



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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April 2006

Involving people in creating a sustainable future through local efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle

Washington Legislature Passes E-Waste Bill

By Rhett Lawrence

In what Washington groups are calling “the most significant advancement made in recycling in a generation,” on March 6 the Washington state legislature passed SB 6428, the Electronic Waste Recycling bill. The bill passed by wide margins in both houses (38-11 in the Senate and 69-29 in the House) and had the backing of a diverse coalition of business and public interest groups, as well as bipartisan support from legislators. It was signed into law by governor Gregoire on March 24th.

As detailed in last newsletter, the Washington bill follows the “producer responsibility” model of dealing with electronic waste. Under this product stewardship model, manufacturers will bear the responsibility of financing the recycling of the products that they create, rather than causing consumers to do so by imposing taxes or fees on the purchase of those products. A benefit of this approach is that it provides manufacturers with an incentive to minimize the costs associated with recycling, which would typically result in more-readily recyclable products with fewer toxic components.

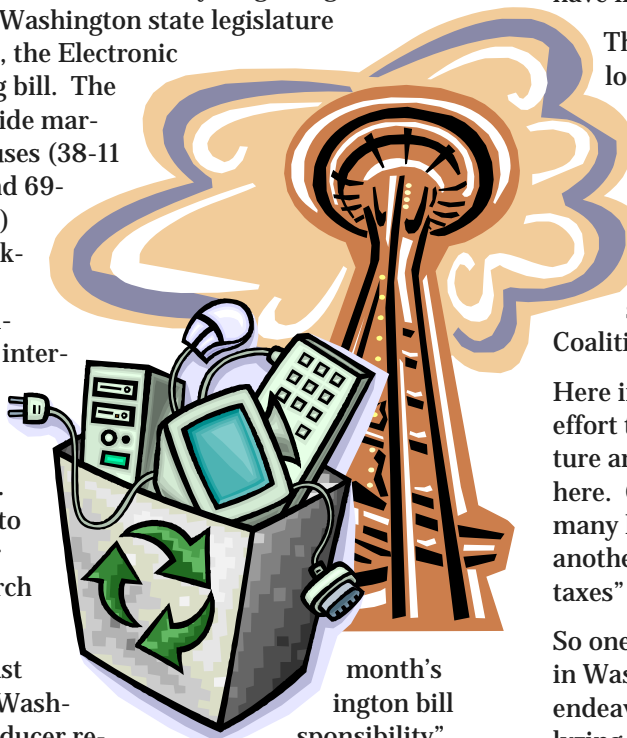
Under this bill, consumers will, however, be responsible for bringing their old computers and televisions to an approved drop-off site or service, which may be run by local retailers, charities, governments, haulers, and others. And since there will be no fees for dropping off these items,

it is hoped that the rate of participation will be quite high. There is little doubt that Washingtonians have as much old electronic waste collecting in their basements as we have in Oregon, so there is clearly a need.

The bill had a long list of supporters, including many local governments, environmental groups, retailers, and even some electronics manufacturers. Among the supporters were the Washington Retail Association, Hewlett Packard, Seattle Goodwill, Tacoma Goodwill, Washington Environmental Council, Washington Conservation Voters, Amazon.com, Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation, and the Consumer Electronics Retailers Coalition.

Here in Oregon, RA and many of the other veterans of the effort to pass an e-waste bill in the 2005 Oregon Legislature are regrouping to try to determine what will work here. One of the lessons from that experience is that many legislators saw fees passed on to consumers as just another tax, which violated many legislators’ “no new taxes” pledges.

So one option would be to attempt to replicate the success in Washington and ride that momentum with a similar endeavor in Oregon. RA and other organizations are analyzing the possibilities, so watch this space for details!



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101 ideas for the Oregonian Newspaper plastic bags

