



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

Portland Recycles! Plan Goes to City Council

By Rhett Lawrence

The City of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) will be presenting its recommendations on the *Portland Recycles!* plan to City Council for approval on August 8, 2007. OSD developed the plan to reach new goals established by City Council in 2006, including stopping the growth of waste in the city and increasing the recycling rate to 75% by 2015. Since the waste stream had increased by 44% in the last 10 years but recycling rates had leveled off, it was time for a change of course.

Recycling Advocates members received a briefing on the plan from OSD at a Board meeting on May 21. Our comments on the plan were among the more than 5,900 comment forms OSD received, and OSD reports that 74% of the responses supported the changes they had proposed. Here's a quick breakdown of the final recommendations going to City Council:

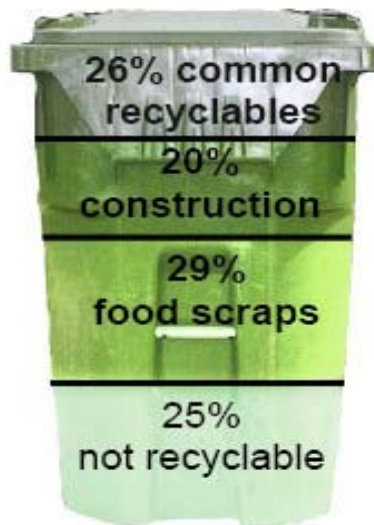
On the residential side of the equation, OSD is suggesting that changes be implemented in two phases. In Phase One (2008-2009), city residents will get large new recycling and yard debris roll carts. The new recycling roll carts will be for everything but glass, which will go on the side in a separate container. In addition, we will be able to include other items in the curbside carts, including plastic tubs, buckets, and flower pots. In Phase Two, from 2009 to 2015, the city will begin collecting food scraps every week with yard debris and will move to every-other-week garbage collection. RA supports the proposed changes to the residential system.

On the commercial side, RA is slightly less enthused about the proposed changes, but is willing to give it a

chance to work for now. As with the residential system, the changes will be implemented in two phases. In Phase One (2008-2010), businesses will be required to capture at least 75% of their waste (up from the current 50% requirement) and will have new recycling mandates for food, paper, and construction waste. The city will begin monitoring and enforcing these new requirements in 2009 and has set an interim goal for business recycling of 68% by 2010.

In Phase Two of the plan, from 2010 to 2015, the city will look to see whether the interim goals are being met and, if not, will consider setting new rates and/or going to a franchised system. RA had urged the city to go down this route now and implement franchising. But after stiff opposition from some members of the business community, the city has taken a more cautious approach that we don't think is entirely unreasonable. As with many things, it's not ideal, but it's at least a good start.

So, assuming City Council adopts OSD's recommendations on August 8, some fairly major changes are on the way for recycling in Portland. RA will closely monitor the results and we hope to hear from our members once the new system is implemented. Let us know what you think by emailing us at info@recyclingadvocates.org!



What's in Portland's garbage
(City of Portland, OSD)

Read the Portland Recycles! Plan

- ◆ The Plan information website can be found at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/osd>
- ◆ View the Executive Summary (PDF) at <http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=164198>
- ◆ Download the complete Portland Recycles! Plan (PDF) at <http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=164214>
- ◆ View the Response to the Portland Recycles! Plan (PDF) at <http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=164197>
- ◆ You can request a printed copy of the Portland Recycles! Plan by calling 503-823-7222.

Oregon Legislature 2007 Wrap-up: It's been a good year!

On June 28 the 2007 legislative session came to a close, one day ahead of schedule. Papers throughout the state declared "The Environment" as one of the biggest "winners" of the session. Even seasoned lobbyists are making bold statements about the success of the session. "It is a landmark session for the environmentalists," said Dave Barrows, who has been a lobbyist for numerous business interests for 48 years. "They have had a very lengthy list of successes ... this is almost exceeding the Tom McCall years."

Throughout this session we brought you the updates on the two big wins for Recycling Advocates: creation of the Electronic Waste Recycling program and expansion of Oregon's Bottle Bill. Passage of these two bills brings Oregon back to the forefront as a recycling leader throughout the nation and defines 2007 as the "year of recycling" for Oregon.

