



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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WWW.RECYCLINGADVOCATES.ORG

BottleDrop: Oregon Redemption Centers *Two experiences with Oregon's new Bottle Redemption Centers*

With the Bottle Bill legislation that passed this year, Oregon is set to make the redemption center the newest method of reclaiming our recyclable materials, and the nickel deposit on them. There are two redemption centers in operation now, operated by Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC). The first one to open is located in Wood Village at 23345 NE Halsey St. The newest one to open is at 14214 Fir St. in Oregon City. Both are open seven days per week from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. Here are two people's experiences at the Wood Village site.

by Rick Paul

With the new Bottle Bill legislation, we are set to make the redemption center the newest method of reclaiming the nickel deposit on the materials covered by the Bottle Bill. I have had the opportunity to visit and use the one in Wood Village.

I found it generally clean, though there was some stickiness on the floor in front of the machine I was using. The environment was bright and airy. There were six machines and I only had to wait a few minutes to access one for my needs. I did have to use two machines to accomplish my redemption: one for glass and the other for plastic and aluminum. I was slowed down by having to remove the bottle caps (the one I used at Fred Meyer did not require the caps to be removed). I had to re-enter only a few containers, which is better than before. The posters on how to use the facility were very clear about expectations. I did find the cash machine a puzzle and had to have help, and the other people in line behind me were first timers, so did not know either. It was pretty simple once explained.

What I would ask: Is my good experience one shared by those who have used either the Wood Village or Oregon City facilities? What has your experience been using the redemption center? Let me know your experiences at paulpony4@hotmail.com

I am about ready to go to Oregon City to use that facility. It appears to be a bit more difficult to access, but from Beavercreek Road, it looks very much like the one in Wood Village. I found the Wood Village facility easily; I think the parking might be a problem in the future.



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by **Betty Patton**

I arrived at the Wood Village facility early on a Friday afternoon in the summer. It was busy; most of the machines were being used. There were three employees working there at the time, so one of them approached us and volunteered to count our bottles for us in the back. They were fast and accurate. In the lobby of the facility are receptacles for other material that normally comes in with returned bottles such as caps, plastic bags and six-pack holders. There is recycling available for as much of this as the market will bear. There is also a container marked "garbage". This container is policed and hand sorted by staff so that only non-recyclables are landfilled. There is enough floor space to maneuver if folks were bringing in big bags or crates of refundable bottles.

The first question that the cash machine asked us was "have you done this before?" When I said "no", a staff person showed up immediately to direct us. It is a very simple process of scanning your receipt and picking up the bills and coins.



Shelley Stewart, Master Recycler and manager of the Wood Village BottleDrop redemption center.

I took this opportunity to strike up a conversation with one of the employees that helped us, Shelley Stewart. Turns out she is a Master Recycler and loves her job. Since this site is a pilot, she and her cohorts are observing and recording a variety of things that need changing. This site will be expanding to additional space at the location and doubling the number of self-serve machines. It is due to Shelley's oversight that the garbage container needs

emptying only weekly. All 3 employees were busy keeping the operation as smooth as possible and keeping the facility as clean as can be expected, considering the type of business. My experience was a positive one. Next time, I will use the reverse vending machines that are on-site to compare speed and efficiency of them with the brand and style of machine that is used at many of the area grocery stores.



Victory Celebrations, Libations, Elections, and Goodbyes

>> Kris Olson

Recycling Advocates extends a big "Thank you!" to everyone for coming out to celebrate at Cassidy's with us on June 29 and showing your support and excitement over the signing of Oregon's Expanded Bottle Bill into law. The evening was a perfect mix of sharing Bottle Bill stories and experiences, discussions about what's next, imbibing with peers and meeting new friends.

Recycling Advocates led this effort, but we couldn't have done it without the hands of many. Community leaders, government officials and representatives, grassroots activists and lobbyists and concerned citizens, all made this important piece of legislation possible. Support in numbers is a powerful thing as we continue to strive for waste reduction and expanded recycling programs, especially against powerful corporate industries.