- 1) Soiled disposable diapers
 - 2) Wet swimsuit, trunks
 - 3) Wet umbrella
 - 4) Holds up tomato or other tall vegetable plants
 - 5) Potato peelings
 - 6) (Cold) cooking grease - put into garbage
 - 7) (Vomit bag) portable-keep in car
 - 8) When walking dog/pick-up poop
 - 9) Cleaning cat litter box
 - 10) Sea shells (collect and store)
 - 11) Store Bar-B-Q tools
 - 12) Picked flowers for someone (great way to transport)
 - 13) (Greasy) spare-rib bones
 - 14) Babies soiled bib (when you are dining out)
 - 15) Fresh caught fish
 - 16) (cold) cigarette butts
 - 17) Soiled tissue (less chance of spreading germs)
 - 18) Ice cubes to help keep things cold (ex: picnic)
 - 19) Ice cubes for injury
 - 20) Sandwich bags - when you are on the go
 - 21) Apple slices (oranges, plum, cherries, etc) - snacking
 - 22) Jelly beans (snacking - when traveling)
 - 23) Fish bones (skin, head, etc)
 - 24) Wrap Xmas ornaments for storage
 - 25) Dried herbs from garden
 - 26) Store paint brushes (used)
 - 27) Wet tooth-brushes (on trips)
 - 28) Cookies (snacking - shopping, etc)
 - 29) Peanuts for travel (then use for shells)
 - 30) Wet bar of soap (ex: camping)
 - 31) Wet wash cloth for traveling
 - 32) Crackers (snacking or shopping tips with small children)
 - 33) Matches for camping (keeps them dry)
 - 34) Store fresh vegetables from the garden in fridge (ensures freshness)
 - 35) Egg shells
 - 36) Pennies (when you have enough - take them to the bank and turn them into \$\$)
 - 37) Used tea bags
 - 38) Used coffee filters or grounds (great way to keep mess to a minimum)
 - 39) Soiled paint rags (easy way to collect and then toss)
 - 40) Seeds from garden for next spring's planting (be sure to label with Sharpie)
 - 41) Peach pits (plum, cherry, etc) when snacking - great way to toss while traveling in vehicle
 - 42) Picnic - watermelon rind, cantaloupe, honeydew, etc - keeps flies to a minimum
 - 43) Hair clippings (when cutting your own or your family's hair - for saving or tossing)
 - 44) Buttons
 - 45) Store flower bulbs (ex. Daffodils) in fridge until planting in fall.
 - 46) Use for litter bag in car while traveling
 - 47) Tying up summer dahlia's or any tall flower that requires support
 - 48) Fir - pine cones for storage for Xmas wreaths
 - 49) Diseased cuttings from (ex. Roses) plants to be taken to nursery for analysis
 - 50) Stool sample to be taken to veterinarian for your cat or dog to be analyzed
 - 51) Popcorn for traveling (popped)
 - 52) Meat packaging (plastic wrap, tray) fold, put in bag for garbage
 - 53) When de-boning or removing skin from chicken - use for discard
 - 54) Tops of strawberries (green part) when preparing for meal
 - 55) Old lettuce leaves
 - 56) Corn husks
 - 57) Radish tops or green onions (tops)
 - 58) Yarn for storage (before rolling into ball)
 - 59) Sunflower seeds (then use bag for shells)
 - 60) Put produce from garden into bag - take to friend
 - 61) Embroidery thread (great way to keep it separate)
 - 62) Un-eaten food on plate. Put into bag, and then take to garbage.
 - 63) Save charcoal from grill (when cold) for next summer
 - 64) Fire-works that have been used, and are cold (ex. Sparklers) can be put in bag - then garbage
 - 65) Take while hiking - you never know what treasure you might find
 - 66) Burned-out light bulbs - put into plastic bag and then into garbage
 - 67) Traveling doggie treats for auto trips
 - 68) Large yucky bandages - put into bag and then garbage
 - 69) Ladies' monthly personal items - put into bags and then garbage (ensures that your animals will not go seeking these items out of the trash)
 - 70) Storing ace bandages (we all know how they just tend to roll on forever)
 - 71) Storing fruit in your fridge (for freshness)
 - 72) Put dead leaves (flowers) from indoor plants - then into garbage
 - 73) Gold fish - add enough room-temp water so fish can easily swim - blow air into bag tie into knot at the top of bag. (this comes in bndy when cleaning fish tank, or moving fish to another location)
 - 74) Take clippings of plants (stick stems into root hormone) put into bag and transport
 - 75) When discarding root hormone container, place in double bag before tossing in garbage
 - 76) Slip onto chair legs, table legs or any piece of furniture - when you clean carpet it ensures that your furniture is not damaged from dampness
 - 77) Pull over hand while painting - then store brush in it and store in fridge
 - 78) Garden slugs - put on your hand, pick up slugs. Then remove your hand, pour salt in bag and then discard
 - 79) Slip neck-tie in daily bag - secure bag on shirt button (eliminates those nasty food spots)
 - 80) During winter weather wrap windshield wipers when not in use
 - 81) Keep store of bags in car for dirty work - such as a tire change
 - 82) Store cans of pesticide after spraying
 - 83) Use as a sandwich bag for lunch
 - 84) Draft sealer (put several bags inside of each other to create density; under doors or window sills or inside next to door jam)
 - 85) Use Sunday bag and make a wind sock - use permanent markers for decoration
 - 86) If wearing a cast O be sure to put large Sunday bag on while taking a shower
 - 87) Use for cuts or burns - keeps area dry while showering - use duck tape to secure
 - 88) Use Sunday bag over shoes while out walking through muddy area
 - 89) When small children come to visit - tie kitchen handles together tightly so they can't get into cupboards
 - 90) Use as a tie while storing garden hose for winter
 - 91) Emergency tourniquet (twist with a stick)
 - 92) If hole in shoe or boot, put over sock then return foot to shoe or boot - ensures dryness
 - 93) While camping, store kindling that has a pitch (this prevents the nasty black stuff from getting all over everything)
 - 94) Protect sleeves on shirt while painting (slip arm through bag and secure with duck tape)
 - 95) Store flares for emergency in your car
 - 96) Store extension cords (ensures you'll always be able to locate them)
 - 97) Wrap around cords - gives you a tidy and neat appearance around desk area, entertainment area or computer area
 - 98) Place cell phone into bag (keeps it dry) during inclement weather or while jogging (you are hot and sweaty which could cause it to short circuit)
 - 99) Your kids are playing outside (park or hiking) - they step into animal excrement or mud puddles; great way to transport their shoes home
 - 100) While traveling - store (cold) curling iron in bag and then put in suitcase
 - 101) Store maps (keeps them clean and dry) easy storage under seat of vehicle
- Note: Sunday's plastic bag is larger than daily bags. You can fit several bags into Sunday's bag for storage.