But recycling issues were just a piece of a much more comprehensive approach to our responsibility to creating a healthy environment for future generations of Oregonians. This approach included taking responsibility to combat global warming, a desire for energy independence and a strong wish to protect our families from toxic pollution in our air and water.

Here is a quick summary of the important highlights as result of a highly successful session.

Promoting Clean and Renewable Energy and addressing Global Warming

This session we made huge advances in combating global warming and taking steps for a sustainable energy future. The hallmark of this effort was the establishment of the Renewable Energy Standard, which requires utilities to generate 25% of our electricity from new renewable sources by 2025. We also passed bills that established minimum efficiency standards for a number of additional home and commercial appliances and expanded the busi-



ness and residential energy tax credits available for renewable energy investments. In addition, the State will now lead by example by providing that public improvement contracts for construction or major renovations of public buildings appropriate at least 1.5% of the total contract price for solar energy technology.

We also passed legislation that set pollution reduction goals and established the Oregon Global Warming Commission to coordinate global warming work across state agencies.

Reducing Toxics in Oregon Waterways

One of the more ambitious goals of the session was to take steps to reduce toxics in Oregon waterways. Through the hard work of a diverse coalition of environmental groups, municipalities and business associations we were able to pass a bill that provides Oregon with a first ever "roadmap" for reducing and eliminating sources of toxic pollution in our rivers, streams and the Pacific Ocean. On a smaller scale, we passed a bill that requires dentists to have an amalgam separator installed in any wastewater drain if materials containing mercury pass through the drain.

Measure 37 Reform

Probably the biggest goal of this legislative session was to fix many of the substantive problems with Measure 37. The legislature sent to the voters a package of reforms (Ballot Measure 49) which will limit development allowed on Oregon's forest and farmland, will stop new commercial and industrial development prohibited by zoning laws and will stop the development rush that is threatening Oregon's landscape. Voters will have an opportunity to finish the job by voting Yes on Measure 49 this November.

The passage of these and other bills helped to establish a new era in Oregon politics, one that will take responsibility for leaving a legacy for future Oregonians. We look forward to working with future legislatures to improve Oregon's position as recycling and stewardship leader.



RECYCLING ADVOCATES

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The Board

Betty Patton • *President*
Rhett Lawrence • *Secretary*
Rick Paul • *Treasurer*

Rob Guttridge • *At Large*
Wayne Rifer • *At Large*
Katy Daily • *At Large*
Theresa Smith • *At Large*

Staff • Richard Lee-Berman
Administrator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster

Recycling Advocates Annual Membership Meeting is August 20th

Come one, come all to Recycling Advocates annual membership meeting, this year to be held on Monday, August 20th at the Free Geek Community Technology Center in inner Eastside Portland.

Be there to hear the latest news from the Board of Directors about RA's participation in this year's fabulously successful legislative season. Participate with the Board concerning RA's plans and projects for the upcoming year. Vote for the new Board members or nominate someone from the floor.

Hear Representatives Jackie Dingfelder and Vicki Berger (invited) speak about our legislative victories and their consequences. Light refreshments will be provided.

When:

Monday, August 20th, 2007
 Annual Membership Meeting: 7:00-7:45 pm
 Representatives Jackie Dingfelder & Vicki Berger (invited) to speak on legislative season, 7:45-9:00 pm
 NOTE: All times are approximate.

Where:

FREE GEEK Community Technology Center
 1731 SE 10th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214

Election of Directors and Officers

The Annual Membership Meeting will include the election of two new members of the board of directors and a slate of officers.

Of the current seven board positions, terms for **Katy Daily**, **Rob Guttridge** and **Wayne Rifer** are up for re-election. Eight directors are currently allowed. We lost board member **Dana Gantz** this year through

resignation and board member **Theresa Smith** is unable to complete her term on the board. Nominations for the board will also be accepted from the floor.