The event also doubled as our Recycling Advocates annual meeting. Board member re-elections were held, resulting in retaining Johnny Leuthold and Betty Patton - yay! We sadly sent two dear friends and RA Board members, Katy Daily and Lindsey Newkirk, off with farewell wishes and hugs. Katy has been a tireless advocate and legislative lobbyist. She and her family are moving to Australia. Lindsey has two newer businesses (Elysium Events and Junk to Funk) that she needs to focus her time on. We'll miss the energy and expertise of both of these amazing individuals. We know they'll be with us in spirit and keeping a watchful eye on RA's continued efforts.

If you have ideas you'd like to share around waste reduction and recycling efforts or time to help with a project, event or program, feel free to contact us. You also can help by joining as a Recycling Advocates member, which keeps you in the loop on issues and helps us continue to fund community outreach projects and events. For more information on news and involvement opportunities visit our web site: www.recyclingadvocates.org.



RECYCLING ADVOCATES



FROM THE BOARD

Remembering Recycling Advocates Member, Steve Apotheker

>> Betty Patton

It is hard to celebrate a life that was too short, but Steve's life was so very full. He passed away on June 20 of this year at the age of 58 after years of struggle with Multiple Systems Atrophy.

I could fill pages listing the things that Steve has given us. His ability to analyze a policy for its impact, to design a recycling system that worked for the public and for industry, and to explain to any audience complex situations were true gifts. What an intelligent man. And we are lucky that he chose recycling and environmental causes as his passion.

Steve had been a member of Recycling Advocates for years. I like to think that it was a perfect match. He spent many hours explaining new and old policies to our board and members so we could take an informed approach to support or modify proposals. He spent hours helping our board structure this organization to be productive in the community. And he was always the source for recycling facts and history that we used for input on our newsletter articles and our political testimony.

Steve's influence is national. The following is an excerpt from an editorial by Jerry Powell, owner of Resource Recycling magazine and other periodicals in the industry:

I met Steve many years ago and I knew immediately he was someone I needed on my team. I have a typical story. I was hired to design the recycling program for Champaign, Illinois. After only a little on-site research, I knew that a successful program had to involve Steve, given his important role as director of a local non-profit recycling organization and president of the state recycling association. One day, he took me to City Hall to meet the appropriate public works officials. Afterwards, we were leaving the building and a man from across the street yelled out, "Steve, Steve, I need to talk to you." Steve went over and had an animated chat with the man, then came back to apologize for the delay. I asked Steve who the gentleman was who was so eager to chat with him. "Oh, that's the mayor and he wanted my input on an important environmental issue." I knew then that the best thing for me to do for Champaign was develop a recycling program that passed Steve Apotheker's muster.

Steve also gave hours to our Master Recycler classes. He was always willing and eager to share information with those who are interested.

We all miss Steve Apotheker. I hope that each one of us can take something we gained from him and continue it in his honor and memory. We were lucky to have him as long as we did.



Steve Apotheker and daughter Jesse with AOR's Recycler of the Year award.

ADVOCACY CALENDAR

ResourcefulFULL Use Workshop, *Portland* August 18

Use is an innovative resource exchange program being developed in the Portland metro region. Meet others in organizations whose outputs may become your inputs. Sponsored by Zero Waste Alliance, the Columbia Corridor Association, Pollution Prevention Resource Center, and the Boeing Company. Visit www.zerowaste.org/ResourceFullResourceFULL for details.

Green Drinks, *Various Locations in Oregon* Go to www.greendrinks.org/OR/list for dates

Every month people who work in the environmental field meet up at informal networking sessions known as Green Drinks. In Oregon, Green Drinks get-togethers are held in the following cities: Ashland, Bend, Eugene, Hood River, Lincoln City, Medford, Newport, Portland, and The Dalles.

Recycling Advocates Board Meeting August 22, 7-9 pm

Call 503-777-0909 for details.

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