- Kathleen Wiese

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The plastic newspaper bag dilemma: One solution

While those 101 ideas for what to do with your Oregonian bag, opposite, are inspirational and greatly multiply the usefulness of the bag, even better is to not get the bags in the first place! "Reduce" comes before "Reuse" in the waste management hierarchy because it's preferred, and there are some options.

One is to not get the newspaper OR the plastic bag. Use the internet or library and save trees plus plastic. I admit I haven't been willing to give up my hard-copy newspaper yet (though I would GLADLY pay more to eliminate all the pages of ads!).

I am proof however that it's possible to get a newspaper WITHOUT the bag, or a rubber band. When my house was built the Oregonian folks installed a curbside paper tube, but ignored it. I called their office to request that they use the tube and eliminate the bag. They agreed to do so. When it didn't happen, I called again, and again. Nobody suggested there was any reason this could not be done. Finally one day there it was; the paper was in the tube without a plastic bag. I have occasionally had to repeat this process but I've been basically bag-free for years now. Try it! - **Lori Porter Stole**

Metro compost bins are now available year round

No need to mark your calendars or adjust weekend plans to attend special one-day sales. Beginning March 15, residents of the Metro area have been able to purchase specially-priced home composting bins at the MetroPaint retail facility all year long.

Recycle your grass clippings, leaves, fruit and vegetable scraps into magic for your house plants or garden. It's easy and inexpensive. Your plants will reward you with beautiful blooms and a bountiful harvest.

The price is \$35. MetroPaint is located on Swan Island at 4825 N Basin Ave., Portland.



From the President with Betty Patton



Dear Members,

I thought about writing an April Fool's letter here, but opted for truth instead. There is a lot happening in our state and region, and I want to use this space to share some of that information.

DEQ has completed the 2004 Oregon Material Recovery and Waste Generation Rates Report and it is posted on their website. <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/solwaste/swrd.html>

The good news is that the total material recovery rate for 2004 is the highest yet; 49.1%. Local and County governments, both urban and rural, have created recycling systems and other material recovery options throughout the state. The haulers and collectors are implementing them, we are using them, and they are successful.

The bad news is that each of us Oregonians is generating 8.2 pounds of municipal solid waste per day. This is a number that has grown every year since recording began in 1992, except for a flat period from 1999 – 2001. And this number increased from 7.7 pounds in 2003. In just one year, we started tossing out an additional half pound per person per day. And almost 51% of that, or 4.48 pounds, goes straight to a landfill. Not sustainable, is it?

Only once during the recording years of 1992 to 2004 did our per capita generation decrease. I would love to see that straight line graph take a dive and decrease in perpetuity.

In 2001, the Oregon Legislature set goals for the state of no annual increase in per capita waste generation beginning in 2005, and no annual increase in total municipal solid waste generation starting in 2009.

We all have a job to do now; use less.

- Betty

Recycling Advocacy Calendar for April (and Beyond)

◆ Natural Step Seminar

Wednesday, April 12

One-day workshop in Portland. Duke Castle explains the Natural Step framework, how to apply it in creation of a business product and service, and using it for decision-making and strategic planning. Case studies, too. Sponsored by the Oregon Natural Step Network. \$175 - \$195. Register at www.ortns.org or call 503-241-1140.

◆ Recycling Advocates April board meeting

Monday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

For location and information call 503-591-1454

◆ Volunteers needed for Master Recycler's Plastics Roundup

Saturday, May 6

A Roundup Coordinator Committee has been planning diligently for a smooth and educational event. Organizers plan to distribute educational materials, including information about how to pre-cycle at the event. The committee needs loads of volunteers to cover shifts at three locations. They will hold a volunteer orientation before the event.

When: Saturday, May 6th, 8:00am-1:00pm (volunteer shifts: 7:00am-11:00am and 11:00am-2:30pm)

Where: SE PCC Center (2305 SE 82nd), PCC Sylvania Campus (12000 SW 49th Ave), Sunset Presbyterian (14986 NW Cornell Road)

Please contact Pat Pullen-Jones nmppj@comcast.net to sign up. Indicate your location and time preference of location and time - flexibility is appreciated.

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