This year we have two great new candidates who have officially agreed to run for open board seats:

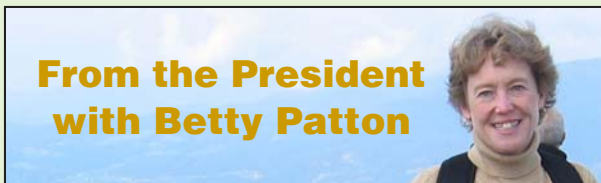
◆ Johnny Leuthold

Johnny grew up in Columbia, Missouri, once the home of a community-wide "bottle bill." He received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Kansas with a Master's Thesis focused on the use of recycled paper by state agencies. For the last twenty years he has worked and volunteered for several non-profit organizations on recycling and water quality issues in the Midwest and here in Portland. His latest project was to lobby the Oregon Legislature on HB 2626 (E-waste).

◆ Lindsey Newkirk

Lindsey has just started her own green event planning company, *Elysium Events*. Her events focus on working with sustainability minded organizations, lessening the environmental impact of existing events, and celebrating and promoting sustainable practices through her own productions. Continuously exploring the balance between work, passion, and play - if she finds herself with free time Lindsey also enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee, snowboarding, numerous other outdoor activities, as well as a love for live music.

The slate of officers on this years ballot will be **Katy Daily** and **Rhett Lawrence** as *Co-presidents* (a first for RA), **Rob Guttridge** has agreed to run for the office of *Vice-president*, **Rick Paul** would like to continue his position as *treasurer* and **Betty Patton** will be running for *secretary*.



From the President with Betty Patton

Dear Members,

Recycling Advocates is a non-profit organization whose mission is to involve people in creating a sustainable future through local efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle. Our approximately 150 members have the opportunity to get together this month to celebrate that mission.

RA's annual member meeting will begin with a review of the year's interests and efforts. All 150 of us have pulled together to create these successes, so I encourage you to attend to catch up on the fruit of your labors.

Following the review of 2006/2007, members will be introduced to our candidates for Board of Directors. We have some incumbents running for re-election and we have some new faces to introduce to you.

Following the member meeting we will have a presentation on two of Oregon's biggest recycling related pieces of legisla-

tion. In 2007, Oregon became the seventh state in the nation to pass legislation that offers recycling of computers and televisions to all residents and small businesses. This producer responsibility approach to product recovery will be managed by DEQ and will be in place in 2009. RA Board member Katy Daily worked tirelessly to inform legislators and to encourage public support so that passage of this bill, HB2626, was unanimous.

Also during this legislative session the oldest bottle bill in the nation finally expanded beyond bubbles. For 36 years we have guaranteed a refund on carbonated and malt-based beverages. Now we expanded that refund to bottled water and flavored water.

Recycling Advocates' annual member meeting and presentation will offer opportunities to discuss these new laws and to make plans for RA's involvement in their successful implementation. Members and non-members are welcome to attend the entire evening. I believe the most important benefit from this event is to convene with your fellow advocates, meet like minded people, and network with some of the most fascinating individuals in your city. I highly recommend that you join us.

- Betty

Recycling Advocacy Calendar for August 2007

◆ Recycling Advocates Annual membership meeting

Monday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.

Free Geek Community Technology Center,
1731 SE 10th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214

See details page 3.

◆ SCRAP Iron Artists

Saturday, August 25th, 2007, 12:30-8:00p.m.

Fifth annual competitive "sculpt-off" in Portland. Ten artist teams have three hours to create sculptures from reused materials provided by the School and Community Reuse Action Project (SCRAP) and other organizations. \$250 to compete, or you can be a sponsor for \$500 or more. More info from ironartist@scrapaction.org, or go to www.scrapaction.org/newsletter.html.

◆ Muddy Boot Organic Festival

Friday-Sunday, September 7-9, 2007

You're invited to attend the Muddy Boot Organic Festival, celebrating sustainable and organic living

in our local community. The event will kick off with a keynote presentation given by Jean-Michel Cousteau, founder of Ocean Futures Society and a world-renowned advocate for ocean protection. The presentation will be held on Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church. Tickets are available for \$35 each at www.muddyboot.org or call 503-231-4955.



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