Collectors make big haul for environment

Portland State University students Tony Hair, Maia Nativ, Todd Ashley and the Port's Stan Jones inside the airport's Central Waste Management Area.

Thanks to a partnership with Portland State University, resident waste specialists at PDX have helped make the airport a more sustainable place for the past decade.

Last month marked the 10th year PSU’s graduate students in the College of Urban and Public Affairs have been making a difference at PDX. Through the university’s Community Environmental Services program, student consultants work for the Port of Portland for one- or two-year terms and gain experience solving waste management problems. Though they serve all Port facilities, they focus mainly on the primary waste generator—PDX.

There is no “typical” day for the CES students. They do everything from collecting and managing data to running outreach and education campaigns. They also conduct waste sorts to determine where there are opportunities for program improvements.

Through CES’ long-standing support, the Port has made incredible strides in reducing waste and introducing innovative and creative solutions. CES played a large role in the success of PDX’s waste collection systems, composting program, a search for recycling options for coffee cups, waste assessments for airlines and airport terminal tenants, and annual cleanup events for tenants to dispose of large and bulky items.

For more information on the partnership between PSU and the Port and a full list of the students’ accomplishments, visit: www.pdx.edu/ces/port-of-portland-technical-assistance-project.

Seats offer comfort for overseas passengers

Delta Air Lines Boeing 767-300ER’s now have completely remodeled interiors, including improved seats that are in place on the PDX-Narita route. With the upgrades, the BusinessElite cabin offers 36 fully flat-bed seats, providing 180 degrees of comfort, plus direct aisle access for everyone in the cabin. The Economy Comfort cabin offers 35 inches of seat pitch, which reclines 50 percent more, plus four additional inches of legroom. All flights are expected to offer individual on-demand entertainment, plus international Wi-Fi by late 2013.