Woodinville Wine Wastes?

## Pouring Wine for People, not Fish



### Introduction

The off-duty Washington State trooper called Ecology's Spills Reporting Line and described what he was seeing: a Woodinville drainage ditch full of an unknown liquid and stained a deep purple. It was a lovely shade of cab franc, perhaps, or was it petite sirah? Ecology spill responders were also intrigued—had the trooper simply visited too many wine tasting rooms earlier that day? So they headed up to Woodinville to check it out. They quickly confirmed that, indeed, the storm ditch leading to Little Bear Creek, the Sammamish River, and ultimately to Lake Washington was dark purple, yeasty-smelling...and choked with thick algal mats. Following the drainage ditch up-gradient they quickly located the source of the

pungent purple punch: four local wineries were washing out barrels and dumping the wastes—juice, stems, seeds, skins, yeast—down the storm drain in the parking lot. In each case, the “dumper” stated that “everyone around here does it” and that “the city said it was okay to empty barrels down the drain.” The spill responders then headed down the ditch line to Little Bear Creek where they found the same unusual algae growing at the stormwater outfall.



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ARE YOU DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING TODAY  
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO DO IT,

OR

BECAUSE IT'S WHAT YOU WERE DOING  
YESTERDAY?

Dr. Phil McGraw

ARE YOU DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING TODAY  
BECAUSE **IT'S SUSTAINABLE,**

OR

BECAUSE IT'S WHAT YOU WERE DOING  
YESTERDAY?

# WHAT IS WINEWISE?

An online, interactive guide of business and winery management topics created by and for Washington state wineries to determine and assess their current management practices against industry standards of sustainability.

# WHO IS WINEWISE?

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Pacific Rim Winery  
Two Mountain Winery  
Washington Wine Commission  
Ste. Michelle Wine Estates  
Gordon Brothers Winery  
Walla Walla Community College  
Administrative Support

-thanks to WAWGG



# THE WINEWISE MISSION

To improve the sustainability of Washington wineries by providing guidance in production decisions and practices thus allowing us and our customers to better identify the standards we adhere to.

# GOALS OF WINEWISE

- Improve the quality of wines crafted in Washington State.
- Preserve and improve our reputation for environmental stewardship.
- Promote social aspects of sustainability.
- Support education, research and development.
- Aid in maintaining the economic viability of Washington wineries.

■ A series of check lists, self-assessment forms, and action planning aids covering the following specific topics:

Energy Efficiency

Water Management

Education and Research

Solid Waste Reduction, Recycling Management

Staffing, Safety, Employee Relations

Material Handling

Environmentally Preferred Purchasing

Community Outreach

Site Development

# ABOUT THE WINEWISE GUIDE

- The checklists provide questions to consider when making operational and business decisions, preparing for self assessment, plus a list of resources.
- The assessments provide an interactive self evaluation intended to help determine ones level of sustainability as compared to industry standards.
  - The action planning guide will aid in identifying and carrying out improvements.
- The guide is organized by degree of impact with the assessment scores weighted likewise.
- Guidance to meet sustainable certification requirements.

# REVIEW CHAPTER DRAFTS

Go to: [www.wawgg.org](http://www.wawgg.org)

- hover on the About Wine tab
- then click on Winewise

We would greatly appreciate your comments  
by February 17.

# WINEWISE SUCCESSES

- Water management workshop held in April 2009
- Energy Management for Wineries Workshop
  - Collaboration with....
    - WA Ecology's TREE Team
    - LIVE Winery Certification Program
    - Regional Energy and Utilities Suppliers



# YOU CAN HELP

If you would like to help build Winewise and promote sustainability in the Washington wine industry, please contact the WWIF or any one of the steering committee members to find out how you can be part of this effort.

