



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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WWW.RECYCLINGADVOCATES.ORG

Oregon's BottleDrop Expands

by Betty Patton



BottleDrop Locations

Oregon City

14214 Fir Street, Suite A&B
Oregon City, OR 97045

Salem (Opening March 12, 2012)

4815 Commercial Street SE.
Salem, OR 97302

Wood Village

23345 NE Halsey Street
Wood Village, OR 97060

**All locations open 7 days a week,
9am - 6pm**

www.bottledropcenters.com
1-800-460-6128

Recycling Advocates has been following the testing and expansion of the Bottle Drop redemption centers in Oregon. These facilities are designed to offload the take back responsibilities of Oregon's Bottle Bill from select grocery stores. As reported in our newsletters in previous months, there are two facilities that have been operating as pilot projects in the Portland Metro region: one in Wood Village, and one in Oregon City. These sites, the only two in Oregon, have been operating under fairly tight scrutiny by the Oregon Beverage Recycling Company (OBRC) so that they can duplicate the best design features in other areas.

A new facility will be opening in the Salem area by early March. It is located at 4815 Commercial Street SE. Grocery stores within a mile and a half of this center are no longer obligated to accept bottles for return when the center opens. Grocery stores between 1.5 and 3 miles from the center will accept up to 24 containers per day. All small gas stations and convenience stores within this 3 mile radius will accept up to 24 containers per day.

The stores covered in the 1.5 mile zone are Fred Meyer, Safeway, Wal-Mart, and Winco Foods, all on Commercial St. SE, and Roth's Fresh Markets on Liberty St. S. The larger zone up to 3 miles away includes the Costco on Hawthorne Avenue SE and Roth's Fresh Market on Commercial St. SE.

This new facility will be a 7,000 square foot full service redemption center. The two Portland area centers, at about 4,000 square feet, seem to have met their regional requirements. The Salem facility offloads

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IFC's Portlandia Roasts Portland Recycling!

Recycling is targeted for laughs in season two of IFC's *Portlandia* sketch comedy TV show. *Portlandia* roasts Portland's sacred cows and highlights our fair city's quirks and weirdness. Oddly the national success of *Portlandia* is not available to many Portlandians, as we can boast one of the lowest percentage of homes with cable TV in the nation. You can watch a clip of *Portlandia* in which Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein play the Sanitation Twins showing off Portland's exceptional recycling prowess. After the city's recent approval of curbside compost, things have apparently gotten a bit out of control, and now there's a bin for everything, and especially those ubiquitous coffee cups: sleeves, stir sticks, cups, lids, and lipstick lids. See the clip at <http://www.ifc.com/portlandia/videos/portlandia-sanitation-twins>.



Portlandia's Sanitation Twins: Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein



<<< *BottleDrop: continued from previous page*

returns from more larger stores than the Portland area centers, which is probably a factor in selecting the facility size.

There are some positive notes about the selection of this site: there is plenty of parking. It is in a former Jo-Ann Fabrics location with large parking lot associated. At 7,000 square feet, traffic flow and material storage can be efficiently designed. And since this is a former retail site, a backdoor shipping and receiving area can now be used for reverse logistics to move material to market.

As Recycling Advocates has reported, the staffing and procedures at these centers have worked well. We encourage Salem area residents to report to us on their findings at the latest addition to the BottleDrop network. As long as these facilities are addressing the perceived problems of the state's Bottle Bill, and continuing or enhancing the high return rate, then Recycling Advocates will continue to support this network expansion. We will continue to follow this and watch the return rates.

What Can We Expect from the 2012 Oregon Legislative Session?

by Rhett Lawrence

The Oregon Legislature will be convening for a short session on February 1 and Recycling Advocates will be monitoring it closely. Theoretically, these even-year February sessions are limited to 35 days and occur primarily for the purpose of hashing out state budget issues. The reality is that the sessions can in fact be extended by a 2/3 vote of both the House and Senate, and non-budget issues can and do crop up pretty frequently.

Already RA is tracking the reappearance of a proposal from the 2011 session which would amend the state definition of recycling in order to allow the pyrolysis of plastics to count under that definition. Essentially, proponents of that proposal (including the American Chemistry Council) would like to be able to convert otherwise unrecyclable plastics to oil and call it recycling. Right now, it's merely in the legislative concept phase and RA has taken no formal position on the matter. But we do have some concerns about the change in the law that such a scheme would require, so we'll be watching this closely.

We don't anticipate much other legislation of note that would be of concern to RA members and the recycling community, but we will keep an attentive eye on events in Salem and weigh in as necessary. Things move very quickly in these abbreviated sessions, so we will have to be vigilant that nothing sneaks past us while we're looking the other way. And we may even be calling on you for action if it becomes necessary to contact your legislator on a particular bill or proposal, so be ready!



ADVOCACY CALENDAR

SCRAP Workshops, *Portland* February 3, 12, 19, 20

SCRAP Workshops are back by popular request (from adults watching kids at School's Out, SCRAP's In make awesome projects), SCRAP is offering all ages workshops!

Details and costs online at <http://scrappdx.org/programs/workshops>.

AOR's Winter Forum - C&D Recycling, *Oregon City* March 15

The Association of Oregon Recycler's is hosting its annual Winter Forum on the topic of Construction and Demolition Recycling. It will be on Thursday, March 15 from 8:00am-4:00pm at the Abernethy Center in Oregon City. This forum will provide an in depth look at C&D recycling in Oregon and opportunities for us to capture additional materials for recycling. See AOR's website at www.aORr.org for details.

Recycling Advocates Board Meeting February 27, 7-9 pm

Call 503-777-0909 for details.



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